

PCA P10

Measurement of Surface Area for Estimating Painting and Decorating Work

1. Scope

- 1.1 The purpose of this Standard is to establish consistent procedures for measuring painting and decorating work.
- 1.2 It is also the intent of this Standard to prevent misunderstandings and conflicts when painting and decorating work is bid on a unit cost basis by clearly defining methods used by the professional painting estimator for measuring surface area.

2. Significance and Use

- 2.1 Because there is a relationship between surface area and the amount of labor and materials required for painting and decorating work, methods used to measure surface area during the estimating process must be consistent to be meaningful. When consistent methods are used to measure surface area, then labor production rates and material spread rates may be accurately determined from past painting and decorating work and used as a basis for estimating labor and material requirements for bidding future painting work.
- 2.2 Consistent methods in measuring surface area of work to be painted, as defined by this Standard, should be used to determine quantities of painting and decorating work bid.

3. Definitions and Trade Terms

- 3.1 Definitions and Trade Terms see P9.

4. Reference Documents and Standards

- 4.1 Reference Documents and Standards see P9.

5. Standard Specification

- 5.1 No object is considered less than one linear foot wide and shall be measured as one square foot per linear foot.
- 5.2 Pipes, rods, structural steel, lumber and other items to be finished whose circumference or perimeter is less than one foot is measured as one foot, otherwise the actual measurement is used.

- 5.3 Items having similar surface, finishes, application methods and accessibility may be grouped together and an appropriate production rate may be applied to the entire group.
- 5.4 When items that do not have all grouping factors in common are adjacent, they should be listed separately on the quantity take-off and measured at no less than one square foot per linear foot.
- 5.5 When items having equivalent surface, finishes, application method and accessibility change direction at sharp angles and continue for a significant distance in the new direction, then measurement of the object increases by the length of the new direction, but usually not less than ½ of a square foot per linear foot.
- 5.6 When measuring non-uniformly shaped and curved items, the added length of the surface due to its curvature, change of direction or non-uniformity must be measured.
- 5.7 Closely fabricated items, such as chain-link fence, open web joists and grating, should be measured as being solid. If both sides of a closely fabricated item are finished, double the surface area. When a closely fabricated item is attached to framework, measure the framework separately as described in 5.2.
- 5.8 When a small opening interrupts a continuous surface, the opening is disregarded and considered part of the continuous surface. Any openings extending from floor to ceiling and exceeding five feet in width shall be deducted. All openings 100 square feet or larger are deducted.
- 5.9 Cabinets, tubs, showers and other items that restrict movement or access shall not be deducted from the measurement of total surface area.

6. Comments

- 6.1 PDCA's Cost & Estimating Guides Volumes I and II contain supplemental information regarding appropriate applications and examples.
- 6.2 PDCA has published estimating guidelines for the painting industry since the late 1930's. The Standards stated in Section 5 represent uniform estimating practices used for many decades.
- 6.3 When requesting proposals for painting and decorating on a unit-cost basis, requests should include sufficient descriptive information (e.g., surface, finishes, application methods and accessibility, proximity to work items, and minimum quantities) to price such work. Items that vary in surface, finishes, application method, accessibility, production rate, proximity to work items, and minimum quantities should be priced separately.

- 6.4 Estimating painting and decorating cost involves specific measurement of color placement since it affects painting and decorating costs. Refer to PCA Standard P3, Designation of Paint Colors for pertinent information.
- 6.5 This Standard clarifies areas of responsibility. Improved communication reduces misunderstandings.
- 6.6 This Standard is a nationally recognized consensus document for the painting and coating industry's work practices.

7. Disclaimer of Liability

- 7.1 PCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.