



March 10, 2022

Dear ACT Member:

We are starting to hear from some ACT members regarding potential confusion in the marketplace now that the American Academy of Healthcare Interior Designers (AAHID), its Durable Coated Fabrics (DCF) Task Group, and the Chemical Fabrics & Film Association (CFFA) are promoting the CFFA Healthcare Standard Certification Program CFFA-HC-201B (February 2021). To help our members navigate related inquiries, we have researched the CFFA Standard online. We created the following comparison chart showing that their underlying test methods are predominantly the same as those used in ACT's Coated Fabric Selection and Testing Guides for Healthcare Upholstered Seating. The few differences are noted in the last column. As you will see, we believe ACT member products currently complying with recommendations in the ACT Coated Fabric Selection and Testing Guides for Healthcare Upholstered Seating are well aligned with the requirements in the CFFA-HC-201B Standard.

ACT icons and guidelines are widely recognized, trusted and used by commercial interior designers and specifiers. We considered adding a healthcare-specific certification mark but determined that such a mark would unfairly typecast product and limit cross-market applications. Additionally, healthcare environments are diverse, with a broad range of design and performance needs that vary by application and facility. Depending on the location and use, certain coated fabrics may not need to meet the most stringent requirements. The ACT Coated Fabric Selection and Testing Guides for Healthcare Upholstered Seating were intentionally created to enable flexibility to address the individual needs of a facility. Testing criteria that do not match the facility's requirements may result in unexpected product failure.

The ACT Technical Work Group, which brings a wide range of expertise and points of view, continually reviews and addresses upcoming market needs. In 2020, we published the ACT Coated Fabric Selection and Testing Guides for Healthcare Upholstered Seating to help specifiers and interior designers. These tools are intended to facilitate communication among specifiers, end-users, coated fabric suppliers, and upholstered furniture suppliers. The following comparison chart is an additional tool. We invite you to explore this chart and use it to help address questions from your customers.

Sincerely,

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Cross Reference of Underlying Test Methods

Performance Characteristic	Guideline	Test Method, Minimum Requirement	Notes
Flammability			
Flammability	ACT 	Flammability - Upholstery	CAL 117-2013, Pass
	CFFA	CFFA 9	CAL 117-2013, Pass
Durability			
Wet & Dry Crocking	ACT 	Wet & Dry Crocking	AATCC 8, Wet, Grade 4, Dry Grade 4
	CFFA	CFFA 7	AATCC 8 Wet, Grade 4, Dry Grade 4
Colorfastness to Light	ACT 	Colorfastness to Light	AATCC TM 16.3, 200 hrs – Option 3 or ASTM D4329, 150 hrs.
	CFFA	CFFA 2 Accelerated Light Aging (indoor)	AATCC TM 16.3, 200 hrs – Option 3 or ASTM D4329, 150 hrs.
Adhesion of Coating	ACT 	Adhesion of Coating	ASTM D751, 3 lbs.
	CFFA	CFFA 3	ASTM D751, 3 lbs.
Tear Strength – Tongue Tear	ACT 	Tongue Tear - Knit and Woven Substrates	ASTM D2261, 4x4 lbs. or ASTM D751, 4x4 lbs. ACT Guideline offers two test options.
	CFFA	CFFA 16b	ASTM D2261, 4x4 lbs.
Tear Strength – Trap Tear	ACT 	Trap Tear - Non Woven Substrates and Nonwoven Composites	ASTM D751, 15x15 lbs. or ASTM D5733, 15x15 lbs. ACT Guideline offers two test options.
	CFFA	CFFA 16c	ASTM D751, 15x15 lbs.
Hydrolysis Resistance <i>Applies to polyurethane based products only</i>	ACT 	Hydrolysis Resistance	ISO 1419, minimum 5 weeks exposure followed by careful evaluation for any cracking, peeling or delamination In evaluating ISO 1419 and ASTM D3690, the ACT Coated Fabrics Work Group agreed that careful evaluation is enough to identify failure that occurs after exposure to heat and humidity.
	CFFA	CFFA 110	ASTM D3690, Section 6.1.1, 10 weeks exposure followed by physical testing for adhesion, abrasion and flex resistance The two test methods are identical except ASTM D3690 requires adhesion, abrasion and flex resistance testing after exposure.
Print Retention <i>Applies to patterned prints only</i>	ACT 	Print Retention	ASTM D3398, 3 or higher Neither test method prescribes weeks of exposure.
	CFFA	None	None CFFA standard does not include a test to evaluate print retention.
Flex Resistance	ACT 	Flex Resistance	ASTM D2097, 25,000 cycles minimum
	CFFA	CFFA 10	ASTM D2097, 25,000 cycles minimum
Seam Strength	ACT 	Seam Strength	ASTM D751, Based on substrate: Knit 30X25, Non-woven 35X35, Woven 25X25
	CFFA	CFFA 14	ASTM D751, Based on substrate: Knit 30X25, Non-woven 35X35, Woven 25X25
Breaking Strength	ACT 	Breaking Strength	ASTM D751, 50x50 lbs.
	CFFA	CFFA 17	ASTM D751, 50x50 lbs. Knit 50X50, Non-woven 50X50, Woven 40X40
Abrasion: Surface Wear	ACT 	Abrasion	ASTM D4157, #10 Cotton Duck or Wire Mesh; 50,000 Double Rubs (High Traffic) Multiple factors affect fabric durability, appearance retention, and product lifespan. ACT studies and member data show that fabrics rarely fail in the field due to abrasion.
	CFFA	CFFA 1a	ASTM D4157, #10 Cotton Duck; 50,000 Double Rubs (Normal Traffic); 100,000 (High Traffic) ACT Guideline offers two abradant options.

