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## ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines for Woven Fabrics

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

Test methods included in the Guidelines measure 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.

### Flammability



The measurement of a fabric's performance when it is exposed to specific sources of ignition.

*Note: ACT guidelines specify different flammability tests dictated by the intended end use for the fabric.*

#### ACT GUIDELINES

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##### Upholstery

California Technical Bulletin 117-2013 Section 1 – Pass

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##### Direct Glue Wallcoverings and Adhered Panels

ASTM E84 (Adhered Mounting Method) – Class A or Class 1

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##### Wrapped Wall Panels and Upholstered Walls

ASTM E84 (Unadhered Mounting Method) – Class A or Class 1

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##### Panel System Furniture

Any one or combination of the following: UL recognized component under Office Panel Fabrics category, UL 1286 Listed, ASTM E84 (Adhered or Unadhered Mounting Method) – Class A or Class 1

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##### Draperies

NFPA 701 Method 1 or 2 as appropriate – Pass



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## Wet & Dry Crocking



Transfer of dye from the surface of a dyed or printed fabric onto another surface by rubbing.

### ACT GUIDELINES

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#### Upholstery

AATCC 8                      Dry Crocking, Grade 4 minimum  
   Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

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#### Direct Glue Wallcoverings

AATCC 8                      Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum  
   Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

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#### Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls

AATCC 8                      Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum  
   Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

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#### Drapery

AATCC 8 (Solids)            Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum  
   Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

AATCC 116 (Prints)        Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum  
   Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum



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## Colorfastness to Light



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

### ACT GUIDELINES

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#### Upholstery

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3

Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours\*

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#### Direct Glue Wallcoverings

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3

Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours\*

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#### Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls

AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3

Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours\*

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#### 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.*

## Physical Properties



Key factors in assessing overall durability of a fabric vary depending on the fabric construction.

### ACT GUIDELINES

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#### Upholstery

##### Pilling

ASTM D3511 (Brush Pill), Class 3 minimum

Or

ASTM D4970, (Martindale Tester), Class 3 minimum

*Pilling* is the formation of fuzzy balls of fiber on the surface of a fabric that remain attached to the fabric.

Aesthetic issues of pilling and fuzzing that sometimes occur on textile products do not impact the durability or functionality of the material. Laboratory testing provides some insight into the propensity for a textile to pill or fuzz; however, lab tests alone cannot predict field performance since they do not consider variables (e.g., care and maintenance, misuse, environment) encountered in the actual end-use application.

##### Breaking Strength

ASTM D5034 (Grab Test), 50 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

*Breaking Strength* is the measurement of stress exerted to pull a fabric apart under tension.

##### Seam Slippage

ASTM D4034, 25 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

*Seam Slippage* is the movement of yarns in a fabric that occurs when it is pulled apart at a seam.

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#### Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls

##### Breaking Strength

ASTM D5034 (Grab Test), 35 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

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#### Draperies

##### Seam Slippage

ASTM D434 using the D3597 modification for fabrics over 6 oz./sq. yard, 25 lbs. minimum in warp and weft.



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## Abrasion



Low Traffic /  
Private Spaces –  
Woven Upholstery Fabrics

The surface wear of a fabric caused by friction.

### ACT GUIDELINES

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#### Low Traffic / Private Spaces – Woven Upholstery Fabrics

ASTM D4157 (ACT approved #10 Cotton Duck)  
15,000 double rubs Wyzenbeek method

ASTM D4966 (12 KPa pressure)  
20,000 cycles Martindale method



High Traffic /  
Public Spaces –  
Woven Upholstery Fabrics

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#### High Traffic / Public Spaces – Woven Upholstery Fabrics

ASTM D4157 (ACT approved #10 Cotton Duck)  
30,000 double rubs Wyzenbeek method

ASTM D4966 (12 KPa pressure)  
40,000 cycles Martindale method

#### Disclaimer:

*Abrasion test results are not necessarily a reliable indicator of fabric lifespan. Comparative laboratory testing results on the same textiles frequently differ and testing methods do not necessarily correlate well with the variables encountered in actual use by the end-user. Licensees using the ACT performance certification marks and publishing test results exceeding the ACT high-traffic abrasion guideline are required to provide the following statement on their samples, digital media, marketing materials, social media posts, direct and third-party websites:*

Abrasion test results exceeding ACT Performance Guidelines are not an indicator of product lifespan. Multiple factors affect fabric durability and appearance retention.

#### Notes:

*ACT studies indicate that results of multiple abrasion tests performed on some fabric structures may vary significantly – as much as 60 percent or more. There is no correlation between Wyzenbeek and Martindale results. For more information please refer to abrasion white papers on the ACT website:*

<http://www.contracttextiles.org/index.php?page=research>



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