facts

Sustainability Certification Program for Commercial Textiles
The Definitive Sustainability Certification Program for Commercial Textiles

Facts was developed to recognize contract textiles that conform to the rigors of the multi-attribute standard NSF/ANSI 336 and are third-party certified. A Facts sustainability rating indicates a textile has been evaluated for environmental, economic and social aspects across its life cycle.

To earn the Facts certification mark, the textile must be assessed and verified by an independent third-party certification body authorized by the Association for Contract Textiles (ACT). Textiles assessed by a first or second party, or not verified by an authorized third party, cannot bear the Facts certification mark.

The Facts certification mark is owned by the Association for Contract Textiles, Inc.

Applicable Textiles

Facts applies to commercial furnishings fabric used in public-occupancy settings such as office, hospitality, healthcare and institutional interiors.

These textiles include but are not limited to woven, non-woven, bonded, knitted, felted and composite materials used for upholstered furniture; walls, draperies, cubicles, furniture systems and other vertical applications; and decorative top-of-bed applications such as bedspreads.

Symbolic Icons

ACT certification marks give architects, designers and end-users a vast amount of information in a clear and succinct way. In 1985, ACT established its Voluntary Performance Guidelines and associated icons for Flammability 🔥, Wet & Dry Crocking 🧼, Colorfastness to Light ⭐, Physical Properties ✨, and Abrasion Resistance ⚠️ to make fabric specification easier.

Now Facts ⚫ joins ACT’s highly recognized performance certification marks to convey complex information about sustainability.
Eight Sustainability Attributes

Facts comprehensive multi-attribute examination assesses both the composition of textiles and how they are manufactured.

Two elements that comprise half of the evaluation focus on fiber composition:

20% Fiber Sourcing
30% Safety of Materials

Six elements that comprise the other half scrutinize the fabric manufacturing process:

6% Water Conservation
6% Water Quality
12% Energy
2% Air Quality
12% Recycling Practices
12% Social Accountability
**Degrees of Achievement**

Facts utilizes four conformance ratings to provide ascending thresholds of sustainability.

Facts certified textiles must meet all of the robust pre-requisites in NSF/ANSI 336. Once a textile achieves the Facts Compliant threshold, it can be designated as a Facts Silver, Gold or Platinum rating by earning points for additional sustainability criteria.

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**Additional Standards for Sustainability**

Facts certification often covers criteria included in other certification programs.

The Facts certification program, specifically for textiles, aligns with other industry-specific sustainability certification programs such as level® by the Business Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) and GreenSquared® by the Tile Council of North America (TCNA).

ACT is pursuing strategic relationships with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), the Health Product Declaration (HPD) Collaborative and other organizations in the design community to explore the possibilities of developing equal recognition programs for aspects of sustainability that overlap with Facts.

In 2013, the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) established Pilot Credit 80: Environmentally Preferable Interior Finishes and Furnishings. Since USGBC specifically recognizes products that have been third-party certified to the ANSI/BIFMA e3 Furniture Sustainability Standard, similar recognition could possibly be granted to textiles that are Facts certified in the future.
About ACT

The Association for Contract Textiles is a professional not-for-profit trade association comprised of companies involved in the design, development, production and promotion of textiles for commercial interiors. ACT was founded in 1985 to address a variety of issues related to contract fabrics. Principal and Associate member companies are textile wholesalers and furniture manufacturers. Industry Partner and Individual members—including fiber producers, textile mills, finishers, testing labs, and design consultants—represent all levels of the supply chain.

ACT offers CEU training for members of the A&D community who wish to learn how to specify sustainable textiles. For information about hosting an authorized Facts training session at your company, facility or group, contact us at www.contracttextiles.org.

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