



Indoor Air Quality

"Green Label" Testing Program - Carpet Criteria

Carpet Criteria

To identify carpet products that are truly low-VOC, CRI has established a labeling program. The CRI Indoor Air Quality Carpet Testing Program green and white logo displayed on carpet samples in showrooms informs the consumer that the product type has been tested by an independent laboratory and has met the criteria for very low emissions.



The carpet sample is tested for chemical emissions by Air Quality Sciences, an Atlanta-based, independent laboratory using the latest, most up-to-date, dynamic environmental chamber technology. The test methodology was developed by consensus during an official dialogue with the EPA and has been adopted by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) as D 5116 – Guide for Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Determinations of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/Products.

Since the inception of the program in 1992, the industry has made substantial reductions in the levels of TVOCs, as well as reductions in 4-phenylcyclohexene (4-PC), the compound most associated with "new carpet odor."

The current criteria for the program are based on a maximum emission factor measured in mg/m² · hr as follows:

<i>Total Volatile Organic Compounds</i>	0.5
4-PC (4-Phenylcyclohexene)	0.05
Formaldehyde (to prove that none is used)	0.05
Styrene	0.4

The carpet manufacturer is allowed to use the CRI/IAQ Carpet Testing Program label for that specific product type if the test result does not exceed the stated emission criteria. The product type number on the label identifies the manufacturer of the carpet and tells the buyer that the manufacturer has produced a product that meets the criteria for low emissions. Products are re-tested quarterly to monitor continued compliance with the test program requirements. Consumers can feel confident in selecting a carpet bearing the CRI Indoor Air Quality label. The label is assurance that the product is a responsible, low-emitting carpet.



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"Green Label" Testing Program - Cushion Criteria

Cushion Criteria

CRI has established a program that tests for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in cushion used under carpet. This program will help the carpet manufacturer, installer and end user to identify and utilize low-emission cushion. Cushion products that meet the emissions criteria can display the program's green and white label. Products are re-tested regularly for continued compliance. Consumers seeking a low-emitting cushion can confidently select those bearing the label.



Cushion products are characterized as: prime polyurethane, bonded polyurethane, mechanically frothed polyurethane, rubber – hair, rubber – jute, synthetic fiber, resinated or coated synthetic fiber, rubber and rubberized polyurethane.

Cushions are tested for total volatile organic compounds, BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene), formaldehyde and 4-phenylcyclohexene (4-PC).

Criteria are base on a maximum emission factor as follows:	
Total Volatile Organic Compounds	1.00 mg/m ² · hr
BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene)	0.30 mg/m ² · hr
Formaldehyde	0.05 mg/m ² · hr
4-PC (4-phenylcyclohexene)	0.05 mg/m ² · hr

For additional information, contact the Carpet Cushion Council at (203) 637-1312 or at www.carpetcushion.org.





Indoor Air Quality

"Green Label" Testing Program - Adhesive Criteria

Adhesives are used more often in commercial settings to adhere carpet to the floor. In residential settings, adhesives are used primarily where the carpet is installed over a concrete subfloor.

CRI has instituted a testing program to identify low-volatile organic compound (VOC) floor covering adhesives. The program tests for chemical emissions using an independent laboratory that specializes in indoor air quality testing. Adhesives that meet the emissions criteria are allowed to display the program's green and white label. Carpet manufacturers, installers and end users seeking a low-emitting adhesive can confidently select those bearing the label. Products are re-tested regularly for continued compliance.



Tested adhesives fall into a number of categories: latex multi-purpose floor adhesive, pressure-sensitive floor adhesive, vinyl-backed floor adhesive, latex seam adhesive, vinyl-backed seam sealer, cove base adhesive, "tackless" cushion adhesive and contact adhesive.

Criteria for the adhesive testing program are based on a maximum emission factor as follows:	
Total Volatile Organic Compounds	10.00 mg/m ² · hr
Formaldehyde	.05 mg/m ² · hr
2-Ethyl-1-Hexanol	3.00 mg/m ² · hr
