



POSITION STATEMENT ON THIN PORCELAIN TILE

MAY 2014 – Thin Porcelain Tile is an exciting, new and emerging product being introduced to the world market by many different manufacturers utilizing several different manufacturing processes. This tile is typically characterized as having a thickness of between 3.0 mm to 6.0 mm and up to 5.0' by 10' in length and width. Currently TCNA, ANSI and ISO do not have a product standard for manufacturing, which eventually will establish the benchmarks by which the quality of materials will be evaluated. There are no industry installation standards identifying the correct methods and materials necessary to properly install these tiles in a way that meets the performance requirements expected in the North American marketplace.

Due to the lack of standards for these products, the National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA), Tile Contractors Association of America (TCAA), International Masonry Institute (IMI) and International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (IUBAC) recommend that tile contractors not install thin porcelain tile panels in any thickness less than 5.5 mm for floor installations. It is our assertion that installations of thin porcelain tiles that are no less than 5.5 mm thick may be successfully accomplished in properly prepared floor applications with the proper care and processes.

The tile contractor should be aware that significant training and education is required to successfully install these products and that an investment in tools and equipment is necessary. The manufacturer of the tile and setting materials recommendations should be secured in writing prior to installation and the contractor should follow these instructions carefully or potentially be exposed to increased risk and liability.

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