association for contract textiles

Colorfastness to Light
ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines
Test Method Descriptions for Knit Fabrics – Outdoor

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.

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 knit fabrics for outdoor use as upholstery. "Knit Fabrics" are made by interlocking loops of one or more 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. See information and disclaimer on page 3.

Colorfastness to Light — KNIT FABRICS, OUTDOOR USE

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

ACT GUIDELINES

Upholstery	
AATCC 169 Option 3 or Option 4	Grade 3 minimum at 1000 hours*
Or	
AATCC 16.3 Option 3	Grade 3 minimum at 1000 hours*

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

TEST METHODS

AATCC 169 Option 3 or Option 4*

The AATCC 169 is a test method of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC). ACT recognizes two options for this test method. Both options use xenon light with daylight filters to expose the test fabric to the test conditions for the required number of hours. Option 3 and Option 4 test conditions vary in light intervals, temperature, and water spray. After exposure the difference in color between the exposed fabric and standard fabric are compared to the AATCC gray scale for color change and the degree of fading is rated.

Grade 5 = no fading
Grade 1 = high degree of fading

*For complete technical details about AATCC 169 Option 3: http://www.aatcc.org

AATCC 16.3 Option 3

The AATCC 16 is a test method of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC). A strip of fabric (part of which is protected by a special paper card) is placed in a fadeometer and exposed to the test conditions using a xenon-arc light source for the required number of hours (AATCC accelerated fading units). After the exposure the difference in color between the exposed and protected parts of the fabric are compared to the AATCC gray scale for color change and the degree of fading is rated.

Grade 5 = no fading
Grade 1 = high degree of fading

* For complete technical details about AATCC 16.3 Option 3: 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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