

**Recommended Minimum Performance Standards for
VINYL-COATED AND OTHER CHEMICAL COATED UPHOLSTERY FABRICS - HEALTHCARE**

1. Scope

- 1.1 This document sets forth recommended performance standards for vinyl and other chemical coated fabrics produced with woven, non-woven, or knit substrates which are used as upholstery materials for indoor furniture in healthcare settings.
- 1.2 This performance standard is not applicable to vinyl or chemical coated fabrics used in outdoor applications.
- 1.3 The test results for coated fabrics, when tested in accordance with the CFFA Standard Test Methods, must attain the minimum values of all properties listed in [TABLE 1](#) for a given construction in order to conform to this standard.

2. Applicable Documents*

For applicable documents used in this performance standard, refer to CFFA Standard Test Methods Pamphlet, most recent Edition.

3. Definitions

Abrasion – Measurement of the ability of the chemical coating to resist surface wear when rubbed against another (abradent) surface.

Accelerated Exposure to Disinfectants – To determine surface changes, including color, gloss, or deterioration due to cracking or peeling, as a result of exposure to disinfectants.

Accelerated Light Aging – A determination of the resistance of chemical coated fabrics to exposure to laboratory simulated sunlight.

Adhesion – A measure of the force required to separate a chemical coating from the base substrate.

Blocking – A determination of the development of surface tack at elevated temperatures.

Cold Crack – A measure of the ability of a chemical coated fabric to withstand cracking when folded at low temperature.

Crocking – A measure of resistance to transfer of color from a chemical coating to another surface (usually a fabric) by rubbing action.

Denim Stain Resistance – To determine the resistance to transfer of color from denim fabric to a chemical coated fabric by rubbing action.

Flame Resistance – To determine flammability.

Flex – A determination of the change in surface characteristics of a chemical coated fabric when subjected to multiple flex cycles.

Hydrolytic Stability – To determine the resistance of urethane coated fabric to hydrolysis when subjected to a combination of an elevated temperature and high humidity for 10 weeks.

Seam Strength – Simulates the resistance to seam tear propagation.

Stain Resistance – To determine 24-hour stain resistance using reagents commonly found in healthcare.

Tear Strength – A measurement of the force required to continue or propagate a tear in a coated fabric.

Tensile Strength – A measurement of the force required to break a coated fabric.

Volatility – A measurement of weight loss of a chemical coated fabric when subjected to an elevated temperature.

4. Performance Requirements

- 4.1 Vinyl and other chemical coated healthcare upholstery fabrics consist of one or more layers of polymer coatings laminated to a knit, woven or non-woven fabric backing made up of natural and/or synthetic fibers. Along with physical and performance properties each product must meet aesthetic requirements, including color, texture and haptics.
- 4.2 The minimum physical and performance standards for knits, woven and non-woven coated fabrics are listed in separate columns in Table 1.

4.3 Properties described in [TABLE 1](#) for coated fabrics collectively make up the minimum performance standards. Depending upon specific tailoring and performance requirements, these properties should be used to select the construction of coated fabric most suited for each end use. Properties are measured using CFFA Standard Test Methods. All test methods are outlined in the CFFA Standard Test Methods pamphlet which describes their purpose and relates the properties tested to various aspects of performance.

TABLE 1

PROPERTY	TEST METHOD	FABRIC BACKING OR SUBSTRATE		
		KNITS	NON-WOVENS	WOVENS
Abrasion: (Wyzenbeek) Healthcare / High Traffic ¹ ----- Healthcare/ Normal Traffic ¹	CFFA 1a #10 Duck	100,000 cycles ----- 50,000 cycles	100,000 cycles ----- 50,000 cycles	100,000 cycles ----- 50,000 cycles
Accelerated Exposure to Disinfectants ²	CFFA 101	Slight Change	Slight Change	Slight Change
Accelerated Light Aging (indoor) ³	CFFA 2	Very slight change	Very slight change	Very slight change
Adhesion ⁴	CFFA 3	3.0 lbs.	3.0 lbs.	3.0 lbs.
Blocking	CFFA 4	None- Slight Adh. (2)	None- Slight Adh. (2)	None- Slight Adh. (2)
Cold Crack ⁴	CFFA 6a	No Cracking	No Cracking	No Cracking
Crocking: Dry & Wet	CFFA 7	Excellent (4)	Excellent (4)	Excellent (4)
Denim Stain Resistance	CFFA 70	Slight (8)	Slight (8)	Slight (8)
Flame Resistance (CAL117-2013)	CFFA 9	Pass	Pass	Pass
Flex ⁵	CFFA 10	25,000 Cycles No Cracking/ Crazing	25,000 Cycles No Cracking/ Crazing	25,000 Cycles No Cracking/ Crazing
Hydrolytic Stability, PU ⁵	CFFA 110	10 weeks	10 weeks	10 weeks
Seam Strength	CFFA 14	30 x 25 lbs.	35 x 35 lbs.	25 x 25 lbs.
Stain Resistance ⁶	CFFA 142	No stain (4)	No stain (4)	No stain (4)
Tear Strength: Tongue Trap	CFFA 16b CFFA 16c	4 x 4 lbs. N/A	N/A 15 x 15 lbs.	4 x 4 lbs. N/A
Tensile	CFFA 17	50 X 50 lbs.	50 X 50 lbs.	40 x 40 lbs.
Volatility ⁷	CFFA 18	8%	8%	8%

