

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR VINYL-COATED AND OTHER CHEMICAL COATED UPHOLSTERY FABRICS– HEALTHCARE (CFFA-HC-201) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I CONFIRM THAT I AM COMPLYING WITH THE GUIDELINES?

Answer: You may contact CFFA with any questions at cffa@chemicalfabricsandfilm.com. Participants must comply with all procedures in these Guidelines. Certifying participants and private-label licensees may be asked to submit lab results from an accredited lab (see Section 1 of the Procedural Guidelines) confirming products/patterns meet the CFFA-HC-201 Standard.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES?

Answer: These Guidelines have been incorporated into the license agreement by reference. Failure to adhere to these Guidelines may constitute a breach of the license agreement. Breaches of the license agreement may result in the revocation of your license to use the Mark, or in some cases, legal action.

WHAT IF ONE OF MY PRODUCTS/PATTERNS IS CHALLENGED AS NOT MEETING THE CFFA-HC-201 STANDARD?

Answer: Please see Section 5 of the Procedural Guidelines for the Challenge process.

CAN A THIRD PARTY DO THE TESTING? WHEN COMPANIES DO THEIR OWN TESTING, HOW DO YOU PROVE PRODUCTS/PATTERNS MEET THE MINIMUM PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS (PASS ALL TEST METHODS)?

Answer: While the program is a self-certification, a company without its own accredited laboratory may hire a third-party to do the testing. CFFA requires the certification form be filled out and signed which states that the product/pattern passes all tests within the standard. A company may “challenge” a product/pattern if they do not believe it meets the standard. See section 5 of the Procedural Guidelines.*

WHERE IS IT SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT A COATED FABRIC MUST PASS ALL TESTS: IT SAYS “ALL PROCEDURES”?

Answer: A Product must meet the minimum performance requirements of the CFFA-HC-201 standard, which are the 16 test methods identified within the standard.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH MANUFACTURERS OR DISTRIBUTORS WHEN THEY FAIL A TEST? HOW LONG DO THEY HAVE TO PASS IT? DO THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR IT AGAIN?

Answer: A product/pattern cannot be certified if any of the test methods fail (so no payment for licensing would have been required). It should only be submitted for certification after it has met the minimum performance requirements of the CFFA-HC-201 standard.

WHAT IF A FABRIC ONLY FAILS ONE OF THE TESTS?

Answer: A product/pattern should not be submitted for certification if it does not meet the minimum performance requirements of CFFA-HC-201 (all test methods). The product/pattern cannot be certified; it must meet the standard, inclusive of all test methods within the standard. A product/pattern could be submitted once tests are re-run and it meets all requirements, or when changes are made to the product construction or formulation in order for it to pass.

WHAT ABOUT CHANGES TO THE BACK CLOTH? IF A PRODUCT HAS ONE BACK CLOTH TYPE, AND FAILS THE TEST, AND THEN SWITCHES TO ANOTHER BACK CLOTH, DOES THAT HELP THEM PASS THE TESTS?

Answer: IN the textile industry, the term is Substrate or fabric backing, not backcloth. A change is not only a change of pattern, but a change in Construction. It could then be resubmitted for certification if once the substrate is changed it meets all the performance requirements of CFFA-HC-201.

DOES CFFA DO ANY TESTING OF THEIR OWN? IF NOT, COULD THEY? WOULD IT BE CHEAPER FOR THOSE WANTING TO GET THEIR PRODUCTS TESTED?

Answer: No, this is a self-certification program. A company would have to use their own accredited laboratory or hire a third-party accredited test facility.

** An accredited lab is one that has been accredited to ISO 17025 or IATF 16949 and whose accreditation is in effect when the required tests are made and reported. In performing the required tests, an accredited lab must adhere to CFFA's standard conditions of test methods as outlined in ASTM D751-19 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics.*

CERTIFICATION MARK AND LICENSING QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CERTIFICATE AND THE MARK?

Answer: There is no certificate, there is a certification program, and the certification mark is the denotation that a product has been certified.

IS THE "MARK" THE SHIELD? IS THAT THE CERTIFICATION?

Answer: The Mark is used to represent products that have been certified to CFFA-HC-201.

WHERE CAN I USE THE MARK?

Answer: A Licensee may use the Mark on: (1) the certified product/pattern itself; (2) certified product/pattern packaging, tags, labels and packaging inserts such as owner's manuals and product specification sheets; (3) certified product promotional materials (as long as such use is in compliance with these Guidelines); (4) certified product sample cards; and (5) on your website and social media pages specifically promoting a certified product/pattern (as long as such use is in compliance with these Guidelines).

CAN I USE THE MARK ON GENERAL COMPANY PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS?

