association for contract textiles

Flammability
ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines and Test Method Descriptions for Coated Fabrics – Outdoor

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.

ACT Guidelines are based on a fabric's construction (woven, coated, knit), its intended application (upholstery, direct glue wallcovering/adhered panels, wrapped panels/upholstered walls, drapery), and where it will be used (indoor, outdoor). The application and usage parameters are set by the fabric supplier. All three parameters determine which set of ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines applies.

This specific set of guidelines applies to coated fabrics for outdoor use as upholstery. "Coated Fabrics" typically consist of one or more layers of a film-former 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.

Flammability — COATED FABRICS, OUTDOOR USE

The measurement of a coated 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

Upholstery

California Technical Bulletin 117-2013 Section 1 – Pass

TEST METHODS

California Technical Bulletin 117-2013*

California Technical Bulletin 117-2013 Section 1 is a test method of the California Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation. The test uses small cushions, which are miniatures of the seat and back, to measure the smolder resistance of the materials used in upholstered furniture.

Section 1: Cover Fabric Test

Upholstery cover materials submitted for this section are placed over standard polyurethane foam and tested in triplicate. A lighted cigarette is placed in the crevice formed by the vertical back and horizontal seat cushions. Smoldering resistance is measured by the following criteria:

1. Smoldering cannot exceed 45 minutes of test duration
2. Vertical char length cannot exceed 1.8 inches (45 mm)
3. Mock-up specimen cannot transition into open flame

All three mock-up specimens must meet all three criteria in order for the cover fabric to pass the Section 1 test.

Note: Fabrics that do not pass the Section 1: Cover Fabric Test can be used with a barrier that passes the Section 2: Barrier Materials Test to satisfy the requirements of California TB 117-2013.

*For complete technical details about Cal TB 117-2013:
https://bhgs.dca.ca.gov/about_us/tb117_2013.pdf

For a helpful FAQ document written by the State of California:
https://bhgs.dca.ca.gov/forms_pubs/tb117-2013_faq_0619.pdf

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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.

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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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