

QUALITY ASSURANCE OPTIONS

ARCHITECTURAL WOODWORK STANDARDS

Since 1953, the Woodwork Institute has published eleven editions of its *Manual of Millwork*; however, in September 2007, the Woodwork Institute entered into a historical agreement with the Architectural Woodwork Institute (AWI), and the Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada (AWMAC), forming a Joint Standards Committee (JSC). Established as a separate entity, the JSC was empowered to create, maintain, update, and clarify as needed, a single architectural woodwork standard.

The resulting *Architectural Woodwork Standards* (AWS), represents the best of what all three organizations have to offer in defining the minimum requirements for material and workmanship, and for the fabrication and installation of architectural woodwork. The *Architectural Woodwork Standards*, 1st Edition, has been adopted and published jointly as the successor, replacement, and latest edition to AWI/AWMAC's *Quality Standards Illustrated* (QSI), and WI's *Manual of Millwork* (MM), effective October 1, 2009.

The AWS is an industry standard for architectural millwork in which the materials, fabrication, workmanship, installation, and aesthetics are established dependent on the Grade or Grades specified, while providing the design professional, fabricator, and installer flexibility in delivering the owner's desired results. Standards afford an assurance of quality materials, fabrication, and installation consistent with economic utilization of resources for the Grade(s) selected; however, enforcement is limited to the contract documents. Discovery of deficiencies or items of noncompliance, as well as acceptance of the overall appearance, must be borne by the design professional, which can result in unplanned added costs and time delays.

Use of the AWS clearly and completely defines all materials and joinery; fosters fair competition with all bidders using one standard of quality; prohibits the substitution of unknown or inferior materials and/or joinery; takes the 'guess work' out of 'or equal' clauses; and is non-discriminatory. The AWS and inspection services are available to all bidders, whether or not they are members.

A design professional may, but only by means of the drawings and/or specifications, modify any and all Grades. Such modifications shall govern and take precedence over the Grade rules, and any inspection and/or re-inspection shall be made based on these modifications.

Maintenance of the AWS is a dynamic, ongoing endeavor which requires your support by advising us on possible errors, confusing or ambiguous statements, conflicts, new products and/or procedures, etc. Please use a copy of the suggestion form found on page 10 of the AWS, or on our website at:

www.woodworkinstitute.com/aws, for improvement suggestions. The suggestions will be thoroughly reviewed and considered for future updates.

Special Notice

Because of the Associations collaborative efforts, the new AWS has some distinct enhancements not necessarily fully addressed in the *Manual of Millwork*, including:

Definitive smoothness tolerances for machined and/or sanded surfaces, found within the PRODUCT portion of each Section.

Definitive gap and flushness tolerances for assembled and installed woodwork, found within the PRODUCT and EXECUTIONS portions of each Section.

Improved minimum specification recommendations are located under RECOMMENDATIONS, found within the GENERAL portion of each Section.

Definitive guidelines for observing and judging compliance, found with the COMPLIANCE portion of each Section, with special attention to Blueprint-matched panels, components, and related doors, within Section 8 - Wall Surfacing.

Adoption of WDMA's Duty Performance Levels for solid core flush (excluding hollow core), and style and rail doors, as the minimum criteria for wood door construction.

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(continued)

Special Notice (continued)

Within Section 10:

Expansion of Exposed Surface definitions into Exposed Exterior Surfaces **and** Exposed Interior Surfaces, to better define the proper use of exposed materials.

Expansion of the grain or pattern direction of cabinet face components by Grade.

Please Note these Specific Changes within AWS, Section 10:

Glass clips, in lieu of a continuous stop, are now allowed at Custom Grade (see page 272, Item 4.4.6.10.4.1.1).

The *Manual of Millwork's* use of Cabinet Construction Nomenclature (Style A Frameless / Style B Face-frame, and Type I Multiple self-supporting units / Type II single length unit), have been replaced with:

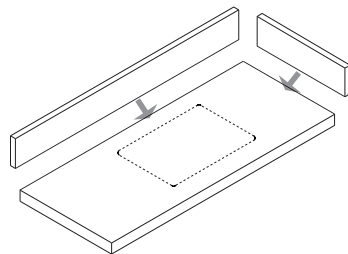
Construction TYPE A - Frameless construction and TYPE B - Face-frame construction.
Cabinet and door INTERFACE STYLE 1 - Overlay or STYLE 2 - Flush Inset.

(See pages 250-251; Items 1.2.17 and 1.2.18)

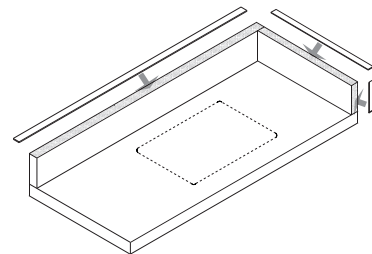
As is the case with most collaborations, not everyone gets all of what they want. Although the Institute is very pleased with the *Architectural Woodwork Standards* as published, there are a few particular areas of concern that the Institute believes need to be brought to the attention of all design and specification professions.

High Pressure Decorative Laminate (HPDL) Tops

The AWS now provides for two methods of HPDL countertop splash assembly which, regardless of Grade, become manufacturer's option if not otherwise specified:



ASSEMBLY 1
Wall Mount, Jobsite Assembled



ASSEMBLY 2
Deck Mount, Manufacturer Assembled

It is the Institute's position that you should always specify ASSEMBLY 2.

Laboratory Casework

The *Architectural Woodwork Standards* does not include a specific Laboratory Grade; however, AWS Custom or Premium Grade can be modified by plans and specifications for laboratory use.

Such modifications may include: Chemical Resistance which will specify that Exposed Vertical Surfaces and Semi-Exposed surfaces meet the requirements of the one hour chemical resistance test as found in the appendix of the AWS. Water resistant cabinet bases and all other materials within 3 inches of the floor shall be solid wood, water resistant MDF, or exterior plywood. Removable backs at base cabinets and mechanical chase provisions. Core material at sink cabinets should be water resistant particle board or MDF. Core material at laminated plastic countertops should be water resistant particleboard, MDF, or exterior grade hardwood plywood with a non-telegraphing grain, and drip groove with sealer.