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ACT has developed the following voluntary Performance Guidelines to make fabric specification easier. The 5 symbols give architects, designers, and end-users a vast amount of performance information in a succinct visual way. Look for these symbols on ACT member company sampling to assure that the fabrics you specify perform up to contract standards and pass all applicable testing.

Fabric types covered by these guidelines include woven and coated fabrics intended for indoor use. "Woven Fabrics" consist of two sets of yarns, warp and filling, formed by weaving, which is the process of interlacing these sets of yarns. "Coated Fabrics" typically include a fabric or similar substrate with one or more layers of a film-forming polymer such as vinyl or polyurethane on the wear surface of the fabric.

These performance features are measured by specific methods under standard laboratory conditions. All tests referenced here are intended to represent the most current version of a test method. Note: Individual ACT member product information may represent a different version of a test method depending on the date the product was introduced to the 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 disclaimers on page 6.

Flammability

The measurement of a 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.

Upholstery – Woven Fabrics
California Technical Bulletin #117-2013 Section 1 – Pass

Upholstery – Coated Fabrics
California Technical Bulletin #117-2013 Section 1 – Pass

Direct Glue Wallcoverings and Adhered Panels
ASTM E 84 (Adhered Mounting Method) – Class A or Class 1

Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls
ASTM E 84 (Unadhered Mounting Method) – Class A or Class 1

Drapery
NFPA 701 Method 1 or 2 as appropriate – Pass

Wet & Dry Crocking

Transfer of dye from the surface of a dyed or printed fabric onto another surface by rubbing.

Upholstery – Woven Fabrics

AATCC 8	Dry Crocking, Grade 4 minimum
	Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

Upholstery – Coated Fabrics

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

Direct Glue Wallcoverings

AATCC 8	Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum
	Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls

AATCC 8	Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum
	Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

Drapery

AATCC 8 (Solids)	Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum
	Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum
AATCC 116 (Prints)	Dry Crocking, Grade 3 minimum
	Wet Crocking, Grade 3 minimum

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Colorfastness to Light

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

Upholstery – Woven Fabrics	
AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3	Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours*
Upholstery – Coated Fabrics	
AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3	Grade 4 minimum at 200 hours*
Or	
ASTM D4329	No appreciable color change at 150 hours
Direct Glue Wallcoverings	
AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3	Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours*
Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls	
AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3	Grade 4 minimum at 40 hours*
Drapery	
AATCC 16 Option 1 or 3	Grade 4 minimum at 60 hours*

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

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Physical Properties

Physical properties are key factors in assessing overall durability of a fabric and vary depending on the fabric construction.

Upholstery – Woven Fabrics

Brush pill ASTM D3511, Class 3 minimum or
Martindale Tester ASTM D4970, Class 3 minimum

Pilling is the formation of fuzzy balls of fiber on the surface of a fabric that remain attached to the fabric.

Breaking strength ASTM D5034 (Grab Test)
50 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

Breaking strength is the measurement of stress exerted to pull a fabric apart under tension.

Seam slippage ASTM D4034
25 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

Seam Slippage is the movement of yarns in a fabric that occurs when it is pulled apart at a seam.

Upholstery – Coated Fabrics

Adhesion of Coating ASTM D751 Sections 45-48, 3 lbf/in minimum

Adhesion of coating is the measurement of the force required to separate the coatings from the substrate.

Tear Strength
Tongue Tear ASTM D2261 – Knits & Woven Substrates, 4 x 4 lbs
Trap Tear ASTM D5733 – Nonwoven Substrates & Nonwoven Composites, 15 x 15 lbs

Tear Strength is the measurement of stress exerted to rip the fabric under tension.

Hydrolysis Resistance – Applicable to Polyurethanes Only
ISO 1419 (Tropical Test Method C), 5 weeks
Visual Evaluation for no cracking, peeling or delamination

Hydrolysis resistance is the evaluation of a polyurethane fabric's ability to withstand exposure to extended periods of heat and humidity.

Note: There is no direct correlation of testing weeks to years of service in the field.

Stretch & Set

ACT has chosen not to establish a minimum requirement for this performance characteristic since the ability of a fabric to return to its initial state is strongly impacted by factors that are attributed to furniture construction and fabrication such as the density of foam. The SAE J855 test can be used to evaluate the stretch and set of a coated fabric; however, ACT suggests that you consult with both your fabric supplier and furniture manufacturer to determine if there are any potential issues.

Wrapped Panels and Upholstered Walls

Breaking strength ASTM D5034 (Grab Test)
35 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

Drapery

Seam slippage ASTM D434 for fabrics over 6 oz./sq. yard
25 lbs. minimum in warp and weft

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Abrasion

General Contract Upholstery

Heavy Duty Upholstery

The surface wear of a fabric caused by friction.

General Contract Upholstery – Woven Upholstery
ASTM D4157 (ACT approved #10 Cotton Duck)
15,000 double rubs Wyzenbeek method

ASTM D4966 (12 KPa pressure)
20,000 cycles Martindale method

Heavy Duty Upholstery – Woven Upholstery
ASTM D4157 (ACT approved #10 Cotton Duck)
30,000 double rubs Wyzenbeek method

ASTM D4966 (12 KPa pressure)
40,000 cycles Martindale method

Heavy Duty Upholstery – Coated Fabrics
ASTM D4157 (ACT approved Cotton Duck #10 or Wire Screen)
50,000 double rubs Wyzenbeek method

Print Retention – Applicable for Printed Coated Upholstery Fabrics
ASTM D3389 (modified to evaluate visual determination of print loss), Rating of 3 or higher*
H-18 Wheel, 250 grams, 250 cycles Taber Tester method
*Using the ACT photographic scale of approved replicas

Notes:

Double rubs exceeding 100,000 are not meaningful in providing additional value in use and not predictive of significant extension of a fabric's service life.

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

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMERS REGARDING ACT'S VOLUNTARY PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

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.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR CONTRACT TEXTILES EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS LIABILITY TO ANY AND ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, AND ANY OTHER DAMAGE OF ANY KIND OR NATURE, (WHETHER OR NOT SUCH DAMAGES ARE DIRECT, INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL OR COMPENSATORY) RESULTING FROM, OR IN ANY WAY RELATING TO THE GUIDELINES AND MARKS.