
USDA and FDA Approval for Use of Structural Glazed Tile

USDA

As of 8/12/95 the USDA no longer uses the formal approval letters (existing on file) for acceptance of materials permitted for use in the construction of food processing facilities—they have all become void. The Facilities, Equipment and Sanitation Division (FESD) of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) does not review or issue letters of approval for wall covering, ceiling or flooring construction material. These items are included in the organization's blueprint submission (in the specifications or room finish schedule) that must be sent to the Facilities Standards and Review Branch (FSRB) of the FESD at the time of blueprint review. Materials used in federally inspected meat and poultry concerns in general must meet the following requirements prior to usage as a wall material:

1. Wall covering construction material must be installed and maintained in a sanitary manner acceptable to the FSIS inspector in charge.
2. The FSIS inspector in charge must be notified prior to installation of the wall covering construction materials as to the time and place the wall covering construction will be installed.
3. Wall covering construction material used in production and storage areas must have a finished outer surface material that is rigid; durable; non-toxic; non-corrosive; impervious to moisture; a light, solid color such as white; easily inspected; smooth or an easily cleaned texture.

There are also details for approved paints and coatings covered in FSIS Backgrounder, August 1994. Check with your FSIS inspector in charge for further guidance on wall material approval, construction and usage.

FDA

The FDA follows the guideline as listed in The Food and Drug Administration, HHS, Code of Federal Regulations, Food and Drugs, Good Manufacturing Practices, Title 21, Part 110.20-110.35, Physical Facilities.

110.20. Be constructed so that the wall may be adequately cleaned and kept clean and kept in good repair...

Maintaining the facilities in a sanitary condition so that the walls can be cleaned and are free of bacteria is the primary concern throughout the directive.

According to the USDA and the FDA, it is up to the person constructing the building that s/he specify the correct materials that meet these sanitary guidelines. Structural Glazed Tile is a generically approved wall material for either type of facility according to the respective authorities.

Elgin Butler Company recommends that a Letter of Certification and an MSDS for our product accompany the blueprints and room finish schedule for review to avoid any delays.

