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Metric Steel Decks

Gypsum board and other panel type materials are widely used over steel decks in compact roof systems to provide a level base for the other components or to serve as thermal barriers. When installed onto the steel deck, good roofing practice requires that opposite sides of each board to be supported on steel deck flanges, as close as practical to the centre of the flange. Many of the roofing products used in Canada are sourced from the US and are sized in inch-pound (imperial) units. The most widely used gypsum based roof board is available in sizes of 4 ft. by 8 ft., and 4 ft. by 4 ft. Similarly, much of the corrugated steel roof deck used is also sized in imperial units, with standard widths of 2.5 ft. and 3 ft.

However, on occasion, metric sized deck is used. When this occurs, the edges of the gypsum or other panels may not align with the load bearing flanges of the deck in successive rows if they are sized in inch-pound units. This may necessitate the periodic trimming of boards so that the edges will be adequately supported. This can be a time consuming and costly process. When submitting their bids, contractors should specify that their estimates are based on the steel deck being of standard imperial dimensions and that there will be additional costs should metric sized steel deck be used.

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