

Match Existing, Really?

- This is a very common requirement
- It makes sense, as who would “avoid matching existing” ?
- As I hope to point out, we need more thought about this phrase in our industry, as it commonly becomes an issue.

Match Existing, Really?

Why?

- **What is a match? There is no definition of acceptable tolerances in most criteria for a “match”.**
- **We are performing specific tasks using specified procedures to work on a variable building.**

Match Existing, Really?

Why am I up here?

- This requirement to match is not limited when we say it.
- What level of effort and cost is not defined.
- “Match” becomes a performance spec, with no defined standard.

Match Existing, Really?

What I do not see is:

- A tolerance criteria for acceptance of the match
- Acknowledgement that an “exact match” is impossible in much of what we do.

Match Existing, Really?

What I do not see is:

- Time allowance for developing an “acceptable match” at the beginning of a contract.
- Defined sharing of the risk of finding “acceptable match”

Match Existing, Really?

Closely or reasonably;

- **what does that mean?**
- **For color, how many shades different meet the spec?**
- **Closely for fit and finish, and to which tolerance?**
- **Closely individually to every variation throughout the building?**

Match Existing, Really?

Closely;

- **if the lead time for the approved item is 6 months, who bears the time delay?**
- **if that means unique or unusual steps not specified elsewhere, does the requirement to “match” make the contractor liable?**

Match Existing, Really?

Why is this an issue?

- The phrase is vague with no industry standard, and significant risk of misunderstanding between contractor, owner and consultant.
- These problems commonly are discovered after contract award.

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Common Examples

Match Existing, Really?

During Sample installation

- No one is required to research lead time of approved material prior to award. (typ a brick match)
- The sample as specified may not be acceptable, so additional steps are requires, or a different material may need to be used.

Match Existing, Really?

During Sample installation

- The owner then is upset that “match existing” is in the spec but is a Change Order and/or a delay to the contract.
- The owner often pushes this blame to Constant/Contractor collectively

Match Existing, Really?

During the project?

- The sample typically does not “match existing” in all conditions
- The existing work typically contains work that can't or shouldn't be matched



Match Existing, Really?

During the project?

- The existing conditions have more variance than your design anticipated
- If you have not reviewed ACI 117 for concrete tolerances, and similar standards for other materials, I suggest you take a look

Match Existing, Really?

During the project?

- **The existing conditions do not meet current code and standards**



From ACI 117

- **1.1.2 The indicated tolerances govern unless otherwise specified.**
- **Tolerance values affect construction cost. Specific use of a tolerance item may warrant less or more stringent tolerances than contained in the specification. Such variances must be individually designated by the specifier in the contract documents.**





Match Existing, Really?

During the project?

- The specifications call for minimum a different coverage, thickness, or tolerance than existing, but ultimately must “Match Existing”.



Match Existing, Really?

During the project?

- The existing substrate has many years of previously applied materials, but the spec calls for a specific system over existing and new















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To The Owner, Match=Invisible



• **INVISIBLE REPAIRS ARE INCLUDED IN MY CONTRACT.**

• **MY LAWYER AGREES, IT IS YOUR PROBLEM, YOU BOUGHT IT**