WALL PADDING - SAFETY STANDARDS YOU NEED TO KNOW

There are no guidelines or regulations for wall padding in the South Pacific and as a result there is a range of non-tested bespoke products supplied to facilities across the region, provided without any guidelines or regulations to determine their appropriateness for the purpose.

Our padding range is instead sourced from the USA where extensive requirements are in place both in relation to impact protection and fire resistance to ensure that all facilities we provide have adequate protection from an international viewpoint as there is not local standard. In this way, we can ensure uses optimal safety at all times.

Impact Protection

ASTM Standard Specification F2440-04
The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) recently established standard specification F2440-04 as means to identify a minimum level of protection for impact and shock absorption properties for wall padding.

The testing methodology used by the ASTM for setting this standard is the same test used to evaluate materials used for playground surfacing. Two criteria are measured: Head Injury Criterion (HIC) and G-Max.

HIC (Head Injury Criterion)
Head Injury Criterion is a score used to determine the potential risk of a head injury upon impact with an object. This score is calculated from time vs. acceleration or speed during impact testing, and then equated to a probability of a specific head injury from experiments done for the automotive and aircraft industry for creating impact protection standards. An HIC score shall not exceed 1000 to meet the ASTM criteria for shock absorption properties of a wall pad.

G-Max
This score is determined as the maximum value of absorbed acceleration time recorded during an impact. ASTM Standard Specification F2440-04 requires a missile to be dropped from a minimum height of 4', with the resulting value not to exceed 200 g-max. The lower the g-max value, the better the shock absorption characteristics of the pad. In reviewing the results of individual pads, the higher the drop, providing the g-max value does not exceed 200 g-max, the better the shock absorption property of the pad.

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Installation Requirements

ASTM Standard Specification F2440-04
Installation Wall Padding Placement: Pads must be installed no more than 4" above the finished floor to meet the ASTM F2440-04 requirement. Padding should be used on walls, doors, columns and any other type of projections (doors, stage -fronts, etc.) in and around an activity centre where a player/athlete may come into contact with the obstruction. This includes, but is not limited to areas behind basketball backstops, the end of running track lanes, wrestling rooms, gymnastic areas, and the like. The size and impact protection of the wall pads is to be appropriate to provide protection for that given area. Wall padding is never to be placed greater than 4" above the floor, and must be evaluated for the overall height depending upon the activity.

Fire Protection

NFPA 286 & NFPA 255
The Stadia Wall Pads provide the ultimate in player safety and building protection. Manufactured and tested as a singular unit with state-of-the-art materials, the fire resistant product provides excellent smoke and flammability characteristics and is certified to meet both the NFPA 286 and NFPA 255 tests.

NFPA 286
The NFPA 286 is the accepted standard method of fire tests for evaluating contribution of wall and ceiling interior finish to room fire growth. 2003 International Building Code 803.5: "Interior wall and ceiling finish materials, other than textiles, tested in accordance with NFPA 286 and meeting die acceptance criteria of Section 803.2.1, shall be permitted to be used where a Class A classification in accordance with ASTM E84 is required." According to the 2003 Life Safety Code Handbook, "if a manufacturer or installer chooses to test a wall finish in accordance with NFPA 286, additional testing in accordance with NFPA 255 is not necessary."

NFPA 255 (ASTM E-84)
The NFPA 255 is the standard test method for surface burning characteristics of building materials.

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