# Grounding of ESD Static Control Flooring

Several acceptable methods are used to ground static control flooring depending on the job conditions and personal preference of the contractor. The three most widely used procedures are described below.

**Affixing the grounding strap to the floor tile** First affix the grounding strap (provided by VPI with the flooring) to the floor by laying the strap into the wet adhesive, at the time it is spread on the floor and extending approximately one foot out into the room. Cover the strap with additional adhesive, and then place the tile over the grounding strap. Be sure that this area gets rolled when rolling the floor. Leave approximately 10 – 12 in. of grounding strap exposed this end of the grounding strap will be attached to the ground point.

**Grounding to a circuit ground**

1. Prior to the installation of the static control flooring the electrical contractor will tie in a ground wire (#10 or #12) to a convenient ground bus or a wall outlet. Then the wire is fed down the inside of the wall to the floor line, where the baseboard meets the floor. Bring the wire through a small hole in the drywall at the floor line. From here it can be easily attached to the floor ground.

   The exposed end of the copper-grounding strap (provided by VPI with the flooring) is then wound together with the ground wire and tightened together with the use of a wire nut to securely hold it in place. This connection of the two leads is then pushed into the hole in the wall along with the excess wire. There the baseboard or wall base will cover it when it is applied to the wall.

**Natural earth ground**

2. If the floor is being installed on grade or below grade a copper-grounding rod can be driven into the ground creating an earth ground for the floor. The 4 or 6 ft. rod is driven into the ground until only 2 or 3 inches of the rod remains exposed from the floor. The exposed end of the copper-grounding strap (provided by VPI with the flooring) is affixed to the rod using a grounding clamp, usually provided with the grounding rod. If necessary a piece of No.10 or 12 wire can be attached to the grounding rod and run to the location of the tile grounding strap, where they are then tied together with a wire nut.

**Earth Ground**

3. If the building has exposed steel support columns the grounding strap from the tile can be directly grounded to one or more of the columns. Affix the grounding strap (provided by VPI with the flooring) to the tile as described in paragraph one. Attach the opposite end of the strap directly to the support column with a grounding screw or use a grounding clamp. Drill a hole in the column and screw the grounding strap directly to the column, or mount a grounding clamp to the column and clamp the grounding strap to the column.

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