association for contract textiles

Wet & Dry Crocking
ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines
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.

Wet & Dry Crocking — COATED FABRICS, OUTDOOR USE

Transfer of color from the surface of a solid or printed fabric onto another surface by rubbing.

ACT GUIDELINES

Upholstery

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

TEST METHODS

AATCC 8*

The AATCC 8 is a test method of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC). This method uses a standard white cotton fabric that is rubbed against the surface of the test fabric. To test for wet crocking, the standard fabric is wet before rubbing against the test fabric. After rubbing under controlled pressure for a specific number of times, the amount of color transferred to the white test squares is compared to an AATCC color chart and a rating is established.

Grade 5 = no color transfer
Grade 1 = high degree of color transfer

* For complete technical details about AATCC 8: http://www.aatcc.org

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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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