1. A header assembly for a movable partition comprising:

an overhead track; and

a header pan configured to abut against and be secured to the overhead track, the header pan comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of the header pan, wherein the header pan is configured to form at least a portion of a fire-resistant barrier extending from a wall of an adjoining structure to an opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

2. The header assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a first molding member configured to abut against the wall of the adjoining structure and comprising a recess configured to receive at least an edge portion of a first header pan member of the at least two header pan members; and

a second molding member configured to abut against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure and comprising a recess configured to receive at least an edge portion of a second header pan member of the at least two header pan members.

3. The header assembly of claim 2, wherein the first header pan member and the second header pan member are configured to form a gap between the edge portion of the first header pan member and the wall of the adjoining structure and another gap between the edge portion of the second header pan member and the opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

4. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein a first header pan member of the at least two header pan members is configured to abut a second header pan member of the at least two header pan members to form the header pan.

5. The header assembly of claim 4, wherein the first header pan member of the at least two header pan members is configured to overlap the second header pan member of the at least two header pan members to form the header pan.

6. The header assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

at least two structural elements, each structural element configured to be secured to a header pan member of the at least two header pan members on a side opposing the overhead track; and

at least two fastener elements configured to suspend the at least two structural elements from an overhead support member of the adjoining structure.

7. The header assembly of claim 4, further comprising at least one cross brace suspended from the at least two fastener elements and attached to the at least two structural elements, the at least one cross brace configured to extend from the wall of the adjoining structure to the opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

8. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least two header pan members of the header pan are configured to jointly define a channel at a laterally central portion of the header pan and wherein at least a portion of the overhead track is receivable in the channel.

9. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least two header pan members are configured to form a gap at a central portion of the channel.

10. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the overhead track covers the gap formed by the at least two header pan members and wherein the overhead track and the header pan together form the fire-resistant barrier.

11. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the header pan comprises a plurality of header pan sections, each header pan section comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of each header pan section, and at least one header pan joint, the at least one header pan joint configured to abut longitudinally adjoining header pan sections of the plurality of header pan sections to form a contiguous structure.

12. A movable partition system comprising:

a header assembly, comprising

an overhead track; and

a header pan configured to abut against and be secured to the overhead track, the header pan comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of the header pan, wherein the header pan is configured to form at least a portion of a fire-resistant barrier extending from a wall of an adjoining structure to an opposing wall of the adjoining structure; and

a movable partition comprising at least one structure of hingedly connected panels suspended from the overhead track.

13. A method of forming a fire-resistant header assembly for a movable partition, comprising:

forming a first header pan member to define a first lateral portion of a header pan;

forming a second header pan member to define a second, opposing lateral portion of the header pan; and

configuring the header pan to extend laterally across a header space between a wall of an adjoining structure and an opposing wall of the adjoining structure and to at least substantially longitudinally occlude the header space when the first and second header pan members jointly form the header pan.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

forming a recess in a first molding member configured to receive an edge portion of the first header pan member in the recess;

configuring the first molding member to abut against the wall of the adjoining structure when the edge portion of the first header pan member is received in the recess;

forming a recess in a second molding member configured to receive an edge portion of the second header pan member in the recess; and

configuring the second molding member to abut against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure when the edge portion of the second header pan member is received in the recess.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

forming the first header pan member to define a first lateral portion of a channel positioned centrally with respect to the header pan;

forming the second header pan member to define a second lateral portion of the channel; and

configuring the channel to receive an overhead track at least partially into the channel when the first and second header pan members jointly form the header pan and the channel.

16. A method of installing a movable partition, comprising:

forming a header pan comprising combining a first header pan member and a second header pan member to jointly form the header pan;

coupling an overhead track from an adjoining structure;

forming a header pan extending laterally across a header space between a wall of the adjoining structure and an opposing wall of the adjoining structure comprising:

abutting the overhead track with a first lateral portion of the header pan extending from overhead track toward the wall of the adjoining structure; and

abutting the overhead track with a second lateral portion of the header pan extending from overhead track toward the opposing wall of the adjoining structure; and

suspending a movable partition comprising at least one structure of hingedly connected panels from the overhead track.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

