



## **Sample Environmental Specifications for Carpet**

### **1.0 Submittals**

1. Submit test results from an accredited lab or certification from an independent third party showing the carpet systems meet or exceed the CDPH/EHLB/Standard Method for Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources V1.1 (February 2010) – Residential, and meets the 2012 Formaldehyde criteria.
2. Submit certification documentation from independent third party that the carpet system meets or exceed the required postconsumer and preconsumer recycled content by weight of the product.
3. Provide copy of certification from an independent third party organization this product meets the ANSI/NSF 140 Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard (NSF-140) at the Platinum level.
4. Provide verification this product has been certified by the Carpet and Rug Institute Green Label Plus program for low volatile organic compounds unless certified to ANSI/NSF-140e Sustainable Carpet Standard at the Platinum level.
5. Submit test results from an accredited lab or certification from an independent third party showing this product does not contain PFOS, PFOA or its salts above the levels set by REACH. For textiles or other coated material, the concentration shall not be higher than 1 ug/m2.
6. Submit test results verifying the concentration of each plasticized component of this product does not exceed 0.1 percent of the phthalate according the Test Method CPSC-CH-C1001-09.2: Standard operating Procedure for Determination of Phthalates.
7. Submit test results from an independent third party based on ASTM E2471-05, Standard Test Method for Using Seeded-Agar for Screening Assessment of Antimicrobial Activity.
8. Complete relevant TRI reporting forms if any of the 16 PBT (persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic) chemicals and 4 PBT chemical compounds are present in this product which are subject to reporting under the EPCRA section 313 requirements.  
(<http://www.epa.gov/triinter/lawsandregs/pbt/pbtrule.htm>).
9. Provide a signed declaration from manufacturer's CEO that this product does not contain polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's), mercury, latex, and PVC.

## 2.0 Material Content

NOTE: Of the many materials used to make carpet, two of the choices are Nylon 6 and Nylon 6,6. Both types have pros and cons which may impact purchasing decisions. At this time, Nylon 6 can be recycled/reprocessed in full to its raw material whereas Nylon 6,6 tends to be downcycled (such as into plastic lumber). Nylon 6, the most widely used type of nylon, has caprolactum as a monomer and tends to outgas. Revised safe threshold levels are being proposed by OEHHA.

### 2.1 Carpet Fiber and Backing

#### 2.1.1 Certified as a Sustainable Carpet

2.1.1.1 Carpet must be certified to meet the ANSI/NSF-140 Sustainable Carpet Standard at the Platinum level. (<http://www.carpet-rug.org/carpet-and-rug-industry/sustainability/sustainable-carpet/sustainable-carpet-list.cfm>)

#### 2.1.2 Recycled Content

NOTE: If you prefer postconsumer recycled content carpet, current markets may not be available for Nylon 6,6 carpet.

2.1.2.1 Carpet fiber shall contain 25% by weight total recycled content material with preference for postconsumer material in accordance with ISO 14201:1999 and the FTC Environmental Marketing Guides.

2.1.2.2 Carpet must carry a label certifying the total recycled content, including any postconsumer content.

#### 2.1.3 Dye Method

2.1.3.1 100% solution dyed nylon face fiber

#### 2.1.4 Perfluorocarbons and Phthalates

NOTE: This is not addressed in ANSI/NSF 140-Sustainable Carpet Standard

2.1.4.1 Product shall not contain perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA, C-8), perfluorooctanyl sulphonic acid (PFOS, C-8) or its salts above the levels set by REACH. (EU REACH Directive 1907/2006/EC).

2.1.4.2 Carpet systems shall not contain formaldehyde above 0.1 ppm.

2.1.4.3 Stain treatments shall not contain phthalates, such as DEHP, DINP, DBP, DnOP, DIDP, BBP.

#### 2.1.5 Halogenated Organic Flame Retardants

NOTE: This is not addressed in ANSI/NSF-140, Sustainable Carpet Standard. Padding, if relevant, may contain HFRs. There is no known use of HFRs in carpet fiber and backing.

2.1.5.1 The carpet fiber, backing and pad, when applicable, shall not contain more than 0.1% of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's) as flame retardants, including pentaDBE or octaDBE by mass as required in the State of California's Health and Safety Code, Section 108920-108922. Products shall not contain more than 0.1% decaDBE.

## **2.1.6 Indoor Air Quality**

2.1.6.1 All carpet systems shall comply with the volatile organic compound (VOC) requirements of California Section 01350 and conduct product testing according to Section 01350 through independent certified laboratories according to CDPH/EHLB/Standard Method for Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources V1.1 (February 2010) – Residential, and meets the 2012 Formaldehyde criteria.

