

Providing:
Specifications, Quality Assurance,
Inspections & Investigations
for your Construction Projects

ABSTRACT:

HUD Severe-Use vs. Standard
Cabinets

- HUD Severe Use includes the following that are not required for standard cabinetry:
 - All plywood construction. No flake or particleboard allowed.
 - Pressure treated lumber used at toe-kicks.
 - Heavy -Duty Construction.
 - Cabinets must meet the ANSI/KCMA A161.1 requirements and be certified by the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers association.

FILING:

UniFormat™ E2010 -Fixed
Furnishings

MasterFormat™ 12 35 30
Residential Casework

KEYWORDS:

Casework, HUD, KCMA, Severe Use

STANDARDS:

-ANSI/KCMA A161.1 - Performance
and Construction Standards for
Kitchen and Vanity Cabinets

-ANSI/HPMA HP 1983 - Hardwood
and Decorative Plywood Standard

-Paragraph 611-1.1, "HUD
Minimum Property Standards -
Housing 4910.1" 9/8/86.

CABINET CONSTRUCTION FOR HUD SEVERE USE

By Joe Minarik, CSI, CDT, SCIP

Introduction

With solid hardwood material, HUD severe use kitchen cabinets are made to last. They meet the meticulous "Severe Use" specifications that guarantee long service life. These cabinets have been tested and certified by the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association. Produced to exceed the industry standards both for performance and construction, HUD Severe Use cabinetry is well-suited to public housing.

ANSI/KCMA- A161.1

Encouraged by HUD and a need to better define a growing market in 1965, member companies of the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA) came together to develop the national performance standard, ANSI/KCMA A161.1, and a nationally recognized testing and certification program utilizing independent laboratories.

Cabinet Construction

The following cabinet construction meets the HUD-Severe Use criteria and references ANSI/HPMA HP 1983, a standard which has since been revised, but is still used by HUD and manufacturers meeting HUD requirements.

Face Frames - Constructed of 3/4 inch thick kiln dried

hardwood without knots and chosen for tight uniform color, making it fit for a natural finish. chosen for tight uniform color, making it fit for a natural finish.

The frames are to be glued, screwed, filled and sanded to be able to deliver long-term strength and rigidity. The stiles must be 2 inches wide and the mulls must have a minimum width of 2 inches. Rails, are to be 2 inches wide as well.

End Panels -The exposed ends of the cabinets shall be made of minimum 2-2 grade, 1/2 inch thick 5-ply hardwood plywood that's chosen for light uniform color. The cabinet ends that are not exposed can be made up of 1/2 inch softwood plywood.

Back Panel - All HUD Severe Use kitchen cabinets are required to use 1/4 inch thick plywood that is glued and nailed or stapled strongly and securely to the cabinet's cleats, ends and shelves.

Wall Cabinet Bottoms - Constructed of 1/2 inch plywood with a front edge that's hardwood banded.

Base Bottoms - Made of 1/2 inch thick 2-2 grade plywood. The bottom shall be held up by 3/4 inch thick tough lumber braces that are pressure treated.

Drawers - The front profile of the drawers should match the door's profile. The side and back portions should be constructed of minimum of 11/16 inch solid lumber with four sided drawer box that is made with locking joints.

Continued on next page.....

The front of the drawers must be screwed and glued to the drawer box and the bottom must be dadoed into the four sides.

The bottom of the drawers should be made up of minimum of 1/4 inch plywood. All the parts of the drawer need to be glued and stapled or nailed together. The drawers should be mounted on a pair of metal side rails that are ball-bearing and with 75 lb. capacity.

Hardware - The hardware for HUD severe use kitchen cabinets must be corrosion resistant. All hinges are to be full-wrap, partially-concealed.

Finish - The exposed surfaces as well as the interior of the HUD severe use kitchen cabinets should be factory finished.

Countertops - These parts of the cabinet must be post shaped, high-pressure plastic that is laminated to 3/4 inch thick plywood. The ends as well as the countertops' bottom front edge must have a firm wood mould. Also, the edge of the countertop must be no-drip.

Requirements for Earning the KCMA Certification Seal

All cabinets must be fully enclosed with backs, bottoms, sides, and tops on wall cabinets; and backs, bottoms, and sides on base cabinets, with certain specified exceptions on kitchen sink fronts, sink bases, oven cabinets, and refrigerator cabinets.

All cabinets designed to rest on the floor must be provided with a toe

space at least two inches deep and three inches high.

All utility cabinets must meet the same construction requirements as wall cabinets.

Doors must be properly aligned, have means of closure, and close without excessive binding or looseness.

All materials must ensure rigidity in compliance with performance standards.

Face frames, when used, must provide rigid construction.

For frameless cabinets, the ends, tops/bottoms, and back shall be of thickness necessary to provide rigid construction.

Corner or lineal bracing must be provided at points where necessary to ensure rigidity and proper joining of various components.

All wood parts must be dried to a moisture content of 10 percent or less at time of fabrication.

All interior exposed surfaces shall be free of saw marks and poor workmanship, and shall be covered with a laminate material or have a minimum of one coat of clear or pigmented finish.

Exposed cabinet hardware must comply with Builders Hardware Manufacturing Association finishing standards.

All exterior exposed surfaces and edges except the edges of end panels and the edges of back panels, shall be free of saw marks and other imperfections and shall be filled and sanded, edge-banded, or otherwise finished to ensure compliance with the performance standards.

All exterior exposed parts of cabinets must have nails and staples set and holes filled.

All exposed construction joints must be fitted in a workman-like manner consistent with specifications.

Certified Cabinet Manufacturers

For a listing of certified cabinet manufacturers complying with ANSI/KCMA A161.1, please refer to the 2008 KCMA Directory of Certified Cabinet Manufacturers at www.kcma.org.



The information contained in this document is offered for educational purposes, only, and not as technical advice suitable for any particular project or specific condition. Technical consulting is unique to the facts of a particular condition, and Conspectus recommends that a specialist be consulted to determine solutions for each specific condition.