Commercial Fire-Rated Ceiling Materials Checklist

Questions to ask before you specify ceiling or wall materials for a business space

Before You Buy

1. **Ask for the actual published test report**
   Confirm which test standard the report references and what specific product and sample it covers.
2. **Check whether the report covers your exact product**
   Ask the manufacturer to confirm that a published result for one sample extends to the specific pattern or finish you are buying.
3. **Confirm the smoke result alongside the flame result**
   Ask your supplier for both numbers together rather than just the more favorable one.

Before You Install

1. **Confirm acceptability with your local building or fire authority**
   Ask what your project's occupancy classification means for your space before you order materials, since expectations vary by space type and location.
2. **Ask which adhesive or fastening system the manufacturer recommends**
   Confirm the installation method the manufacturer specifies for the surface you are working with.
3. **Keep the paperwork on site**
   Ask your supplier for a copy of the test report you can hand to an inspector if asked.

If You Are Not Sure

1. **Ask before you assume a product qualifies**
   Check with your local fire prevention office or a qualified code consultant rather than relying on a supplier's verbal description.
2. **Confirm coverage before renovating an existing commercial space**
   Ask whether previously installed materials still meet your local authority's current expectations for the space's classification.

Bring this checklist to your first conversation with a supplier and to any inspection walkthrough.

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