Design Guideline 096229
Cork Flooring

Scope

Applications and design considerations for cork flooring in University buildings.

References

South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule #1168, corresponding to an effective date of July 1, 2005 and rule amendment date of January 7, 2005.

Applications

Cork is comfortable, reduces noise, and can have sustainable properties. As a natural wood product, it is not suitable in all locations. Do not specify for locations with any of the following characteristics:

- Chemical exposure from occupant activities or cleaning requirements
- High sun exposure - cork will fade in direct sunlight
- Building entries with high foot traffic and salt / snow
- Potential for standing water
- Locations with high point loads

Design Requirements

Wear surface density: Minimum 30 lbs per cubic foot

Thickness: Engineered material of sufficient thickness to allow product to be sanded and refinished on a 3-5 year cycle. Expectation is that the floor can be sanded and refinished 2 or 3 times prior to replacement being required.

Finish: Specify the following:

- Raw cork for field finishing
- Multi-component high performance polyurethane coating - 3 coats minimum. Coating shall be recommended in writing by the flooring manufacturer.
- Note that installer qualifications, substrate preparation, and dry times between coatings are critical for material performance.

Sustainability requirements

VOC content – Follow the requirements of SCAQMD Rule #1168 regarding VOC content of flooring adhesives and finishes.