¹ No objectionable loss of grain when compared to unabraded sample.

² No cracking/peeling.

³ 200 hours using a Weatherometer or Fadeometer, or 150 hours using a QUV - dry cycle CFFA Standard Test Method 2.d.

⁴ Using a 5 lb. roller, 20° F (-6.6°C).

⁵ Hydrolytic Stability, PU - Adhesion: Must maintain 75% of original strength; Abrasion: Must pass 25K double rubs; Flex Resistance: No breaks in coating at 15K cycle.

⁶ Inks and lipsticks are rated Visible stain (2).

⁷ Activated carbon technique, but at 220°F (104°C).

5. Test Procedures

- 5.1 **Abrasion Resistance** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 1a. Wyzenbeek Method using #10 Duck as abradent.
- 5.2 **Accelerated Exposure to Disinfectants** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 101 (see note 6.3).
- 5.3 **Accelerated Light Aging** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 2. 200 hours using a Xenon Arc Weatherometer or Fadeometer, or 150 hours using a QUV, dry cycle Method 2.d.
- 5.4 **Adhesion of Coating to Fabric** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 3. Use a Scott or Instron type Universal Tester.
- 5.5 **Blocking** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 4.
- 5.6 **Cold Crack Resistance** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 6a. Use a 5 lb. Roller.
- 5.7 **Crocking Resistance** - Dry & Wet. See CFFA Standard Test Method 7.
- 5.8 **Denim Stain Resistance** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 70. (Sometimes referred to as 'Reverse Crocking'). Please note: This test method is based on GMW 15337. However, the oven aging requirement has been removed.
- 5.9 **Flame Resistance** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 9.
- 5.10 **Flex Resistance** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 10. Use a Flexometer (Newark Flex) Test Unit.
- 5.11 **Hydrolytic Stability, Polyurethane** - See CFFA Test Method 110.
- 5.12 **Seam Strength** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 14. Use a Scott or Instron type Universal Tester.
- 5.13 **Stain Resistance in Healthcare Environments** - See CFFA Test Method 142.
- 5.14 **Tearing Strength** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 16b and 16c. Use a Scott or Instron type Universal Tester.
- 5.15 **Tensile Strength** - See CFFA Standard Test Method 17. Use a Scott or Instron type Universal Tester.
- 5.16 **Volatility** - Based on Activated Carbon Technique, except at 220°F. (104°C.). See CFFA Standard Test Method 18.

6. Notes

- 6.1 **Stretch and Set** - Stretch and set properties can affect 'puddling' in upholstered seating, a condition where a seat bottom will distort, with the coated fabric contributing to a depression or folds and wrinkles forming due to an inability to fully recover its original dimensions after being stretched. However, the prime causes of puddling are improper selection of the type of underlying urethane cushioning, and issues with seat design or construction. CFFA does not set a minimum performance standard for this property. See CFFA Standard Test Method 15.
- 6.2 **Mildew and/or Bacterial Resistance** - For healthcare applications, biological resistance requirements may be incorporated into the performance standard to address the needs of the customer. However, their use may have to be weighed against environmental restrictions specific to an institution. In healthcare applications (hospital, healthcare, etc.), biological resistance requirements may be incorporated into the specifications to meet the needs of the final customer.
- 6.3 **Accelerated Exposure to Disinfectants** - In Healthcare applications, disinfectants are applied on a frequent basis and may harm the surface by color or gloss change, cracking or peeling. CFFA 101 is the method used to determine resistance. However, it should be noted that failing to rinse properly or dilute disinfectants to the recommended concentration can shorten the life of the product. **NOTE: Manufacturers' cleaning instructions must be followed; otherwise, premature failures may occur.**

*Test Methods may be accessed at: <https://www.cffaperformanceproducts.org/publications.asp>

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