



Health  
Canada

Santé  
Canada

# Industry Guide to Canadian Requirements for Carpets and Other Textile Floor Coverings



Canada

Our mission is to help the people of Canada  
maintain and improve their health.

*Health Canada*

Published by authority of the Minister of Health.

This publication can be made available on request on diskette, large  
print, audio-cassette and braille.

For further information or to obtain additional copies, please contact:

Publications

Health Canada

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9

Tel.: (613) 954-5995

Fax: (613) 941-5366

E-Mail: [info@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:info@hc-sc.gc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the  
Minister of Health Canada, 2006

This publication may be reproduced for personal or internal use only  
without permission provided the source is fully acknowledged. However,  
multiple copy reproduction of this publication in whole or in part for  
purposes of resale or redistribution requires the prior written permission  
from the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5 or [copyright.droitdauteur@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:copyright.droitdauteur@pwgsc.gc.ca)

HC Pub.: 4411

Cat.: H128-1/06-473

ISBN: 0-662-49270-6

# Table of Contents

Preface .....	ii
Legislation .....	1
Flammability Requirements and Test Methods .....	4
Labelling Requirements .....	7
<i>Figure 1: Summary of Flammability and Labelling     Requirements for Textile Floor Coverings</i> .....	12
Indoor Air Quality (“Green Label”) Carpet Testing Program .....	13
APPENDIX A – List of Health Canada Product Safety Offices .....	15
APPENDIX B – Canadian Testing Laboratories .....	19
APPENDIX C – Information Resources .....	21

# Preface

The intent of this document is to:

- explain the flammability and labelling requirements for textile floor coverings
- describe the test methods for determining the flammability of textile floor coverings
- provide information on the Canadian Carpet Institute's (CCI) Indoor Air Quality ("Green Label") Carpet Testing Program

This document may be updated from time to time. For the most recent version, consult Reports and Publications in the Consumer Product Safety (CPS) section of Health Canada's Web site at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps).

This document is an unofficial summary of the requirements for textile floor coverings. It is not intended to substitute for, supersede or limit the requirements under the applicable legislation. In case of any discrepancy between this summary and the legislation, the legislation will prevail. For further information or specific questions, requests or clarification, contact a Health Canada Product Safety Office (refer to Appendix A – List of Health Canada Product Safety Offices, on page 15 of this document).

# Legislation

Health Canada's Consumer Product Safety (CPS) program works with stakeholders to protect consumers and children from product-related hazards and to promote the safe use of products. Part I of the *Hazardous Products Act* (HPA) provides the authority to prohibit or restrict the advertising, sale and importation of a variety of hazardous products; it is the legislation employed by CPS to establish regulatory controls. The onus is on industry to comply with the legislation. Enforcement actions taken by Product Safety Officers on noncompliant products depend on the degree of hazard associated with noncompliance, and include commitment to product correction by industry, negotiation with industry for the voluntary removal of these products from the market, and seizure and/or prosecution under the HPA. Any person that advertises, sells or imports noncompliant products that result in property damage, injury or death may also be subject to legal liability.

Textile floor coverings advertised, sold or imported into Canada are subject to the HPA requirements for flammability and labelling.

- Item 29 of Part II of Schedule I to the HPA sets out flammability requirements for textile floor coverings that have not been treated with a fire retardant.

- Item 30 of Part II of Schedule I to the HPA sets out flammability requirements for textile floor coverings that have been treated with a fire retardant.
- Labelling requirements for textile floor coverings that do not comply with the flammability requirements are set out in the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*.

**Textile floor coverings** include carpets, carpeting, carpet tiles, mats, matting and rugs that are made in whole or in part of textile fibres.

One-of-a-kind textile floor coverings and oriental rugs are exempted.

Textile floor coverings do not include resilient floor coverings such as linoleum and vinyl tile, underlay, skins and hides, or wall hangings and tapestries that are not intended for use on floors.

The fire hazard associated with ignition of a textile floor covering depends not only on its flammability, but on its ability to spread a fire to other materials that can burn.

