

ASTM C635 / C636

ASTM International

ASTM C635 classifies the metal suspension systems that carry acoustical ceilings and C636 covers how those systems are installed. On site they are the questions asked above the tile line: is the grid the right duty class for what hangs on it, are the hangers spaced and tied the way the class assumes, and does the perimeter carry the movement a seismic layout expects. Every light and diffuser dropped into that grid rides on those answers.

What it covers

- Grid duty classification and main-runner load capacity
- Hanger wire size, spacing and attachment to the structure
- Seismic bracing, perimeter clips and free-end conditions
- Support of light fixtures, diffusers and other in-ceiling loads
- Grid level, squareness and installation tolerances

What a field inspection looks at

- Hanger wires photographed at their true spacing and tied off correctly, before the tile is dropped in and the plenum closes to view.
- Perimeter condition documented against the seismic layout: fixed end, floating end, wall angle and gap all shown, not just the middle of the room.
- Fixtures and diffusers photographed with their own independent support, not left hanging on the grid alone.
- Grid level and square checked with the reading in frame, since a running error only widens toward the far wall.
- Duty class confirmed against what the ceiling actually carries, photographed at the main runner rather than taken on faith.

Adoption varies by jurisdiction. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction enforces before you run a walk against it.