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Standard Specification for Rubber Sheet Floor Covering With Backing¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the requirements for the compound and physical characteristics of rubber sheet floor covering having a rubber wear layer with backing. Products may also contain intermediate layers.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.3 The following precautionary statement pertains only to the test method portion, Section 10, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 The following documents if the issue in effect on the date of the material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 ASTM Standards:²

D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers Tension

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D1566 Terminology Relating to Rubber

D2240 Test Method for Rubber Property Durometer Hardness

F141 Terminology Relating to Resilient Floor Coverings

F387 Test Method for Measuring Thickness of Resilient Floor Covering With Foam Layer

F410 Test Method for Wear Layer Thickness of Resilient Floor Coverings by Optical Measurement

F710 Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring

F925 Test Method for Resistance to Chemicals of Resilient Flooring

F970 Test Method for Static Load Limit

F1482 Practice for Installation and Preparation of Panel Type Underlayments to Receive Resilient Flooring

F1514 Test Method for Measuring Heat Stability of Resilient Flooring by Color Change

F1515 Test Method for Measuring Light Stability of Resilient Flooring by Color Change

2.3 ANSI Standards:

ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of other terms used in this standard, see Terminology F141.

4. Classification

4.1 *Types*—Rubber sheet floor covering covered by this specification shall conform to the following types:

4.1.1 *Type I*—Homogeneous rubber sheet floor covering with backing:

4.1.1.1 Fibrous backing, and

4.1.1.2 Foamed rubber backing.—Homogeneous

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

- 4.1.2 *Type II—Layered rubber sheet floor covering with backing:*
- 4.1.2.1 *Fibrous backing, and*
- 4.1.2.2 *Foamed rubber backing.*
- 4.2 *The above may have either smooth, embossed, or molded pattern surfaces.*
- 4.3 *These products shall not contain asbestos.—Heterogeneous*
- 4.2 *Grades—Rubber sheet floor covering shall be one of the following grades:*
- 4.2.1 *Grade 1—Fibrous backing*
- 4.2.2 *Grade 2—Foamed rubber backing*
- 4.3 *The above may have either smooth, embossed, or molded pattern surfaces.*
- 4.4 *These products shall not contain asbestos.*

5. Ordering Information

5.1 Purchasers shall state whether this specification is to be used, select the preferred options permitted herein and include the following information in the invitation to bid or purchase order:

- 5.1.1 Title, number, and date of this specification,
- 5.1.2 Type, color, and surface (see Section 4 and Section 6),
- 5.1.3 Quantity, in square feet, square yards, or square metres,
- 5.1.4 Thickness required. (see 8.3),
- 5.1.5 Overall thickness, if molded pattern flooring is specified (see 8.1),
- 5.1.6 Width required (see 8.4),
- 5.1.7 Length required (see 8.5),
- 5.1.8 Resistance to chemicals, (see 7.4),
- 5.1.9 Lot information, if other than as specified in AANSI/ASQC Z1.4. (see 10.1 and 11.1),
- 5.1.10 Sampling, if other than as specified in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 (see 10.1 and 11.1),
- 5.1.11 Statement requesting certification, if certification of compliance is required (see 12.1),
- 5.1.12 Packing requirements, if other than as specified (see 14.1),
- 5.1.13 Palletization, if required,
- 5.1.14 Marking required, if other than specified (see 13.1), and
- 5.1.15 Other requirements.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 *Homogeneous Rubber Sheet Floor Covering*—The product shall consist of a wear layer and backing. The surface coloring or mottling shall be uniform throughout the entire thickness of the wear layer. The backing shall be fibrous or foamed rubber and thoroughly bonded to the wear layer so as not to delaminate under normal use.

6.2 *Layered Rubber Sheet Floor Covering—Heterogeneous (Layered) Rubber Sheet Floor Covering*—The product shall consist of a wear layer, intermediate layer(s), and a backing. The surface coloring or mottling shall be uniform throughout the entire thickness of the wear layer, but need not extend through the intermediate layer(s). The backing shall be fibrous or foamed rubber. The wear layer, intermediate layer(s) and backing shall be thoroughly bonded so as not to delaminate under normal use.

6.3 Wear Layer:

6.3.1 The polymeric binder of the wear layer shall satisfy the definition of rubber in Terminology D1566, and have been vulcanized, as defined in Terminology D1566 (under vulcanization), such that it becomes thermoset as defined in Terminology D883. The wear layer made from this compound shall be resistant to neutral pH cleaners.

6.3.2 The wear layer must have a minimum thickness of 0.040 in. (1.0 mm) when measured in accordance with Test Method F410.

6.3.3 The appearance of the rubber sheet floor covering after removing 0.020 in. (0.51 mm) of the wear layer thickness, shall compare favorably in appearance with the sheet flooring's original appearance. The removal of the wear layer may be accomplished by any suitable method.

6.3.4 The wear layer may have a smooth, embossed, or molded pattern surface.

6.4 *Intermediate Layers*—The layer(s) may consist of, but not be limited to, rubber, foamed rubber, or other materials, which are intended to improve the performance characteristics of the product.

6.5 *Backings*—The composition of the backings shall be fibrous or foamed rubber and may contain other ingredients provided the resultant backing is suitable for installation on floors above-, on-, or below-grade when installed according to manufacturer's installation recommendations.

6.6 *Color, Pattern, and Wearing Surface*—The color, pattern, and wear layer surface, as applicable, shall be as specified in the contract or order (see 5.1).

NOTE 1—The colors and patterns that are available are indicated in individual manufacturer's current catalogs. As manufactured, colors may vary somewhat in hue or shade from the catalog.

NOTE 2—Where color match is a concern, samples from the manufacturer shall be obtained to verify color acceptability.