

**SECTION 12 36 00  
COUNTERTOPS**

**PART 1 - GENERAL**

**1.1 DESCRIPTION**

- A. This section specifies casework countertops with integral accessories.
- B. Integral accessories include:
  - 1. Sinks with traps and drains.

**1.2 RELATED WORK**

- A. Color and patterns of plastic laminate: SECTION 09 06 00, SCHEDULE FOR FINISHES.
- B. DIVISION 22, PLUMBING.
- C. DIVISION 26, ELECTRICAL.
- D. Equipment Reference Manual for SECTION 12 36 00, COUNTERTOPS.

**1.3 SUBMITTALS**

- A. Submit in accordance with SECTION 01 33 23, SHOP DRAWINGS, PRODUCT DATA, AND SAMPLES.
- B. Shop Drawings
  - 1. Show dimensions of section and method of assembly.
  - 2. Show details of construction at 1/2 scale.
- C. Samples:
  - 1. 150 mm (6 inch) square samples each top.
  - 2. Front edge, back splash, end splash and core with surface material and booking.

**1.4 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS**

- A. Publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. Publications are referenced in the text by the basic designation only.
- B. American Hardboard Association (AHA):
  - A135.4-95.....Basic Hardboard
- C. Composite Panel Association (CPA):
  - A208.1-09.....Particleboard
- D. American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME):
  - A112.18.1-05.....Plumbing Supply Fittings
  - A112.1.2-04.....Air Gaps in Plumbing System
  - A112.19.3-08(R2004).....Stainless Steel Plumbing Fixtures (Designed for Residential Use)
- E. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):
  - A167-99 (R2009).....Stainless and Heat-Resisting Chromium-Nickel Steel Plate, Sheet and Strip

CT Site Prep  
Building Shell and Interior  
VA Project 660-C SI-104

- A1008-09.....Steel, Sheet, Cold-Rolled, Carbon, Structural,  
High Strength, Low Alloy
- D256-06.....Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastic
- D570-98(R2005).....Water Absorption of Plastics
- D638-08.....Tensile Properties of Plastics
- D785-08.....Rockwell Hardness of Plastics and Electrical  
Insulating Materials
- D790-07.....Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and  
Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating  
Materials
- D4690-99(2005).....Urea-Formaldehyde Resin Adhesives
- G21-96 (R2002).....Determining Resistance of Synthetic Polymeric  
Materials to Fungi
- F. Federal Specifications (FS):
  - A-A-1936.....Adhesive, Contact, Neoprene Rubber
- G. U.S. Department of Commerce, Product Standards (PS):
  - PS 1-95.....Construction and Industrial Plywood
- H. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA):
  - LD 3-05.....High Pressure Decorative Laminates
  - LD 3.1-95.....Performance, Application, Fabrication, and  
Installation of High Pressure Decorative  
Laminates

## **PART 2 - PRODUCTS**

### **2.1 MATERIALS**

- A. Plastic Laminate: NEMA LD 3.
  - 1. Concealed backing sheet Type BKL.
  - 2. Decorative surfaces:
    - a. Flat components: Type GP-HGL.
    - b. Post forming: Type PF-HGP.
- B. Particleboard: CPA A208.1, Grade 2-M-2.
- C. Plywood: PS 1, Exterior type, veneer grade AC not less than five ply construction.
- D. Adhesive
  - 1. For plastic laminate FS A-A-1936.
  - 2. For wood products: ASTM D4690, unextended urea resin or unextended melamine resin, phenol resin, or resorcinol resin.
  - 3. For Field Joints:
    - a. Epoxy type, resistant to chemicals as specified for plastic laminate laboratory surfaces.

b. Fungi resistant: ASTM G-21, rating of 0.

E. Fasteners:

1. Metals used for welding same metal as materials joined.
2. Use studs, bolts, spaces, threaded rods with nuts or screws suitable for materials being joined with metal splice plates, channels or other supporting shape.

