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By: Randy Collier

Re: Cable Cutouts

Manufacturers of raised access panel flooring incorporate grid members into the substructure for additional lateral stability as well as to enhance vertical loading capability.

The grid members are not designed or intended to bear the full load bearing capacity of the floor system. All panels in the floor system must be supported under each corner by a pedestal. If a corner is cut from a panel for cable access, or whatever purpose, additional pedestals must be installed. Since there are an infinite number of ways to cut a panel, it is not practical to perform loading tests on every conceivable geometric configuration.

Problems will be avoided if the following rules are adhered to:

1. Every outside corner of a panel must be supported by a pedestal (four per panel minimum).
2. Panel cuts should not be made closer than 3" to a panel corner without additional support.
3. Panel cuts should traverse no more than 35% of panel span without additional support.
4. If a caster load exceeding 400lbs is to be placed on any cut panel, a pedestal should be placed under the panel at the point of load.
5. Care should be taken when moving equipment into place avoiding holes and cut panels.