association for contract textiles

Colorfastness to Light
ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines
Test Method Descriptions for Coated Fabrics

ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines for Flammability and four aspects of coated fabric durability—Wet & Dry Crocking, Colorfastness to Light, Physical Properties, and Abrasion—make coated fabric specification easier.

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 both woven and coated fabrics for indoor use. "Coated Fabrics" typically consist of one or more layers of a film-forming polymer such as vinyl, silicone or polyurethane supported by a fabric or similar substrate.

Test methods included in the Guidelines measure coated fabric performance under standard laboratory conditions and are intended to represent the most current test 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

Accelerated light aging evaluates a coated fabric's ability to resist fading, gloss change and surface deterioration.

ACT GUIDELINES

Upholstery	
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 200 hours*
Or	
ASTM D4329	No appreciable color change at 150 hours*
Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls	
AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3	Grade 4 minimum at 200 hours*
Or	
ASTM D4329	No appreciable color change at 150 hours*

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

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 Fade-o-meter or Weather-o-meter and exposed to the required number of 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

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

ASTM D4329*

The ASTM D4329, Q Panel, is a test method of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), “Fluorescent Ultra-Violet (UV) Lamp Apparatus Exposure of Plastics”, (QUV). Exposure conditions appropriate for a product application are defined by the user and are detailed in the test report. To simulate indoor conditions the specimen is exposed to 150 continuous hours of UV light.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMERS REGARDING ACT'S VOLUNTARY PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

As noted above, ACT's Voluntary Performance Guidelines ("Guidelines") and associated symbols ("Marks") are for information purposes only and are made available to help assist specifiers and end-users in evaluating certain characteristics of contract textiles.

Neither the Guidelines, nor the Marks constitute any promise, representation or warranty that a product or sample that bears or to which a Mark is referenced will in fact comply with applicable federal, state, or municipal laws, codes, rules and regulations concerning the intended use of such product ("Laws"), nor any assurance, representation or guarantee regarding or relating in any manner to the safety of any product or sample that bears or, to which a Mark is referenced.

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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