association for contract textiles

Abrasion
ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines
Test Method Descriptions for Coated Fabrics – Indoor

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 indoor use as upholstery, direct glue wallcovering/adhered panels, and wrapped wall panels/upholstered walls. "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 4.

Abrasion — COATED FABRICS, INDOOR USE

High Traffic / Public Spaces – Coated Upholstery Fabrics

The surface wear of a coated fabric caused by friction.

ACT GUIDELINES

High Traffic / Public Spaces – Upholstery

ASTM D4157 (ACT approved #10 Cotton Duck or Wire Screen) 50,000 double rubs
Wyzenbeek method

Print Retention – Applicable for Printed Upholstery

ASTM D3389 (modified to evaluate visual determination of print loss)
H-18 Wheel, 250 grams, 250 cycles Taber Tester method, Rating of 3 or higher*
*Using the ACT photographic scale of approved replicas

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

End use examples of heavy-duty installations where upholstery fabrics rated at 30,000 double rubs should be appropriate are single shift corporate, hotel rooms/suites, conference rooms and dining area usage.

ACT acknowledges that there are constant traffic/demanding spaces that may require higher levels of abrasion resistance. End use examples that may require higher than 30,000 double rubs include: 24-hour transportation terminals, 24-hour telemarketing, 24-hour healthcare emergency rooms, 24-hour casino gambling areas, and such public gathering places as theatres, stadiums, lecture halls and fast food restaurants.

The Wyzenbeek test and taber tester are the two methods commonly used to predict wearability. Actual performance is determined by many factors such as content, finishes, furniture design, maintenance, cleaning, and usage. Durability of an upholstery fabric is a complex interaction (combination) of performance tests that, in addition to abrasion, include the physical properties tests.

Notes:

For more information please refer to abrasion white papers on the ACT website:
http://www.contracttextiles.org/index.php?page=research

TEST METHODS

ASTM D4157* Oscillatory Cylinder (Wyzenbeek)

The ASTM D4157 is a test of the American Society of Testing and Materials. A Wyzenbeek machine is used for this test allowing samples of the test fabric to be pulled tight in a frame and held stationary with 3 pounds force of pressure and 4 pounds force of tension. Individual test specimens cut from the length and width direction are then rubbed back and forth using an ACT approved #10 cotton duck fabric** as the abradant. For coated fabrics, the number of double rub cycles achieved before "noticeable wear" is observed is recorded as the fabric's abrasion rating.

* For complete technical details about ASTM D4157: http://www.astm.org

** *Note: Wire screen abradant may be used for testing coated fabrics.*

ASTM D3389* Taber Tester (Print Retention)

A specimen is abraded using rotary rubbing action under controlled conditions of 250 grams head weight pressure and H18 abrasive wheel action. The test specimen, mounted on a turntable platform, turns on a vertical axis, against the sliding rotation of two abrading wheels for 250 revolutions. One abrading wheel rubs the specimen outward toward the periphery and the other, inward toward the center. The resulting abrasion marks form a circular pattern of crossed arcs over an area of approximately 30 cm2. Print retention is evaluated by using the ACT Coated Fabric Print Retention Scale.

* For complete technical details about ASTM D3389: http://www.astm.org

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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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