

CLASS A VS. FIRE RATED PANELS

CLASS A (LOW FLAME SPREAD) PANELS

A Class A, or low flame spread, ceiling panel means that the panel is not impacted when the surface is exposed to a flame. It doesn't appear to burn and doesn't add to the fire. It will not help spread the fire.

Class A ceilings meet the interior finish requirements of both the International Building Code and the Residential Building code.

Nearly all Armstrong[®] ceiling panels meet Class A standards (flame spread rating of 25 or less.)

FIRE RATED PANELS

Local building codes, which require fire-safe construction for many building applications, rely on 2 ratings to evaluate compliance:

1. Flame spread rating of material
2. Fire resistance rating of a construction assembly

A fire rated panel looks at the performance of a panel once the entire building or space is burning. In this case, the concern is about protecting the entire building. Reviewers look at the ceiling panels, grid and the construction of the building itself, and the output is a fire resistance time rating. Components include ceilings, grid lights, subfloor, deck, joists, lights, air supply, etc.

New construction may include sprinklers. These typically reduce the need for time-rated fire assemblies. Only a small percentage of spaces require fire-rated ceiling panels (Fire Guard).

**If you have questions related to Class A or fire rated panels, please contact Techline:
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