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Title: Problems with water evacuation from large format tiles on wet area floors.

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Abstract Summary;

The introduction of new building practices, reduced allowances and tolerances for finished heights of floor finishes are impacting on the ability to achieve suitable falls in floor finishes installed using Ceramic tiles. The inception of large format tiles being used in tile installations has made achieving suitable fall ratios problematic. Design specifications and construction allowances sometimes make it impossible for the tiling contractor to achieve falls to meet legislative or requirements by relevant standards or recommendations. This paper serves to assess the relevant standard requirements regarding falls in floor finishes from Australia, the USA, Spain and Brazil with the aim to compare and review current international positions regarding falls in floors. The adoption of a practical approach when assessing fall ratios, and, potential defects that arise from a lack of fall gradients in wet areas will be investigated in order to assess wet area falls using a performance-based method to determine adequate or compliant fall ratios. A practical approach may be required when adherence to the relevant standards, requirements or recommendations is not achievable.