inserting an edge portion of the first header pan member into a recess of a first molding member to connect the first header pan member to the first molding member;

abutting the first molding member against a wall of an adjoining structure;

inserting an edge portion of the second header pan member into a recess of a second molding member to connect the second header pan member to the second molding member; and

abutting the second molding member against the opposing wall of an adjoining structure.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising securing the first molding member and second molding member to the wall and the opposing wall, respectively, of the adjoining structure.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein abutting the overhead track with the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion of the header pan comprises inserting at least a portion of the overhead track into a channel jointly defined by the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion of the header pan.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein forming a header pan further comprises positioning a plurality of longitudinally extending header pan sections each comprising a first lateral portion and a second lateral portion along a length of the overhead track.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising covering at least one seam formed between longitudinally adjoining header pan sections with at least one header pan joint member to form a contiguous structure.

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AMENDED CLAIMS
received by the International Bureau on 29 March 2013 (29.03.2013)

1. A header assembly for a movable partition comprising:

an overhead track; and

a header pan configured to abut against and be secured to an upper surface of the overhead track, the header pan comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of the header pan, wherein the header pan is configured to form at least a portion of a fire-resistant barrier extending from a wall of an adjoining structure to an opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

2. The header assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

a first molding member configured to abut against the wall of the adjoining structure and comprising a recess configured to receive at least an edge portion of a first header pan member of the at least two header pan members; and

a second molding member configured to abut against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure and comprising a recess configured to receive at least an edge portion of a second header pan member of the at least two header pan members.

3. The header assembly of claim 2, wherein the first header pan member and the second header pan member are configured to form a gap between the edge portion of the first header pan member and the wall of the adjoining structure and another gap between the edge portion of the second header pan member and the opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

4. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein a first header pan member of the at least two header pan members is configured to abut a second header pan member of the at least two header pan members to form the header pan.

5. The header assembly of claim 4, wherein the first header pan member of the at least two header pan members is configured to overlap the second header pan member of the at least two header pan members to form the header pan.

6. The header assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

at least two structural elements, each structural element configured to be secured to a header pan member of the at least two header pan members on a side opposing the overhead track; and

at least two fastener elements configured to suspend the at least two structural elements from an overhead support member of the adjoining structure.

7. The header assembly of claim 4, further comprising at least one cross brace suspended from the at least two fastener elements and attached to the at least two structural elements, the at least one cross brace configured to extend from the wall of the adjoining structure to the opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

8. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least two header pan members of the header pan are configured to jointly define a channel at a laterally central portion of the header pan and wherein at least a portion of the overhead track is receivable in the channel.

9. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least two header pan members are configured to form a gap at a central portion of the channel.

10. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the overhead track covers the gap formed by the at least two header pan members and wherein the overhead track and the header pan together form the fire-resistant barrier.

11. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the header pan comprises a plurality of header pan sections, each header pan section comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of each header pan section, and at least one header pan joint, the at least one header pan joint configured to abut longitudinally adjoining header pan sections of the plurality of header pan sections to form a contiguous structure.

12. A movable partition system comprising:

a header assembly, comprising

an overhead track; and

a header pan according to any one of claims 1 through 11 abutting against and secured to the upper surface of the overhead track; and

a movable partition comprising at least one structure of hingedly connected panels suspended from the overhead track.

13. A method of forming a fire-resistant header assembly for a movable partition, comprising:

forming a first header pan member to define a first lateral portion of a header pan;

forming a second header pan member to define a second, opposing lateral portion of the header pan; and

configuring the header pan to extend laterally across a header space between a wall of an adjoining structure and an opposing wall of the adjoining structure and to at least substantially longitudinally occlude the header space when the first and second header pan members jointly form the header pan.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

forming a recess in a first molding member configured to receive an edge portion of the first header pan member in the recess;

configuring the first molding member to abut against the wall of the adjoining structure when the edge portion of the first header pan member is received in the recess;

forming a recess in a second molding member configured to receive an edge portion of the second header pan member in the recess; and

configuring the second molding member to abut against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure when the edge portion of the second header pan member is received in the recess.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

forming the first header pan member to define a first lateral portion of a channel positioned centrally with respect to the header pan;

forming the second header pan member to define a second lateral portion of the channel; and

configuring the channel to receive an overhead track at least partially into the channel when the first and second header pan members jointly form the header pan and the channel.