Answer: No. Use of the Mark is specific to certified product/pattern. Use of the mark on general company promotional materials may be misinterpreted by the public to mean that all of the company's products/patterns are certified by CFFA, when this may not be the case.

CAN I USE THE MARK ON CERTIFIED PRODUCT PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS?

Answer: Yes, with the appropriate license agreement. The Mark must appear in the document in close proximity to the certified product's/pattern's name, logo, or product/pattern image, or product/pattern description. In connection with selling products/patterns certified by a Licensee, or furniture incorporating such products/patterns, a furniture manufacturer does not need a license to use sample cards or marketing materials that the certifying manufacturer or distributor supplied. A furniture manufacturer or distributor must sign a License Agreement and comply with the Guidelines in order to

use the certification mark on its own materials, such as its website, social media, furniture, or advertisements.

CAN I USE THE MARK ON MY COMPANY WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGE?

Answer: Yes, with the appropriate license agreement. The Mark must appear in close proximity to the certified product's/pattern's name, logo, or product/pattern image, or product/pattern description. The Mark cannot be used on your website or social media page in a manner that, in CFFA's sole discretion, could be misinterpreted to mean that products/patterns that have not met the certification criteria have been certified or that all of the company's products/patterns are certified by CFFA.

CAN I GROUP THE MARK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS' CERTIFICATION LOGOS?

Answer: Licensees may do so, but only under the following criteria: (1) the Mark must stand alone and cannot appear connected to the other organizations' certification marks; and (2) the Mark cannot appear in proximity to other organizations' certification marks such that the Marks would be construed as a co-brand.

IF I HAVE A LICENSE TO USE THE MARK TO SELL PRODUCTS/PATTERNS CERTIFIED BY SOMEONE ELSE, WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY LOSE THEIR LICENSE?

Answer: The right of any furniture manufacturer or distributor to use the mark in connection with a product/pattern certified by another program participant ends when that participant's license is terminated. The company who has certified the product is responsible for letting all companies licensing the mark for those certified products that the license is terminated.

WHO GETS A LICENSE? WHO GETS CERTIFIED AND WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Answer: A manufacturer or distributor may certify a product. Anyone using the certification mark must sign the licensing agreement and pay relevant fees (including companies private labeling a previously certified product).

IS THE LICENSING AGREEMENT TO PROTECT OR USE THE "MARK" ITSELF?

Answer: It is to protect the use of the mark and to ensure that only certified products are using the mark.

CFFA-HC-201 STANDARD QUESTIONS

HOW WERE THE TEST METHODS SELECTED?

Answer: Coated fabric test methods were developed and evaluated over many years, and are used by the industry and its customers to determine the physical properties of chemical coated fabrics and films, to facilitate quality control, and to ensure customer satisfaction. The test methods within CFFA-HC-201 were selected specifically for the CFFA-HC-201 standard to help prevent common product failures by incorrect selection. Selecting coated fabrics that meet the CFFA-HC-201 helps ensure products are fit for use for many years. Specific questions on the test methods themselves should be directed to the product manufacturer or any referenced ASTM test method.

HOW ARE CLEANING AND DISINFECTING HANDLED IN THE CFFA-HC-201 STANDARD?

Answer: Disinfection requires different approaches which is why CFFA separated these into two separate test methods. Cleaning requirements are often increased to clean a specific stain whereas Disinfection testing refers to a specific chemical resistance.

CFFA SEEMS VINYL-FOCUSED, CAN OTHER PRODUCTS BE CERTIFIED?

Answer: CFFA test methods are written for all Coated Fabrics. CFFA is a trade organization for manufacturers of coated fabrics and film. Vinyl is the principal coated fabric produced by members, but Urethanes, Silicones, Acrylic, and other polymers fall within the scope of CFFA, and if products meet the minimum performance requirements, they can be certified.

OTHER QUESTIONS**HOW DO FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS GET GRADED-IN FABRICS CERTIFIED?**

Answer: Furniture manufacturers should contact the Manufacturer if the Distributor cannot provide an answer.

HOW MANY FABRICS THAT HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED ARE POLYURETHANE? HOW MANY ARE SILICONE?

Answer: See the Performance Products website for the [list of products](#) that have been certified.

HOW DO WE GET COMPANIES TO STOP SAYING THEY COMPLY WITH THE STANDARD, VS. CERTIFYING PRODUCT?

Answer: There is no verification process for products that are denoted as “complying with” the standard. Designers and specifiers should choose products that have been certified to CFFA-HC-201 to ensure they meet all the requirements.

For more information, please contact the CFFA office at cffa@chemicalfabricsandfilm.com.