Cross Reference of Underlying Test Methods

ACT Voluntary Performance Guidelines and the ACT Coated Fabric Testing Guide for Healthcare Upholstered Seating

Compared To

CFFA-Healthcare-201B - Recommended Minimum Performance Standards for Vinyl-Coated and Other Chemical Coated Upholstery Fabrics-Healthcare

Performance Characteristic	Guideline	Test Method, Minimum Requirement	Notes	
Default Physical Properties				
Blocking	ACT	None	None	Blocking is evaluated at the manufacturing level. All commercial coated fabrics have already passed this test, therefore field failures have not been an issue and ACT does not recommend additional testing.
	CFFA	CFFA 4	ASTM D751, Rating of 1 or 2	
Cold Crack	ACT	None	None	Cold crack is evaluated at the manufacturing level. All commercial coated fabrics have already passed this test, therefore field failures have not been an issue and ACT does not recommend additional testing.
	CFFA	CFFA 6a	SAE J323, No cracking	
Volatility	ACT	None	None	Volatility is evaluated at the manufacturing level. All commercial coated fabrics have already passed this test, therefore field failures have not been an issue and ACT does not recommend additional testing.
	CFFA	CFFA 18	ASTM D1203, 8%	
Optional Physical Properties				
Denim Dye Resistance (Reverse Crocking)	ACT	Coated Fabric Testing Guide for Healthcare Upholstered Seating - Section 3.1.1.1 - Denim Dye Transfer	GMW15377, Acceptance level as agreed by buyer and seller	
	CFFA	CFFA 70	GMW15377, Slight change	
Resistance to Liquid Cleaners, Sanitizers and Disinfectants	ACT	ACT Test Method (TM) 1-2020: Assessing Resistance to Liquid Cleaners, Sanitizers and Disinfectants	General Appearance: No change or slight effect Discoloration: Not acceptable beyond slight effect Gloss: Not acceptable beyond moderate effect Cracking or Peeling: Not acceptable Bubbling: Not acceptable	ACT TM 1-2020 was written to enable members to have greater flexibility in testing a wide range of cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting chemistries. It is essential to test products that will be used in the target facility. ACT TM 1-2020 uses an ambient room temperature for evaporation.
	CFFA	CFFA 100	Color Change: 0.5 Delta E. Max Gloss: Slight Change No Cracking No Peeling No Hardening	CFFA 100 requires the evaluation of three specific disinfectants in order to achieve compliance. CFFA 100 uses an 80° oven for evaporation.
Stain Resistance	ACT	Coated Fabric Testing Guide for Healthcare Upholstered Seating - Section 3.1.2 - Resistance to Staining and Cleaning Agents	ASTM 1308, Acceptance level as agreed by buyer and seller	To enable greater flexibility, ACT does not cite any specific staining and cleaning agents when using ASTM 1308. It is essential to test the anticipated stains with the cleaning products that will be used in the target facility.
	CFFA	CFFA 142	ASTM 1308, No stain	CFFA requires the evaluation of 11 specific transferable stain types and three specific cleaning agents.
UVC Resistance	ACT	Coated Fabric Testing Guide for Healthcare Upholstered Seating - Section 2.2.1 - Accelerated UVC Testing of Contract Textiles	Vartest UVC Resistance of Textiles: UVC Lamp Exposure	UVC acceptance level should be determined by ACT member company and testing company.
	CFFA	None	None	CFFA standard does not include a test to evaluate UVC resistance.

This cross-reference guide (“Chart”) has been prepared by the Association for Contract Textiles, Inc. (“ACT”) for illustration purposes and general reference only. While ACT believes the Chart to be accurate based on publicly available information before the Chart’s creation, ACT does not guarantee the Chart’s accuracy or completeness. As such, the Chart is provided to you “AS-IS” and your use of the Chart is at your own risk. We encourage you to review all documents cited in the Chart before use.

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All names, guidelines, and other information in the Chart are property of their respective owners and are for identification purposes only. ACT’s reference to CFFA and the “CFFA-Healthcare-201A-Recommended Minimum Performance Standards for Vinyl-Coated and Other Chemical Coated Upholstery Fabrics – Healthcare” do not imply endorsement by ACT.