Scope

This section provides guidance for designing and specifying acoustical ceilings. Reference Design requirements below for oversized or specialty type panels.

For University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers projects refer to Design Guideline 095000-H: CEILINGS (09510-H).

Related Sections

U-M Master Specification Sections:
220500 – Common Work Results for Mechanical

Design Requirements

In general, exposed grid suspended ceilings are preferred over concealed systems. Avoid spline and other non-accessible systems when any mechanical systems or equipment will be concealed above ceiling.

There are currently no standardized product types for acoustic panels. However, the following general guidelines apply:

- 2 foot by 2 foot panels are preferred over 2 foot by 4 foot panels.
- Rabbeted edge panels are preferred except where economy is paramount.
- All cut edges of tile shall be painted to match exposed surface color.
- 3/4 inch thick panels are preferred over 5/8 inch panels.
- Fiberglass panels are not acceptable.
- Where possible, specify humidity-tolerant acoustical panels carrying a minimum 10 year warranty.
- Specify gypsum board or other washable panels and moisture resistant grid in food service areas. Product shall be certified for intended use, ie. USFDA for food service.
- Oversized or large format ceiling tiles and panels are allowable with caution. Due to panel size most panels in an application end up with at least one item, diffuser, sprinkler, light etc. anchoring them down. This creates a ceiling plane that is virtually unaccessible. Large format panels are also susceptible
to sagging long term. A thoroughly designed system that accounts for long
term rigidity and accessibility would be accepted. Large format panel
applications shall be reviewed with Design Manager.

Where ceiling-mounted items obstruct the regular spacing of hanger wires, design "trapeze"
structures with additional steel supports to bridge the obstruction.