## GA-214
### QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

**GA-214-2015 Recommended Levels of Finish for Gypsum Board, Glass Mat and Fiber-Reinforced Gypsum Panels**

### Quick Reference Guide

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<th>SURFACE TREATMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Tape Set in Joint Compound</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Optional, unless specified in project documents</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tape embedded in joint compound and wiped with a joint knife, leaving a thin coat of joint compound over tape</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>2 coats</td>
<td>2 coats</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 coats</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>3 coats</td>
<td>3 coats</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 coats</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>3 coats</td>
<td>3 coats</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2 coats</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
<td>3 coats</td>
<td>3 coats</td>
<td>1 coat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Surface Treatment is a thin skim coat of joint compound or a material manufactured especially for this purpose applied to the entire surface.

### LEVEL

**Where to specify minimum level of finish.**

- **0** Typically specified in temporary construction or whenever the final decoration has not been determined.
- **1** Typically specified in smoke barrier applications and areas not normally open to public view such as plenum areas above ceilings, attics, building service corridors, and other areas generally concealed from public view.
- **2** Typically specified where gypsum panel products are used as a substrate for tile; or in garages, warehouse storage or other similar areas where surface appearance is not a concern.
- **3** Typically specified in appearance areas which are to receive heavy- or medium-texture finishes (spray or hand applied) before final painting, or where heavy-duty/commercial grade wallcoverings are to be applied as the final decoration. This level of finish is not recommended for smooth wall designs or applications where light textures, non-continuous textures, or lightweight wallcoverings are applied.
- **4** Typically specified in appearance areas where smooth wall designs are decorated with flat paints, light textures, non-continuous textures, or wallcoverings are to be applied. This level of finish is not recommended where non-flat or dark/deep tone paints are applied. **Critical Lighting:** In critical lighting areas, flat paints applied over light continuous textures tend to reduce joint photography. **Wallcoverings:** The weight, texture, and sheen level of wallcoverings applied over this level of finish should be carefully evaluated. Joints and fasteners must be adequately concealed if the wallcovering used is of lightweight construction, contains limited pattern, has a sheen level other than flat, or any combination thereof. Unbacked vinyl wallcoverings are not recommended over this level of finish.
- **5** Typically specified in appearance areas where smooth wall designs are decorated with non-flat paints (i.e., sheen/gloss) or other glassy decorative finishes, dark/deep tone paints are applied, or critical lighting conditions occur. This level of finish is the most effective method to provide a uniform surface and minimize the possibility of joint photographing and/or fasteners showing through the final decoration.

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