F. Solid Polymer Material:

1. Filled Methyl Methacrylic Polymer.
2. Performance properties required:

Property	Result	Test
Elongation	0.3% min.	ASTM D638
Hardness	90 Rockwell M	ASTM D785
Gloss (60° Gordon)	5-20	NEMA LD3.1
Color stability	No change	NEMA LD3 except 200 hour
Abrasion resistance	No loss of pattern Max wear depth 0.0762 mm (0.003 in) - 10000 cycles	NEMA LD3
Water absorption weight (5 max)	24 hours 0.9	ASTM D-570
Izod impact	14 N·m/m (0.25 ft-lb/in)	ASTM D256 (Method A)
Impact resistance	No fracture	NEMA LD-3 900 mm (36") drop 1 kg (2 lb.) ball
Boiling water surface resistance	No visible change	NEMA LD3
High temperature resistance	Slight surface dulling	NEMA LD3

3. Cast into sheet form.
4. Color throughout with subtle veining through thickness.
5. Joint adhesive and sealer: Manufacturers silicone adhesive and sealant for joining methyl methacrylic polymer sheet.
6. Bio-based products will be preferred.

## 2.2 COUNTERTOPS

- A. Fabricate in largest sections practicable.
- B. Fabricate with joints flush on top surface.
- C. Fabricate countertops to overhang front of cabinets and end of assemblies 25 mm (one inch) except where against walls or cabinets.

- D. Provide 1 mm (0.039 inch) thick metal plate connectors or fastening devices.
- E. Fabricate with end splashes where against walls or cabinets.
- F. Splash Backs and End Splashes:
  - 1. Not less than 19 mm (3/4 inch) thick.
  - 2. Height 100 mm (4 inches) unless noted otherwise.
  - 3. Laboratories and pharmacy heights or where fixtures or outlets occur: Not less than 150 mm (6 inches) unless noted otherwise.
  - 4. Fabricate epoxy splash back in maximum lengths practical of the same material.
- G. Drill or cutout for sinks, and penetrations.
  - 1. Accurately cut for size of penetration.
  - 2. Cutout for VL 81 photographic enlarger cabinet.
    - a. Finish cutout to fit flush with vertical side of cabinet, allowing adjustable shelf to fit into cutout space of cabinet at counter top level. Finish cutout surface as an exposed edge.
    - b. Provide braces under enlarger space to support not less than 45 kg (100 pounds) centered on opening side along backsplash.
- H. Plastic Laminate Countertops:
  - 1. Fabricate plastic laminate on five-ply plywood or particleboard core 19 mm (3/4 inch) thick with plastic laminate backing sheet.
  - 2. Front edge over cabinets not less than 38 mm (1-1/2 inches) thick except where plastic "T" insert is used, not less than 19 mm (3/4 inch) thick.
  - 3. Exposed Surface and edges of decorative laminated plastic or laboratory chemical resistant surface.
    - a. Use chemical resistant surface on tops 6A, 6B, and 6C.
    - b. Use decorative surface tops when noted plastic laminate, for tops 10A, 10B and 10C.

### **PART 3 - EXECUTION**

#### **3.1 INSTALLATION**

- A. Before installing countertops verify that wall surfaces have been finished as specified and that mechanical and electrical service locations are as required.
- B. Secure countertops to supporting rails of cabinets with metal fastening devices, or screws through pierced slots in rails.
  - 1. Where type, size or spacing of fastenings is not shown or specified, submit shop drawings showing proposed fastenings and method of installation.

2. Use round head bolts or screws.
3. Use epoxy or silicone to fasten the epoxy resin countertops to the cabinets.
4. Use wood or sheet metal screws for wood or plastic laminate tops; minimum penetration into top 16 mm (5/8 inch), screw size No 8, or 10.

C. Rubber Moldings:

1. Where shown install molding with butt joints in horizontal runs and mitered joints at corners where ceramic tile occurs omit molding.
2. Fasten molding to wall and to splashbacks and splashends with adhesive.

D. Sinks

1. Install stainless steel sink in plastic laminate tops with epoxy compound to form watertight seal under shelf rim.
  - a. In laboratory and pharmacy fit stainless steel sink with overflow standpipe.
  - b. Install faucets and fittings on sink ledges with watertight seals where shown.

E. Faucets, Fixtures, and Outlets:

1. Seal opening between fixture and top.
2. Secure to top with manufacturers standard fittings.

### 3.2 PROTECTION AND CLEANING

- A. Tightly cover and protect against dirt, water, and chemical or mechanical injury.
- B. Clean at completion of work.

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