association for contract textiles

Abrasion
ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines
Test Method Descriptions for Knit 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. "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.

Abrasion

Low Traffic / Private Spaces – Knit Upholstery Fabrics

High Traffic / Public Spaces – Knit Upholstery Fabrics

The surface wear of a fabric caused by friction.

ACT GUIDELINES

Low Traffic / Private Spaces – Knit 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 – Knit 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:
Wyzenbeek 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 more than 100,000 double rubs are required, at a minimum, to provide in their sampling, marketing materials and Website, the following statement:

> Multiple factors affect fabric durability and appearance retention, including end-use application and proper maintenance. Wyzenbeek results above 100,000 double rubs have not been shown to be a reliable indicator of increased fabric lifespan.

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 each direction are then rubbed back and forth using an ACT approved #10 cotton duck fabric** as the abradant. For knit fabrics, the number of double rub cycles achieved before two yarn breaks occur, or "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 woven fabrics with low-melting fibers such as olefin.

ASTM D4966* Martindale

The ASTM D4966 is a test method of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM). This is an oscillating test. Fabric samples are mounted flat and rubbed in an elliptical motion using a piece of worsted wool cloth as the abradant and with 12 kPa of pressure. The number of cycles (movements) that the fabric can endure before fabric shows objectionable change in appearance (yarn breaks, pilling, holes) is counted. Number of cycles determines (movements) abrasion rating.

* For complete technical details about ASTM D4966: http://www.astm.org

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As noted above, ACT's Voluntary Performance Guidelines ("Guidelines") and associated symbols ("Marks") are for information purposes only and are made available to help assist specifiers and end-users in evaluating certain characteristics of contract textiles.

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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