Plasterboard linings and partitions

Aesthetic

No requirements.

Functional requirements

Wet area walls shall be finished in one of two preferred methods, either masonry with plaster render/plaster coat or timber/metal-framed stud walling with plywood sheathing and a proprietary plastic sheet cladding system. Plasterboard products shall only be used in such areas following a detailed proposal and subsequent consent, at which time moisture-resisting plasterboard sheathing with a plaster skim coat and a suitable waterproof/moisture-resisting decoration is to be used. Wet areas include the following:

- Toilets, showers and bathrooms
- Wet laboratories
- Wash-up, autoclave, cage wash and similar high humidity areas
- Kitchens and food preparation areas

Fire rating requirements for all partitioning systems are to be agreed in writing with the client prior to any work commencing.

Specialist rooms, procedure rooms and anterooms or access corridors shall only incorporate plasterboard sheathings with a plaster skim coat in order to ensure adequate robustness and resistance to micro-organisms.

Services within plasterboard partitions shall be located and terminated via back-boxes within cut-outs such that no two cut-outs for services in adjacent rooms share the same void between two studs (for acoustic separation and fire resistance reasons).

Plasterboard partitions due to receive spur shelving, fixed shelving or other wall mounted equipment (defined as part of the briefing and/or proposals process) shall have suitable strengthening fitted within the construction e.g. 18mm plywood patresses fitted between studs at appropriate levels, to allow fixings for shelving and equipment to be made without the use of specialist toggle/plasterboard fixings.

Plasterboard partitions in locations where secure storage is required or where explosive substances are to be stored in any quantity, shall be constructed incorporating expanded metal lath and reinforced mineral fibre quilting within the studwork framing. In such areas final design proposals to be agreed with client in writing prior to any work commencing.
Partitions that are required to have a significant level of acoustic attenuation shall be constructed as twin walls such that cabling containment can be first fixed without the need for perforating the plasterboard sheathing to facilitate the outlets, switches, controls etc. NB: Specialist advice to be obtained prior to any work commencing.

Consideration must be given to Penetrations of Services requirements in all plasterboard linings and partitions.

**Lifecycle**

To be designed for a minimum lifespan of 30-years.

**Approved manufacturers**

No requirements.

**Spares**

No requirements.