



APR 01 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DIRECTORS

FROM:

LESLIE SHEPHERD
CHIEF ARCHITECT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ARCHITECT (PCA)

SUBJECT: Carpet Specification Guideline

Effective immediately, the attached Carpet Specification Guideline has been approved through the PBS Issuance Process and must now be included in all PBS project scopes, regardless of size or estimated total project cost. This specification meets the mandates of the recently released Executive Order 13514 requiring federal agencies to give purchasing preference to the elimination of virgin material; use of biobased products; use of recovered material; reuse of products; life cycle cost; recyclability, use of environmentally preferable products; waste prevention (including toxicity reduction or elimination) and ultimate disposal of products.

We have carefully reviewed, considered, and incorporated comments made by PBS interior designers, facility managers, realty specialist, and procurement officers. From the private industry, we consulted with carpet manufacturers, the Carpet and Rug Institute, and others to ensure strong market competition and responsiveness. Our research with manufacturers indicates that the new specification will result in minimum or no cost increase to PBS projects. We have consulted with FAS to determine that this specification does not conflict with modular and broadloom carpets on GSA Multiple Award Schedule, although not all carpets on schedule can meet this PBS requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please contact Dianne Juba via email or at 202.501.3797.

cc: Dave Foley, Deputy Commissioner, PBS
Erika Dinnie, Chief of Staff
Lisa Ward, Assistant Commissioner, Budget and Finance
Sean Mildrew, Assistant Commissioner, Organizational Resources
Tami Riggs, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Vendor Alliance and Vendor Acquisition
Larry Melton, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Facilities Management and Services
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CARPET SPECIFICATION GUIDELINE FOR BROADLOOM AND MODULAR TILE

Carpet to be newly installed or replaced in GSA leased and owned buildings must comply with the following:

1. Product Sustainability and Environmental Requirements. To achieve superior performance in multiple environmental attribute areas, carpet must have third party certification in accordance with NSF 140 2007 e Sustainable Carpet Assessment Standard at a "Gold" level minimum. Carpet manufacturer must supply certificate as part of the procurement documentation.
2. Recycle Content of the Total Product Weight: Must be either Pre-consumer or Post-consumer content or a combination of these.
Broadloom: minimum of 10%.
Modular Tile: minimum of 30%.
3. Low Emitting Materials. The carpet and floor adhesive (for glue-down installations) must meet the Green Label Plus (GLP) and floor adhesive (for direct glue down) requirements of the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI). GLP number must be provided. Carpet and all installation components including adhesives, sealers, seam welds and seam sealers must meet the Low Emitting Materials standards as outlined in U.S. Green Building Council LEED criteria. Adhesives must meet VOC content standards per South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule #1168.
4. Face Fiber Content. Face yarn must be 100% nylon fiber. Loop Pile shall be 100% Bulk Continuous Filament (BCF); cut and loop shall be 100% BCF for the loop portion and may be BCF or staple for the cut portion; cut pile carpet shall be staple or BCF.

5. Performance Requirements for Broadloom and Modular Tile
 - Static: Less than or equal to 3.5 kV when tested by AATCC Test Method 134 (Step Test Option) by
 - Flammability: Meets CPSC-FF-1-70, DOC-FF-1-70 Methenamine Tablet Test criteria
 - Flooring Radiant Panel Test: Meets NFPA Class I or II depending upon occupancy and fire code when tested under ASTM E-648 for glue down installation.
 - Smoke Density: NBS Smoke Chamber - Less than 450 Flaming Mode when tested under ASTM E-662

NOTE: Testing must be performed in a NVLAP accredited laboratory.

6. Additional Requirements for Broadloom

- Edge Ravel – Minimum 1 lb, Loop Pile only - ASTM D-7267
- Delamination – Minimum 3.5 lb per inch of width - ASTM D-3936
- Tuft Bind – Minimum 10 lb. average tuft bind for Loop Pile - ASTM D-1335

7. Additional Requirements for Modular Tile

- Tuft Bind Minimum 8 lb. average tuft bind for Loop Pile – ASTM D-1335

8. Texture Appearance Retention Rating (TARR) Carpet must meet TARR ratings specified below:

Space Definition	Traffic Classification	TARR Classification
Private Offices	Moderate	≥ 3.0 TARR
Training, conference, courtrooms, etc	Heavy	≥ 3.0 TARR
Open Office, cafeteria, corridors, lobbies	Severe	≥ 3.5 TARR

The carpet should be evaluated using ASTM D-5252 Hexapod Drum Test as per the commercial carpet test procedure and TARR classification determined using ASTM D-7330.

9. Carpet Reclamation. Reclamation of existing carpet to be determined with potential vendor. When carpet is replaced, submit certification documentation from the reclamation facility to the Procurement Officer.
10. Warranty. Submit a copy of the manufacturer's standard warranty to the Procurement Officer within the first 60 days of Government occupancy. Government is to be a beneficiary of the terms of this warranty.
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