16. A method of installing a movable partition, comprising:

forming a header pan comprising combining a first header pan member and a second header pan member to jointly form the header pan;

coupling an overhead track from an adjoining structure;

forming a header pan extending laterally across a header space between a wall of the adjoining structure and an opposing wall of the adjoining structure comprising:

abutting the overhead track with a first lateral portion of the header pan extending from overhead track toward the wall of the adjoining structure; and

abutting the overhead track with a second lateral portion of the header pan extending from overhead track toward the opposing wall of the adjoining structure; and

suspending a movable partition comprising at least one structure of hingedly connected panels from the overhead track.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

inserting an edge portion of the first header pan member into a recess of a first molding member to connect the first header pan member to the first molding member;

abutting the first molding member against a wall of an adjoining structure;

inserting an edge portion of the second header pan member into a recess of a second molding member to connect the second header pan member to the second molding member; and

abutting the second molding member against the opposing wall of an adjoining structure.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising securing the first molding member and second molding member to the wall and the opposing wall, respectively, of the adjoining structure.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein abutting the overhead track with the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion of the header pan comprises inserting at least a portion of the overhead track into a channel jointly defined by the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion of the header pan.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein forming a header pan further comprises positioning a plurality of longitudinally extending header pan sections each comprising a first lateral portion and a second lateral portion along a length of the overhead track.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising covering at least one seam formed between longitudinally adjoining header pan sections with at least one header pan joint member to form a contiguous structure.

CLAIMS

1. A header assembly for a movable partition comprising:

an overhead track;

a header pan configured to abut against and be secured to an upper surface of the overhead track, the header pan comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of the header pan, wherein the header pan is configured to form at least a portion of a fire-resistant barrier extending from a wall of an adjoining structure to an opposing wall of the adjoining structure;

a first molding member configured to abut against the wall of the adjoining structure and comprising a first recess configured to receive at least an edge portion of a first header pan member of the at least two header pan members, the first molding member being laterally adjustable relative to the header pan; and

a second molding member configured to abut against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure and comprising a second recess configured to receive at least an edge portion of a second header pan member of the at least two header pan members, the second molding member being laterally adjustable relative to the header pan.

2. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the first molding member and the second molding member comprises:

an at least substantially flat base extending laterally outward to an end of the base, the base being configured for positioning proximate the header pan;

an at least substantially flat back oriented at least substantially perpendicular to the base and positioned opposite the end of the base opposing the back; and

an at least substantially flat lever extending from the back toward the base at an oblique angle relative to the base, leaving a first distance between the lever and the base proximate the back, whereby internal surfaces of the base, the back and the lever define the recess.

3. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the first header pan member and the second header pan member are configured to form a gap between the edge portion of the first header pan member and the wall of the adjoining structure and another gap between the edge portion of the second header pan member and the opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

4. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the first header pan member of the at least two header pan members is configured to abut the second header pan member of the at least two header pan members to form the header pan.

5. The header assembly of claim 4, wherein the first header pan member of the at least two header pan members is configured to overlap the second header pan member of the at least two header pan members to form the header pan.

6. The header assembly of claim 1, further comprising:

at least two structural elements, each structural element configured to be secured to a header pan member of the at least two header pan members on a side opposing the overhead track; and

at least two fastener elements configured to suspend the at least two structural elements from an overhead support member of the adjoining structure.

7. The header assembly of claim 6, further comprising at least one cross brace suspended from the at least two fastener elements and attached to the at least two structural elements, the at least one cross brace configured to extend from the wall of the adjoining structure to the opposing wall of the adjoining structure.

8. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the at least two header pan members of the header pan are configured to jointly define a channel at a laterally central portion of the header pan and wherein at least a portion of the overhead track is receivable in the channel.

9. The header assembly of claim 8, wherein the at least two header pan members are configured to form a gap at a central portion of the channel.

10. The header assembly of claim 9, wherein the overhead track covers the gap formed by the at least two header pan members and wherein the overhead track and the header pan together form the fire-resistant barrier.

