

association for contract textiles

Colorfastness to Light ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines Test Method Descriptions

ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines make fabric specification easier. The Guidelines address Flammability and four aspects of fabric durability—Wet & Dry Crocking, Colorfastness to Light, Physical Properties, and Abrasion. This document focuses on Colorfastness to Light.

To give architects, designers, and end-users a vast amount of performance information in a succinct visual way, ACT developed icons to indicate that a fabric meets or exceeds guideline requirements. Look for these Registered Certification Marks on ACT Member Company sampling to assure that the fabrics you specify perform up to contract standards and pass all applicable testing.

All ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines cover woven and coated fabrics for indoor use. "Woven Fabrics" consist of two sets of yarns, warp and filling, formed by weaving, which is the process of interlacing these sets of yarns. "Coated Fabrics" typically include a fabric or similar substrate with one or more layers of a film-forming polymer such as vinyl or polyurethane on the wear surface of the fabric.

Test methods used in the Guidelines measure fabric performance under standard laboratory conditions. All Colorfastness to Light test methods presented here are intended to represent the most current version. Note: Individual ACT Member product information may represent a different version of a test method depending on the date the product was introduced to market.

Important: These tests represent minimum requirements, which are subject to change without notice and may not reflect requirements or laws in all locations. See information and disclaimer on page 3.

Colorfastness to Light



A material's degree of resistance to the fading effect of light.

ACT GUIDELINES

Upholstery – Woven Fabrics

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3 Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours*

Upholstery - Coated Fabrics

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3 Grade 4 minimum at 200 hours*

Or

ASTM D4329 No appreciable color change at 150 hours*

Direct Glue Wallcoverings

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3 Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours*

Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3 Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours*

Drapery

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3 Grade 4 minimum at 60 hours*

*Note: There is no direct correlation between the numbers of testing hours and hours of service in the field.



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TEST METHODS

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3*

The AATCC 16 Option 1 and 3 are test methods of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC). ACT recognizes both methods where the only difference is the light source being used. In AATCC 16 Option 1 a Carbon-Arc lamp is used as the light source, and in AATCC 16 Option 3 a Xenon-Arc lamp is used. Under both methods a strip of fabric (part of which is protected by a special paper card) is placed in a fadometer and exposed to 40 hours of accelerated fading units (AFU). After the exposure the difference in color between the exposed and protected parts of the fabric are compared to the AATCC gray scale and the degree of fading is rated.

Grade 5 = no fading

Grade 4 = slight fading

Grade 1 = high degree of fading

diade I = flight degree of lading

* For complete technical details about AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3: http://www.aatcc.org

ASTM D4329*

Brief description to be added.

* For complete technical details about ASTM D4329: http://www.astm.org



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMERS REGARDING ACT'S VOLUNTARY PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

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Whenever appropriate, specifiers and end users should seek the advice of professionals or other knowledgeable persons to ascertain whether a product will in fact comply with applicable Laws.

Understand that the testing and standards ("Standards") referenced in the Guidelines are developed and promulgated by third parties not associated with ACT, and that these Standards often change or are supplemented by such third parties. Accordingly, the fact that a particular Standard is referenced in the Guidelines (and/or associated with any Mark) does not mean, nor is it intended to be a representation that Standard is the most current one.

It is the responsibility of the contract textile vendor and/or the manufacturer (not ACT) to determine in all instances whether or not a textile meets each of the Standards to which a particular Mark is referenced.

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