## **2.1.7 Antimicrobials**

2.1.7.1 Antimicrobials shall not be topically applied or incorporated as a permanent/durable treatment. Carpet fiber and backing shall demonstrate 'no detectable levels' (NI) of antimicrobials using the ASTM E2471-05 Standard Test Method for verification.

## **2.1.8 Prohibited Chemicals**

2.1.8.1 Carpet systems, including fiber and backing, shall not contain the following ingredients:

2.1.8.1.1 Polyvinyl chloride (PVC)

2.1.8.1.2 Mercury

2.1.8.1.3 Phthalates (such as DEHP, DINP, DBP, DnOP, DIDP, BBP)

2.1.8.1.4 Latex

## **2.2 Carpet Adhesives**

2.2.1 All carpet systems shall comply with the volatile organic compound (VOC) requirements of California Section 01350 and conduct product testing according to Section 01350 through independent certified laboratories according to CDPH/EHLB/Standard Method for Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources V1.1 (February 2010) – Residential, and meets the 2012 Formaldehyde criteria.

2.2.2 All adhesives and sealants used must comply with South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule #1168. Indoor carpet adhesives and carpet pad adhesives shall emit no more than a maximum limit of 50 g/L (VOC limit).

- 2.2.3 Adhesives and sealants shall contain no carcinogenic or reproductive toxicant components present at more than 1% of total mass of the product as defined in the CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) list entitled “Chemicals Known to the State to Cause Cancer” or the Reproductive Toxicity, Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Prop 65) and CA Air Resources Board, <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/id/taclist.htm>.

NOTE: This requirement (2.2.3) can be met with NSF-140 Platinum certification

## 2.3 Carpet Pads

### 2.3.1 Halogenated Organic Flame Retardants

NOTE: This is not addressed in ANSI/NSF-140, Sustainable Carpet Standard. Padding, if relevant, may contain HFRs. There is no known use of them in carpet fiber and backing.

- 2.3.1.1 Carpet pad, when applicable, shall not contain more than 0.1% of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's) as flame retardants, including pentaDBE or octaDBE by mass as required in the State of California's Health and Safety Code, Section 108920-108922. Products shall not contain more than 0.1% decaDBE.

## 3.0 Packaging

### 3.1 Reusable and Recyclable Packaging

NOTE: Carpet rolls are usually wrapped in plastic.

- 3.1.1 At least 90% of the product packaging by weight consists of reusable or recyclable commodities (i.e., cardboard, paper, wood) as defined by the FTC Environmental Marketing Guides.

### 3.2 Recycled Content Packaging

- 3.2.1 Manufacturer shall provide a minimum of 10% post-consumer and 40% total recycled content in all its supplied packaging materials, excluding pallets.

### 3.3 Recycling /End-of-Life

- 3.3.1 New Carpet: Carpet must be eligible for recycling by the supplying mill or fiber producer to an existing operational third party certified recycling center. Landfilling is not an option.
- 3.3.2 Used Carpet: Remove carpet and recycle regardless of manufacturer, fiber type, or construction. Reclamation agency and carpet remover shall certify

in writing the used carpet was removed and recycled. Landfilling is not an option.

## 4.0 Product Manufacture

### 4.1 Persistent Bioaccumulative and Toxic

- 4.1.1 To reduce the usage and release of persistent bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) chemicals in the production of carpet products, carpet production operations shall not release any PBTs at or above reporting levels as defined under the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program.

### **Standard Setting and Certifying Programs:**

**NSF** - National Sanitation Foundation, is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization that provides standards development, product certification, auditing, education and risk management for public health and safety.

**CRI** – Carpet and Rug Institute, is a not-for-profit trade association representing the manufacturers of more than 95 % of all carpet made in the United States, as well as their suppliers and service providers. <http://www.carpet-rug.org/>.

**Green Label Plus** - is a labeling system developed by CRI that identifies carpets with very low emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) represented as micrograms per square meter per hour. <http://www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/green-building-and-the-environment/green-label-plus/>.

**NSF/ANSI 140-2007 Standard** – is a sustainable carpet assessment standard which establishes performance requirements for public health and the environment. Information regarding the Standard can be found at [www.green.ca.gov/EPP/standards](http://www.green.ca.gov/EPP/standards). A comprehensive searchable database of all carpet products certified to meet the NSF/ANSI 140-2007 Standard can be found at [www.carpet-rug.org/carpet-and-rug-industry/sustainability/sustainable-carpet/sustainable-carpet-list.cfm](http://www.carpet-rug.org/carpet-and-rug-industry/sustainability/sustainable-carpet/sustainable-carpet-list.cfm), and can be sorted to show all products certified at the Platinum level, by all certifiers.

**South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)** - the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, the smoggiest region of the U.S. Standards set by this pollution control agency are cited in LEED rating systems as well as regulation related to air quality in buildings. Information regarding SCAQMD can be found at [www.aqmd.gov/rules](http://www.aqmd.gov/rules).

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