



Standard Practice for Evaluation of Attached Upholstery Fabrics¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4852; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice is to be used to evaluate specific characteristics of importance in the performance of upholstery fabric attached to a furniture unit, including woven, knitted, tufted, flocked, or vinyl fabrics.

1.2 It is understood that the fabric used to construct the upholstered furniture unit should be evaluated initially using appropriate fabric performance standards, such as Specifications D 3597 and D 3690.

1.3 Loose cushions or pillows considered an inherent part of the total furniture unit are to be evaluated using this practice.

1.4 This practice is not to be used to evaluate slipcovers or throws used as furniture coverings. Outdoor furniture coverings are not to be evaluated using this practice.

1.5 This practice shall not be construed to be a standard of performance but only as a standard practice for evaluation of attached upholstery fabrics.

1.6 This practice may be used by mutual agreement between purchaser and supplier to establish purchasing specifications.

1.7 *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 ASTM Standards:

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

D 3597 Specification for Woven Upholstery Fabrics—Plain, Tufted, or Flocked³

D 3690 Performance Specification for Vinyl-Coated and Urethane-Coated Upholstery Fabrics—Indoor³

D 4771 Specification for Knitted Upholstery Fabrics for Indoor Furniture³

NOTE 1—Subcommittee D13.62 on Care Labeling is preparing a terminology standard on Care Instructions for Textile Floor Coverings and Upholstery. A copy of the latest draft may be obtained from the subchairman.

2.2 AATCC Method:

AATCC Evaluation Procedure 1—Gray Scale for Color Change⁴

2.3 Other Documents:

Knit Upholstery Fabric Standards and Guidelines⁵

Woven Upholstery Fabric Standards and Guidelines⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *attached upholstery fabric, n*—the exterior fabric covering secured to a furniture unit by the furniture manufacturer or custom upholsterer. (See *furniture covering*.)

3.1.2 *back coating, n*—in textiles, an adhesive-type substance applied to the back of a fabric for such purposes as locking pile yarn tufts into a carpet backing, bonding a secondary backing to a primary backing, or increasing fabric body or stiffness.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—Back coatings are applied to upholstery fabrics to improve such attributes as dimensional stability and seam integrity.

3.1.3 *cleaning agent, n*—a chemical compound or formulation of several compounds which loosen, disperse, dissolve, or emulsify soil to facilitate removal by mechanical action.

3.1.4 *furniture covering, n*—a general term for attached upholstery fabric, slipcovers, and throws.

3.1.5 *furniture unit, n*—in upholstered furniture, a complete single piece of upholstered seating, such as a sofa, love seat, lounge chair, rocker, or recliner.

3.1.6 *group, n*—in upholstered furniture, a number of individual upholstered furniture units that are related by one or more physical characteristics such as styling, color, shape, or covering.

3.1.7 *overall cleaning, n*—for upholstered furniture, the application of an appropriate cleaning agent to the entire fabric

⁴ Available from Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

⁵ Issued in 1982 by the Joint-Industry Fabric Standards Committee, sponsored by National Association of Furniture Manufacturers, California Furniture Manufacturers Association, Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association, Southwest Furniture Manufacturers Association, and Furniture Manufacturers Association of Grand Rapids. Available from American Furniture Manufacturers Association, P.O. Box HP-7, High Point, NC 27261.

⁶ Reissued in 1986 by the Joint-Industry Fabric Standards Committee including American Furniture Manufacturers Association, California Furniture Manufacturers Association, Furniture Manufacturers Association of Grand Rapids, Association of Western Furniture Suppliers, and Home Furnishings Manufacturers Association. Available from American Furniture Manufacturers Association, P.O. Box HP-7, High Point, NC 27261.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.63 on Home Furnishings.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.02.