- Textile floor coverings that cover a large indoor floor area (such as broadloom, large carpets or carpet tiles) have a high ability to spread a fire. They must comply with the flammability requirements.
- Textile floor coverings that cover a small indoor floor area (such as small rugs or mats) and textile floor coverings for outdoor use, regardless of size, present a lesser fire hazard. They must comply with the flammability requirements **OR** if they do not comply with the flammability requirements, they must comply with the labelling requirements.

# Flammability Requirements and Test Methods

A textile floor covering consisting of 48 specimens, each measuring not less than 23 cm x 23 cm (9" x 9"), must be tested in accordance with the normal sequential sampling plan set out in the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) 4-GP-155 (1974), *Standard for Flammability of Soft Floor Coverings – Sampling Plans*, and the flame resistance test method set out in CGSB 4-GP-2 (1971), Method 27.6 of the Canadian Standard Textile Test Methods, *Method of Test for Flame Resistance – Methenamine Tablet Test*. A textile floor covering that has been treated with a fire retardant must also be subject to removal of the fire retardant finish prior to being tested for flame resistance, using the method set out in CGSB 4-GP-2 (1971), Method 30.2 of the Canadian Standard Textile Test Methods, *Procedure for the Removal of Flame Retardant Treatments on Textile Floor Coverings*.

The test methods are available in Health Canada's Product Safety Reference Manual, Book 5 – Laboratory Policies and Procedures, Method F-04 (2004), *Test Method for Evaluating Textile Floor Coverings for Flame Resistance*. For the Web site address, refer to Appendix C – Information Resources, on page 21 of this document.



In brief, 48 specimens are cut from the textile floor covering and, where applicable, the fire retardant finish is removed. The specimens are then conditioned, dried and brought to room temperature. A randomly selected specimen is placed horizontally in a test chamber in a draft free environment and a steel frame is placed on top of the specimen. A methenamine tablet is placed in the centre of the specimen and lit. After all combustion has ceased, the shortest distance between the charred area of the specimen and the inside edge of the frame is measured.

A specimen passes if the shortest distance between the charred area of the specimen and the inside edge of the frame is greater than 25.4 mm (1"), and fails if the distance is less than or equal to 25.4 mm (1").

A minimum of 10 specimens to a maximum of 48 specimens are tested to determine whether a textile floor covering passes (is accepted) or fails (is rejected), in accordance with the sampling plan in Appendix III of Method F-04, which is reproduced in part below. A pass signifies that the textile floor covering complies with the flammability requirements.

Tablet test	Number of specimens tested	Cumulative number of specimens tested	<b>ACCEPT</b> if cumulative number of specimen failures equals or is less than	<b>CONTINUE TESTING</b> if cumulative number of specimen failures is in this range	<b>REJECT</b> if cumulative number of specimen failures equals or exceeds
1 <sup>st</sup> set	10	10	0	1-10	—
2 <sup>nd</sup> set	3	13	1	2-13	—
3 <sup>rd</sup> set	3	16	2	3-15	16
4 <sup>th</sup> set	3	19	3	4-15	16
5 <sup>th</sup> set	3	22	4	5-15	
6 <sup>th</sup> set	3	25	5		
7 <sup>th</sup> set	3	28			
8 <sup>th</sup> set	3				

The flammability of a textile floor covering is difficult to predict because it depends on a variety of factors such as fibre content, yarn construction, dyes and finishes. For example, textile floor coverings made of highly flammable fibres such as cotton or jute do not necessarily fail, whereas textile floor coverings made of less flammable fibres such as acrylic do not always pass. Textile floor coverings made of a blend of two or more fibres generally display flammability characteristics that are different from those of the individual fibres, and some blends may be more flammable than each fibre.

**The flammability of a textile floor covering must be confirmed by testing.**

For a partial list of laboratories that provide testing services for textile floor coverings, refer to Appendix B – Canadian Testing Laboratories, on page 19 of this document.

## Labelling Requirements

The labelling requirements set out in the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations* depend on the textile floor covering's flammability, size (large or small) and location of use (indoor or outdoor), as outlined below. For the purpose of this section, the following definitions apply.

