



association
for contract
textiles

Outdoor Fabrics Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Rob Mayer, Mayer Fabrics, Outdoor Fabrics Work Group Co-Chair

Christina Russo, Maharam, Outdoor Coated Fabrics Task Group Chair

Lynne Willis, ACT Executive Director

Outdoor Fabrics

Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Why:

- ACT performance guidelines are constantly reviewed and updated as needed
- Increased usage of fabric in outdoor spaces
- Questions from the design community

Goal:

- Develop Voluntary Performance Guidelines for Outdoor Fabrics

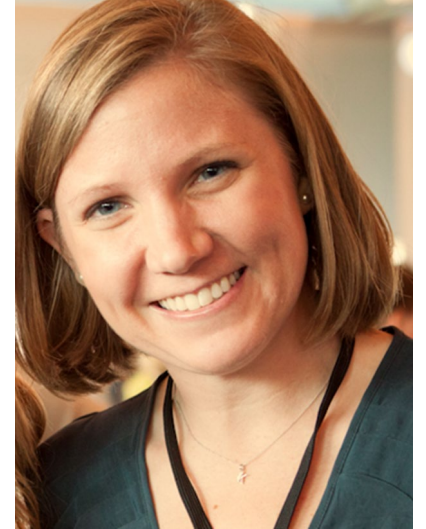
Timeline:

- Started March 2023
- Proposed guideline ballot passed December 2024

Outdoor Fabrics Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Outdoor Fabric Work Group Co-chairs:

- Rob Mayer, ACT Board Member
- Kristy Stroh, Mayer Fabrics

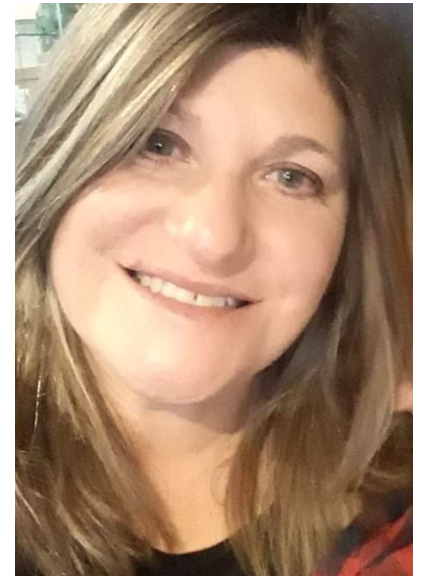


Wovens/Knits Task Group Chair:

- Mitzi Mills

Coated Fabrics Task Group Chair:

- Christina Russo, Maharam



Outdoor Fabrics

Voluntary Performance Guidelines

What's Included:

- Woven Upholstery Fabric
- Knit Upholstery Fabric
- Coated Upholstery Fabric

What's Not Included:

- Awnings
- Umbrellas
- Sunshades/Sails
- Marine
- Drapery
- Wallcovering
- Panel/Wrapped Wall

Outdoor Fabrics Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Supplier Survey – December 2024

19 respondents

- Types of constructions marketed for outdoor
- Current colorfastness to light test methods and minimum thresholds for outdoor product

Distributor Survey – January 2024

30 respondents

- Types of constructions marketed for outdoor
- 9 reported field failures due to colorfastness to light
- Published testing on failures

Outdoor Fabrics

Voluntary Performance Guidelines



Woven Upholstery

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Choice of 2 Tests
(one same as indoor)

Knit Upholstery

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

Choice of 2 Tests
(one same as indoor)

Coated Upholstery Fabrics

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor

N/A

Same as Indoor

Same as Indoor
Hydrolysis, 10 weeks
+Mold & Mildew/Fungal Resistance

Choice of 4 Tests

Outdoor Fabrics Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Outdoor Wovens/Knits Upholstery

- Colorfastness to Light: Change in Hours & Threshold, Additional Test Method Option



AATCC 169 Option 3 or Option 4
Grade 3 minimum at 1000 hours

Or

AATCC 16.3 Option 3
Grade 3 Minimum at 1000 hours

Outdoor Fabrics Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Outdoor Coated Upholstery

- Colorfastness to Light: Change in Hours, Additional Test Method Options
- Physical Properties: New Mold/Mildew Test, Change in Hydrolysis Resistance Threshold



AATCC 169 Option 3 or Option 4
Grade 4 minimum at 650 hours

Or

ASTM G155 Cycle 1
Grade 4 minimum at 650 hours

Or

ASTM D4329 Cycle A
Grade 4 minimum at 650 hours

Or

ASTM G154 Cycle 1
Grade 4 minimum at 650 hours



Mold & Mildew/Fungal Resistance
ASTM G21
Zero Growth

And

Hydrolysis Resistance – PU only
ISO 1419
10 weeks

Outdoor Fabrics Voluntary Performance Guidelines

Rollout

- Website (contracttextiles.org) has been updated with new guidelines as of April 14, 2025.
- New product marketed as outdoor must meet new guidelines to use certification marks.



*ACT® Registered Certification Marks

- Sample replenishment orders of current outdoor upholstery fabrics must meet new guidelines to use certification marks.
- Members to submit a list of all current outdoor upholstery using the certification marks based on the indoor guidelines. This is for reference in case of confusion in the future. Please submit to Lynne by May 15.
- ACT performance guidelines are constantly reviewed and updated as needed.

Questions?