

# Tableaux®

## EXPANSION/CONTRACTION OF TABLEAUX DECORATIVE GRILLES CORE MATERIAL

*“We specified our decorative grilles at 71-½ x 58-5/8, but the grilles we received are 71-5/8 x 58-3/4 and are too big to fit into the opening!”*

In this case, product sizing during manufacturing was consistent with the dimensions specified on the quote request and approved measure sheet. Variances in sizing are actually caused by expansion or contraction of the core materials between time of manufacturing and time of installation.

Moisture is always present in all wood products. Shrinking and swelling occur as the wood changes moisture content in response to daily, as well as seasonal changes in the relative humidity of the atmosphere, i.e., when the air is humid, wood absorbs moisture and swells; when the air is dry, wood loses moisture and shrinks. This is especially true when the product is exposed to wide swings in relative humidity, generally below 25% or above 55%.

The degree of change depends on the expansion/shrinkage coefficient of the material. In addition, thickness, design pattern characteristics and the amount of negative space in a design all play a part in how much variance occurs. In air conditioned rooms, dimensions can change by +/- 1/16 per 48 inches. In non air conditioned rooms this can increase to +/- 1/8 per 48 inches (see illustration).

Tolerances based on linear dimension		
From	To	Tolerance
0"	48"	± 1/16"
48"	96"	± 1/8"
96"	144"	± 3/16"
Over 144"		± 1/4"

### Considerations for Inside-Mount Installations

Designers should be especially mindful of moisture-related expansion and shrinkage characteristics when specifying decorative grilles for installation in framed spaces (inside-mounts) to ensure proper fit.

We provide a “Deduction option” on our quote request allowing you to specify a deduction amount. The deduction amount you select will be subtracted off each side of your specified dimensions during manufacturing. WE RECOMMEND TAKING A MINIMUM 1/8” DEDUCTION FOR ALL INSIDE-MOUNTS to create additional space between your decorative grille and the mounted surface. This allows room for expansion/contraction and accommodates width/height tolerances.

**NOTE:** If you choose not to take a deduction, the finished size may be too large for the opening. In such case, you may need to have your installer sand off excess material. TABLEAUX CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR PROPER FIT WHEN NO DEDUCTION IS SPECIFIED FOR INSIDE-MOUNTS.