**A large textile floor covering** has a surface area greater than 2.16 m<sup>2</sup> (24 ft<sup>2</sup>) or a linear dimension greater than 1.8 m (6 ft). This definition includes carpet tiles.

**A small textile floor covering** has a surface area less than or equal to 2.16 m<sup>2</sup> (24 ft<sup>2</sup>) and all linear dimensions are less than or equal to 1.8 m (6 ft).

- **Large textile floor coverings (including carpet tiles) for indoor use**

These must comply with the flammability requirements to be advertised, sold or imported into Canada. There are no labelling requirements.

- **Small textile floor coverings for indoor use**

If these comply with the flammability requirements, they can be advertised, sold or imported into Canada. There are no labelling requirements.

If these do not comply with the flammability requirements, they can be advertised or sold in Canada if they are labelled with the following statement in English and French, as per section 4 of the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*:

**Caution – Flammable – Do not use in locations exposed to open flame or sources of intense heat.**

**Attention – Inflammable – Tenir éloigné de la flamme ou d'une source de chaleur intense.**

The label must be clearly and prominently displayed to the consumer at the time of purchase, as per sections 6 and 7 of the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*.

A small textile floor covering for indoor use that does not comply with the flammability requirements may be imported into Canada without the required labelling provided that it is labelled as required before being advertised or sold, as per section 8 of the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*.

- **Large and small textile floor coverings (including carpet tiles) for outdoor use**

If these comply with the flammability requirements, they can be advertised, sold or imported into Canada. There are no labelling requirements.

If these do not comply with the flammability requirements, they can be advertised or sold in Canada if they are labelled with the following statement in English and French, as per section 5 of the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*:

**Caution – Flammable – Do not use in locations exposed to open flame or sources of intense heat. Do not use indoors.**

**Attention – Inflammable – Tenir éloigné de la flamme ou d'une source de chaleur intense. Ne pas utiliser à l'intérieur.**

The label must be clearly and prominently displayed to the consumer at the time of purchase, as per sections 6 and 7 of the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*.

A textile floor covering for outdoor use that does not comply with the flammability requirements may be imported into Canada without the required labelling provided that it is labelled as required before being advertised or sold, as per section 8 of the *Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations*.

- **Textile floor coverings for both indoor and outdoor use**

Large textile floor coverings (including carpet tiles) for both indoor and outdoor use must satisfy the requirements for large textile floor coverings for indoor use.

Small textile floor coverings for both indoor and outdoor use must satisfy the requirements for small textile floor coverings for indoor use.

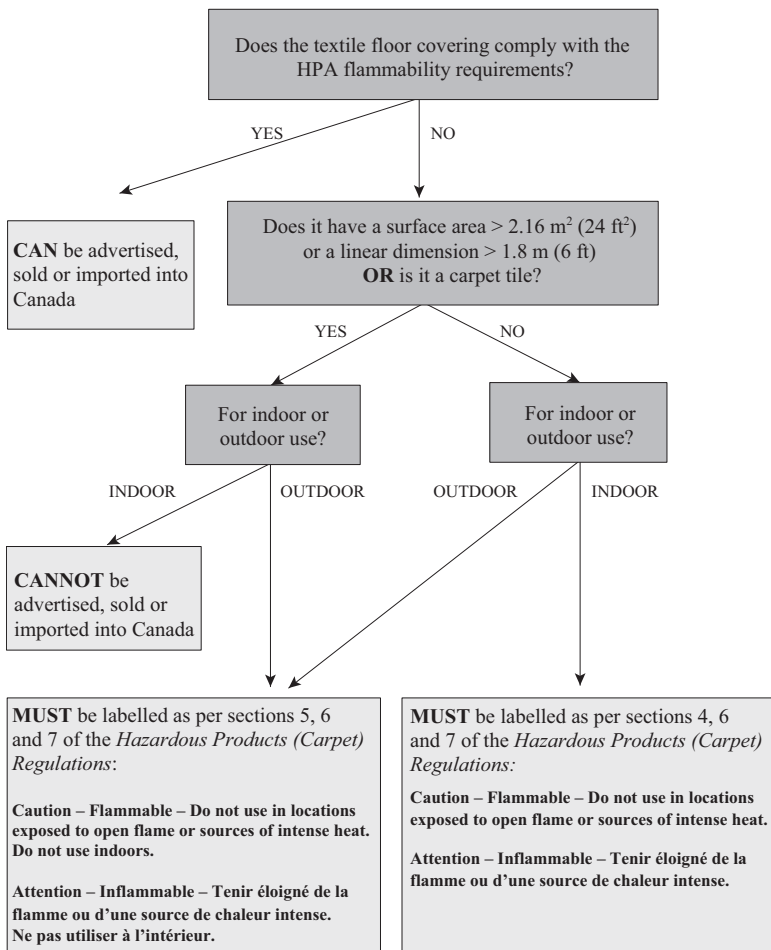
Textile floor coverings advertised, sold or imported into Canada are also subject to federal labelling requirements set out in the *Textile Labelling Act* and the *Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations* as well as the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act* and the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations* administered and enforced by the Competition Bureau of Industry Canada, as well as any applicable provincial requirements for labelling.