11. The header assembly of claim 1, wherein the header pan comprises a plurality of header pan sections, each header pan section comprising at least two header pan members defining opposing lateral portions of each header pan section, and at least one header pan joint, the at least one header pan joint configured to abut longitudinally adjoining header pan sections of the plurality of header pan sections to form a contiguous structure.

12. A movable partition system comprising:

a header assembly as defined in any of the preceding claims; and

a movable partition comprising at least one structure of hingedly connected panels suspended from the overhead track.

13. A method of forming a fire-resistant header assembly for a movable partition, comprising:

forming an overhead track;

forming a first header pan member to define a first lateral portion of a header pan;

forming a second header pan member to define a second, opposing lateral portion of the header pan;

configuring the header pan to extend laterally across a header space between a wall of an adjoining structure and an opposing wall of the adjoining structure and to at least substantially longitudinally occlude the header space when the first and second header pan members jointly form the header pan;

forming a first recess in a first molding member configured to receive an edge portion of the first header pan member in the first recess;

configuring the first molding member to abut against the wall of the adjoining structure when the edge portion of the first header pan member is received in the first recess, the first molding member being adjustable laterally relative to the header pan;

forming a second recess in a second molding member configured to receive an edge portion of the second header pan member in the second recess; and

configuring the second molding member to abut against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure when the edge portion of the second header pan member is received in the second recess, the second molding member being adjustable laterally relative to the header pan.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein forming the corresponding recess in each of the first molding member and the second molding member comprises:

forming an at least substantially flat base extending laterally outward to an end of the base, the base being configured for positioning proximate the header pan;

forming an at least substantially flat back oriented at least substantially perpendicular to the base and positioned opposite the end of the base opposing the back; and

forming an at least substantially flat lever extending from the back toward the base at an oblique angle relative to the base, leaving a first distance between the lever and the base proximate the back, whereby internal surfaces of the base, the back and the lever define the recess.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

forming the first header pan member to define a first lateral portion of a channel positioned centrally with respect to the header pan;

forming the second header pan member to define a second lateral portion of the channel; and

configuring the channel to receive an overhead track at least partially into the channel when the first and second header pan members jointly form the header pan and the channel.

16. A method of installing a movable partition, comprising:

forming a header pan comprising combining a first header pan member and a second header pan member to jointly form the header pan;

coupling an overhead track from an adjoining structure;

forming a header pan extending laterally across a header space between a wall of the adjoining structure and an opposing wall of the adjoining structure comprising:

abutting the overhead track with a first lateral portion of the header pan extending from overhead track toward the wall of the adjoining structure; and

abutting the overhead track with a second lateral portion of the header pan extending from overhead track toward the opposing wall of the adjoining structure;

inserting an edge portion of the first header pan member into a first recess of a first molding member to connect the first header pan member to the first molding member;

adjusting the first molding member laterally relative to the header pan to abut the first molding member against the wall of the adjoining structure;

inserting an edge portion of the second header pan member into a second recess of a second molding member to connect the second header pan member to the second molding member;

adjusting the second molding member laterally relative to the header pan to abut the second molding member against the opposing wall of the adjoining structure; and

suspending a movable partition comprising at least one structure of hingedly connected panels from the overhead track.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein each of the first molding member and the second molding member comprises:

an at least substantially flat base extending laterally outward to an end of the base, the base being configured for positioning proximate the header pan;

an at least substantially flat back oriented at least substantially perpendicular to the base and positioned opposite the end of the base opposing the back; and

an at least substantially flat lever extending from the back toward the base at an oblique angle relative to the base, leaving a first distance between the lever and the base proximate the back, whereby internal surfaces of the base, the back and the lever define the recess.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising securing the first molding member and second molding member to the wall and the opposing wall, respectively, of the adjoining structure.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein abutting the overhead track with the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion of the header pan comprises inserting at least a portion of the overhead track into a channel jointly defined by the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion of the header pan.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein forming a header pan further comprises positioning a plurality of longitudinally extending header pan sections each comprising a first lateral portion and a second lateral portion along a length of the overhead track.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising covering at least one seam formed between longitudinally adjoining header pan sections with at least one header pan joint member to form a contiguous structure.