

THE COMMERCIAL FLOORING REPORT

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CRI Commercial Model Specification

If you've been reading the Commercial Flooring Report for any length of time you know that I harp on two issues relative to specifying floor covering material. The first is "Get it in the door and keep it on the floor" and the second is to make sure you have the right product for the right application. Both will satisfy your expectations of performance and longevity with whatever floor covering product you select. These mantras are also pertinent to being green and environmentally conscientious and fiscally responsible by selecting the correct product, getting it installed, taking proper care of it and then continuing on with your day to day business without the concern of a failed flooring product or installation.

Just this week the Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) released a revised edition of its Commercial Model Specification that is designed to quickly and effectively communicate important information on carpet performance characteristics to a number of user audiences. We wanted to share this with you because specifying carpet is an area we deal in often and find that end users are often confused by the multitude of offerings manufacturers have and comparing them to one another can be very confusing. The CRI Commercial Model Specification should make the process easier and allow for a better understanding of the type of carpet you should be using in a particular application.

This is a new, concise and streamlined format for this revised document that is intended to be an easy-to-use tool that will assist architects, designers, building owners, facilities managers and others to select carpets with the right performance profiles for their project needs.

The job of updating the model specification was undertaken by a task group comprising representatives from CRI member companies that reported to CRI's Product Performance and Standards Panel.

"As an organization that is separate and independent of any particular manufacturer or retailer, CRI is ideally positioned to provide needed technical guidance without interfering with bid policies requiring limited supplier contact many specifiers are required to follow," said CRI President Werner Braun.

Werner H. Braun, President of The Carpet and Rug Institute stated:

"Maximizing and protecting your investment are things that we all strive for when making purchasing decisions. Whether getting the most from a routine stock order or making major renovations, we all want to know we got the right product to perform the task we have in mind. When it comes to carpet, there is no need to reinvent the wheel. We have laid out the essential considerations for you in this one guide. Getting the right information on your carpet purchase couldn't be easier.



There are really three things to keep in mind when you are considering your carpet investment. First is to select the right carpet for your use. That is what this guide addresses. Commercial Specification, or selecting the right carpet for the right spot, can give you a dizzying list of ASTM, AATCC, ISO, and governmental standards. What do each of these standards and test methods assure you? Is 8lbs tuft bind good? Worrying about which one is important and what you should require for each can be confusing.

So, which is most important? All of them. The values specified for each of these critical measures has developed over time from vast experience and will serve well when installed and cared for properly. Once you've selected the right carpet for your floor, what's next? It's time to install. The Carpet and Rug Institute has long been the recognized leader in installation guidance and has published the 2011 Carpet and Rug Institute Installation Standard. This document combines the two previous documents (one for Residential; one for Commercial) into one unified standard. Choosing an installer who conducts the installation in accordance with the Installation Standard will give you a much greater assurance of satisfaction than one who doesn't. '



The 2011 Installation Standard can be referenced here: www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/specification-and-installation/installation-resources.cfm

Cleaning and Maintenance information can be found at www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers.

So the key is to select the right carpet, install it correctly, and care for it properly.

How do you start the process? Below you will see the steps you should take to get the right carpet in the right place. We've also included the CRI charts that will guide you in the selection process by categorizing the traffic load for the space.

PREPARING A COMMERCIAL CARPET SPECIFICATION USING THE "MODEL SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL CARPET"

Step 1: Identify the intended END USE DESCRIPTION for the carpet to be specified. (Example: Conference room in a commercial office building).

2: Identify the END USE DESCRIPTION RECOMMENDATION associated with that area (moderate, heavy, severe or extreme).



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Step 3: Determine the construction and features of the carpet desired: (broadloom, woven, tile with cushion backing, etc).

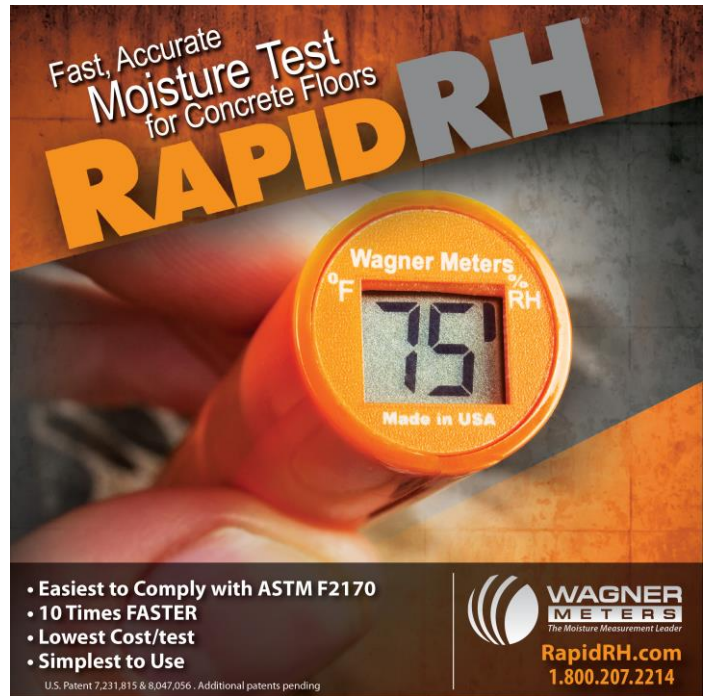
Step 4: Complete the appropriate Specification Sheet for the type(s) of carpet desired.