Labelling of textile floor coverings to show the presence of a fire retardant is not required.

Labelling to show or imply compliance with the flammability requirements is not permitted.

For more information on legislative requirements for textile floor coverings, refer to Appendix C – Information Resources, on page 21 of this document.

**Figure 1: Summary of Flammability and Labelling Requirements for Textile Floor Coverings**





# Indoor Air Quality (“Green Label”) Carpet Testing Program

Indoor air quality is important to Canadians, who spend about 90% of their time indoors on average. Exposure to indoor air pollutants can cause a number of health problems such as respiratory symptoms and allergies. In the public interest, the Canadian Carpet Institute (CCI) adopted the United States Carpet and Rug Institute’s (CRI) Indoor Air Quality Testing Program for Carpets in the early 1990’s in an effort to minimize chemical emissions from new carpets.

In this voluntary industry program, textile floor coverings are tested for total organic compounds, formaldehyde, 4-phenylcyclohexene (4-PC) and styrene in accordance with methodology recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and ASTM International (ASTM D5116, *Standard Guide for Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Determinations of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/ Products*). Textile floor coverings that meet the emission criteria are allowed to display the “Green Label” logo, which assures consumers that the product is low-emitting and helps with their buying decisions.

Industry members who are not currently involved in the Indoor Air Quality (“Green Label”) Carpet Testing Program are encouraged to do so. To participate or obtain more information about this program, refer to the CCI Web site listed in Appendix C – Information Resources, on page 21 of this document.



# APPENDIX A

## List of Health Canada Product Safety Offices

### British Columbia and Yukon

Suite 400

4595 Canada Way

Burnaby, British Columbia

V5G 1J9

Tel: (604) 666-5003

Fax: (604) 666-5988

Bby\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Serves these States in the US: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington

### Alberta and Northwest Territories

#1440 Sun Life Building

c/o Suite 730, Canada Place

9700 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta

T5J 4C3

Tel: (780) 495-2626

Fax: (780) 495-2624

Edm\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Room 282, Harry Hays Building

220-4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South East

Calgary, Alberta

T2G 4X3

Tel: (403) 292-4677

Fax: (403) 292-4644

Cal\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Serves these States in the US: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming

## **Manitoba and Saskatchewan**

510 Lagimodiere Boulevard  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
R2J 3Y1

Tel: (204) 983-5490  
Fax: (204) 984-0461  
Mb\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Room 412, Federal Building  
101-22<sup>nd</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7K 0E1

Tel: (306) 975-4502  
Fax: (306) 975-6040  
Sk\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Serves these States in the US: Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin

## **Ontario and Nunavut**

2301 Midland Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M1P 4R7

Tel: (416) 973-4705  
Fax: (416) 973-1746  
Tor\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

55 Bay Street North  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8R 3P7

Tel: (905) 572-2845  
Fax: (905) 572-4581  
Tor\_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Serves these States in the US: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, North Carolina

