



Standard Specification for Rubber Floor Tile¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers requirements for the compound and physical characteristics of rubber floor tile.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of 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 of the issue in effect on the date of this material purchase form a part of this specification to the extent referenced herein:

2.2 *ASTM Standards:*

D 883 Terminology Relating to Plastics²

D 1566 Terminology Relating to Rubber³

D 2240 Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness³

D 3389 Test Method for Coated Fabrics Abrasion Resistance⁴

F 141 Definitions of Terms Relating to Resilient Floor Coverings⁵

F 373 Test Method for Embossed Depth of Resilient Floor Coverings⁵

F 386 Test Method for Thickness of Resilient Flooring Having Flat Surfaces⁵

F 410 Test Method for Wear Layer Thickness of Resilient Floor Coverings by Optical Measurement⁵

F 511 Test Method for Quality of Cut of Resilient Floor Tile⁵

F 536 Test Method for Size of Resilient Floor Tile by Dial Gage Method⁵

F 540 Test Method for Squareness of Resilient Floor Tile by Dial Gage Method⁵

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F06 on Resilient Floor Coverings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F06.80 on Specifications.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.02.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

F 710 Practice for Preparing Concrete Floors and Other Monolithic Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring⁵

F 925 Test Method for Resistance to Short-Term Chemical Exposure of Resilient Flooring⁵

F 970 Test Method for Static Load Limit⁵

F 1482 Guide to Wood Underlayment Products Available for Use Under Resilient Flooring⁵

F 1514 Test Method for Measuring Heat Stability of Resilient Vinyl Flooring by Color Change⁵

F 1914 Test Method for Short-Term Indentation and Residual Indentation of Resilient Floor Covering⁵

2.3 *American National Standards:*

ANSI/ASQC Z1.4 – 1993 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of other terms used in this standard, see Terminology F 141.

4. Classification

4.1 Rubber floor tile covered by this specification shall be classified as:

Class I—Homogeneous Rubber Floor Tile

- A. Solid Color
- B. Through Mottled

Class II—Laminated Rubber Floor Tile

- A. Solid Color Wear Layer
- B. Mottled Wear Layer

4.2 The tile in 4.1 may have either smooth, embossed, or molded pattern wearing surfaces.

4.3 These products shall not contain asbestos.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 Purchaser 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 Class, color, pattern, and wearing surface (see Section 4).

5.1.3 Quantity, in square feet, square metres, or cartons.

5.1.4 Size required (see 8.4).

5.1.5 Thickness required (see 8.3).

⁶ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 11 West 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036.

5.1.6 Overall thickness, if molded pattern tile is specified (see 8.1).

5.1.7 Base thickness, if molded pattern tile is specified (see 8.2).

5.1.8 Resistance to chemicals (see 7.4).

5.1.9 Lot formation, if other than as specified in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-1993 (see Sections 10 and 11).

5.1.10 Sampling, if other than as specified in ANSI/ASQC Z1.4-1993 (see Sections 10 and 11).

5.1.11 Statement requesting certification, if certification of compliance is required (see Section 12).

5.1.12 Packing requirements, if other than as specified (see Section 14).

5.1.13 Palletization, if required.

5.1.14 Marking required, if other than specified (see Section 13).

5.1.15 Other requirements.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 *Material*—The polymeric binder of the rubber floor tile shall (1) satisfy the definition of rubber in Terminology D 1566, and (2) have been vulcanized, as defined in Terminology D 1566 (under vulcanization), such that it becomes thermoset as defined in Terminology D 883. The rubber floor tile made from this compound shall be resistant to neutral pH cleaners.

6.2 *Color, Pattern, and Wear Layer 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.

6.3 *Homogeneous Rubber Floor Tile*—The surface coloring or mottling shall be uniform throughout the entire thickness of the rubber floor tile.

6.4 *Layered Rubber Floor Tile*—The surface color or mottling need not extend through the entire thickness of the rubber floor tile, but must extend throughout the entire thickness of the wear layer.

6.4.1 The wear layer must have a minimum thickness of 0.040 in. (1.0 mm) when measured in accordance with Test Method F 410.

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

7. Performance Requirements

7.1 *Hardness*—The rubber floor tile shall have a durometer hardness of not less than 85 (Shore, Type A) when tested in accordance with Test Method D 2240.

7.2 *Static Load Limit*—When tested in accordance with Test Method F 970, with an applied load of 125 lb (56.7 kg), the residual indentation shall not be greater than 0.005 in. (0.127 mm).

7.3 *Resistance to Short-Term Chemical Exposure*—When

tested in accordance with Test Method F 925, the rubber floor tile shall have no more than a slight change in surface dulling, surface attack, or staining when exposed to the following chemicals:

White vinegar (5% acetic acid)
Rubbing alcohol (70% isopropyl alcohol)
White mineral oil (medicinal grade)
Sodium hydroxide solution (5% NaOH)
Hydrochloric acid solution (5% HCl)
Sulfuric acid solution (5% H₂SO₄)
Household ammonia solution (5% NH₄OH)
Household bleach (5.25% NaOCl)
Olive oil (light)
Kerosene (K1)
Unleaded gasoline (regular grade)
Disinfectant cleaner (5% active phenol)

NOTE 3—These basic chemicals are representative of those likely to be found in domestic, commercial, and institutional use. Many proprietary compounds contain one or more of these basic chemicals. Should the rubber floor tile for an unusual application need to be resistant to a specific chemical, this additional requirement should become part of the procurement document (see 5.1.8).

7.4 *Resistance to Heat*—When tested in accordance with Test Method F 1514, the color change of the rubber floor tile shall have an average ΔE not greater than 8.0 after 7 days exposure to 158°F (70°C).

7.5 *Residual Indentation*—When tested in accordance with Test Method F 1914 under 140 lb (63.5 kg) load, 0.178 in. (4.5 mm) diameter flat foot indenter and 10 min indentation, the average residual indentation at the end of a 60 min recovery period shall not exceed 8%, and the maximum residual indentation of any single specimen shall not exceed 10%.

7.6 *Abrasion Resistance*—When tested in accordance with Test Method D 3389 and with the abrader equipped with H-18 wheels and a load of 500 g, the maximum material loss shall not exceed 1 gram after 1000 cycles.

7.7 *Dimensional Stability*—Task group F06.30.04 is finalizing a test method for dimensional stability for resilient floor tile. Upon completion, the requirements will be added to this section.

7.8 *Resistance to Light*—Task group F06.80.13 will continue to search for a test method or develop a test method to address this requirement. Existing Q-UV and Xenon-Arc test methods used to test rubber floor tiles resulted in extremely high failure rates which is not typical in everyday use of these products.

8. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

8.1 *Overall Thickness*—Unless otherwise specified (see 5.1), the molded pattern rubber floor tile shall have a minimum thickness of 0.080 in. (2 mm) and shall be measured for overall thickness at the thickest cross-sectional area of the tile. The thickness of the molded pattern shall be uniform throughout the tile.

8.2 *Base Thickness*—Molded pattern rubber floor tile base thickness shall be measured at the thinnest cross-sectional area of the tile. The thinnest cross-sectional area shall be uniform throughout the tile.

8.3 *Thickness Tolerances*—Thickness shall be as specified in the contract or order (see 5.1). A total tolerance of ± 0.005 in. (± 0.127 mm) for smooth rubber floor tile or $+0.015/-0.005$ in. ($+0.381/-0.127$ mm) for molded and embossed pattern