Note: Each job may require several types of carpet or have several different end use applications. And the manufacturers recommendations supersede so make sure you confirm with them where, how and what you want to use so you don't void any warranties.

These tables are designed to assist you in identifying normal and typical foot traffic levels for a variety of commercial carpet applications. The Typical End Use Descriptions are common areas in commercial buildings such as library corridors, airport ticketing counters, or private offices.

The moderate, heavy, severe, extreme Typical End Use Description Recommendation is determined based on an ordinary number of users, type of traffic, anticipated frequency, intensity of use, and similar factors for the area described. It is intended as general guidance for that amount of traffic that would ordinarily be expected in that type of end use area. Your experience and area may vary so you may make adjustments to the values shown in Table 1 Typical End Use Description Recommendations based upon your knowledge of the specific area being carpeted. In such cases, the specifier may adjust the recommendation accordingly based on the specific application.

Consultation with manufacturers is recommended prior to final selection of products. Ex.- The Typical End Use Description Recommendation for libraries (corridors) is "Heavy". For busier or larger than normal libraries, the specifier may choose to specify this area as "Severe". Moderate End Use Description Recommendations cover limited use areas in buildings such as private offices, sleeping rooms and some administrative areas. Heavy End Use Description Recommendations apply to areas such as some corridors, conference rooms, open



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offices, entryways and areas where large numbers of people congregate. Severe End Use Description Recommendations refer to rigorous foot traffic situations such as public areas, lobbies and dining facilities. Extreme End Use Description Recommendations apply to areas such as transportation service areas (airports, buses, rail).

Typical End Use Description	Typical End Use Recommendation			
	Moderate	Heavy	Severe	Extreme
Banks/Credit Unions				
Entrance and Customer Banking Space			X	
Open Office Space		X		
Private Office	X			
Bowling Center				
Concourse (excluding food service or working areas)			X	
Chapels and Other Religious Facilities				
Educational Wing	X			
Worship Areas	X			
Clubs/Lounges		X		
Golf Course Clubhouse				
Administrative Areas (without golf shoe traffic)	X			
Dining Area (without golf shoe traffic)	X			
Grill Area (with golf shoe traffic)		X		
Pro Shop (with golf shoe traffic)		X		
Libraries				
General Areas		X		
Conference Rooms	X			
Corridors		X		
Hospitality/Hotels/Casinos				
Corridors and Hallways		X		
Meeting/Conference Rooms		X		
Guest Rooms	X			
Ballrooms		X		
Lodging Facilities/Dormitory, etc.				
Conference Room		X		
Combination Living/Sleeping Rooms		X		
Dining Facilities			X	
Offices	X			
Public/Common Areas (day room, tv lounge, etc)			X	
Sleeping Rooms	X			

Typical End Use Description	Typical End Use Recommendation			
	Moderate	Heavy	Severe	Extreme
Medical Facilities (excluding patient treatment areas)				
Assisted living areas		X		
Chapels	X			
Classrooms		X		
Clinical Waiting Areas (outpatient, pharmacy, etc)			X	
Consultation Rooms		X		
Dining Areas			X	
Entrance Areas (when used with entry way mats)			X	
Libraries	X			
Lobbies			X	
Elevators			X	
Medical Facilities (excluding patient treatment areas)				
Lounges		X		
Offices (Private or Semi-Private)	X			
Patient Rooms		X		
Playrooms, Child Waiting Areas			X	
Staff Sleeping and Watch Areas	X			
Military Housing				
Bachelor Enlisted Quarters				
Dining Facilities			X	
Offices		X		
Public/Common Areas (Day Rooms, Lounges, etc)			X	
Sleeping/Living Rooms	X			
Family Housing				
General Areas		X		
Sleeping Rooms	X			
Office Building				
Classrooms				
Conference Rooms		X		
Corridors		X		
Elevators		X		
Entrance (when used with entry way mats)			X	
Library	X			
Lobby			X	
Lounge		X		

Typical End Use Description	Typical End Use Recommendation			
	Moderate	Heavy	Severe	Extreme
(cont.)				
Private Office	X			
Transportation Service Areas				
Airport Ticketing Area				X
Airport Concourse				X
Rail Cars				X
Buses and Bus Ticketing Areas				X
Retail Stores				
Offices		X		
Restaurant & Cafeteria Dining Areas			X	
Sales Areas		X		
Theaters		X		
Educational Facilities and Training Buildings				
Classrooms			X	
Corridors			X	
Staff/Administration Offices	X			
Youth Centers				
			X	

There are several more pages to the CRI Commercial Model Specification that you can find on line at: www.carpet-rug.org/commercial-customers/specification-and-installation/installation-resources.cfm. Keep in mind that you also have to consider the type of construction, yarn system and dye system for each area. Remember also that you can contact us here and we can help you with this process and with any flooring specification, selection and testing. You shouldn't ever have to wonder if what your specifying will work because we're here to make sure it does and keep you out of trouble.

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