## Quebec

1001 St-Laurent Street West  
Longueuil, Quebec  
J4K 1C7

Tel: (450) 646-1353  
Fax: (450) 928-4066  
Quebec\_Prod@hc-sc.gc.ca

901 Cap Diamant, Local 266-1  
Quebec, Quebec  
G1K 4K1

Tel: (418) 648-4327  
Fax: (418) 649-6536  
Quebec\_Prod@hc-sc.gc.ca

Serves these States in the US: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

## Atlantic

Suite 1625, 1505 Barrington Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3Y6

Tel: (902) 426-8300  
Fax: (902) 426-6676  
Atlantic\_ProdSafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

10 Highfield Street  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Moncton, New Brunswick  
E1C 9V5

Tel: (506) 851-6638  
Fax: (506) 851-3197  
Atlantic\_ProdSafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

10 Barters Hill  
John Cabot Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
St. John's, Newfoundland  
A1C 6M1

Tel: (709) 772-4050  
Fax: (709) 772-5945  
Atlantic\_ProdSafe@hc-sc.gc.ca

Serves these States/District in the US: Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia

## National

Serves locations outside of Canada and the US:

Consumer Product Safety Bureau  
MacDonald Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
123 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K9

Tel: (613) 954-0104  
Fax: (613) 952-9138  
[cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:cps-spc@hc-sc.gc.ca)

# APPENDIX B

## Canadian Testing Laboratories

**NOTICE:** *This listing of laboratories implies no certification or endorsement by Health Canada, nor is it necessarily a complete listing of all laboratories in Canada that provide testing services for textile floor coverings.*

### Alberta and Northwest Territories

Textile Analysis Service

Tel: (780) 492-7677

Department of Human Ecology

Fax: (780) 492-4111

B19 Human Ecology Building

elia.lawson@ualberta.ca

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta

T6G 2N1

### Ontario and Nunavut

Bureau Veritas Consumer

Tel: (905) 771-5722

Products Services, Inc.

Fax: (905) 771-5724

8220 Bayview Avenue, Suite 207

steven.solarik@ca.

Thornhill, Ontario

bureauveritas.com

L3T 2S2

www.bureauveritas.com

Bodycote Technology Centre

Tel: 1-866-Bodycote

2395 Speakman Drive

sales@bodycote.ca

Mississauga, Ontario

L5K 1B3

for other locations in Canada, visit [www.bodycote.ca](http://www.bodycote.ca)

## Quebec

Textile Technology Centre  
3000 Boullé Street  
Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec  
J2S 1H9

Tel: (450) 778-1870  
Fax: (450) 778-3901  
info@gcttg.com  
www.ctt.ca

Intertek Testing Services  
1829 32nd Avenue  
Lachine, Quebec  
H8T 3J1

Tel: (514) 631-3100  
Fax: (514) 631-1133  
intertek-sc@intertek.com  
www.intertek-sc.com

## National

Product Safety Laboratory  
Health Canada  
1800 Walkley Road  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0L2

Tel: (613) 952-0853  
Fax: (613) 954-8515  
PSL-LSP@hc-sc.gc.ca  
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/  
prod-test-essai/index\_e.html



# APPENDIX C

## Information Resources

**NOTICE:** For further information, contact a Health Canada Product Safety Office (refer to Appendix A – List of Health Canada Product Safety Offices, on page 15 of this document) or visit the following:

- Consumer Product Safety (CPS)  
**[www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/cps)**
- Hazardous Products Act and Hazardous Products (Carpet) Regulations  
**[laws.justice.gc.ca/en/H-3/index.html](http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/H-3/index.html)**
- Health Canada (2004). Product Safety Reference Manual, Book 5 – Laboratory Policies and Procedures, Method F-04, *Test Method for Evaluating Textile Floor Coverings for Flame Resistance*  
**[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/prod-test-essai/method/inflammab/f-04\\_e.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/prod-test-essai/method/inflammab/f-04_e.html)**

- Competition Bureau of Industry Canada. *Textile Labelling Act, Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations, Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act, Consumer Packaging and Labelling Regulations*  
**[www.competitionbureau.gc.ca](http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca)**
- Canadian Carpet Institute (CCI)  
**[www.canadiancarpet.org](http://www.canadiancarpet.org)**
- ASTM D5116-97, *Standard Guide for Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Determinations of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/Products*  
**[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)**