



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Monica Tibbitts-Nutt, Secretary & CEO
Phillip Eng, General Manager & CEO



DESIGN DIRECTIVE

To: Distribution

From: Rodney DeLisle
Deputy Chief of Technical Engineering and Design

Date: May 20, 2025

RE: Subway Station Ceiling Treatments



This Engineering Design Directive specifies the design and installation requirements for all ceiling treatments in underground subway stations. Ceilings include all customer-facing areas, platforms, fare collection areas, mezzanine/concourse areas, stairwells, areas above tracks, as well as back of house employee areas. With the exception of code required fire protection or other code requirements, ceilings must be left uncovered with no architectural treatments, such as permanent or suspended ceilings, to allow for routine inspections. Ceilings may be painted or treated with other approved materials so long as the treatment does not prohibit the ability to perform inspections.

In the event that conditions warrant deviation from this directive, the Engineer of Record shall submit a request for a waiver to the Chief Engineer. The request shall include the following:

1. A detailed narrative which identifies:
 - a. The location and application of use.
 - b. Why leaving the ceiling exposed is not recommended based on environment, use, or other factors.
 - c. How the long-term performance compares to locations which adhere to this directive.
 - d. How the MBTA will benefit from deviating from the requirements of this directive.
2. The maintenance processes and procedures for any overhead systems or equipment.
3. Engineering drawings including plans, elevations, and sections as necessary to detail the complete installation.

All ongoing and future designs must be reviewed and audited by the project design team to ensure every effort is made to comply with this directive.