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Report On
Critical Radiant Flux of Floor-Covering Systems
Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source
As Determined By
ASTM E 648 Test Method

PREPARED FOR:
Armstrong Flooring Inc.
Lancaster, PA

TEST NUMBER: FRP-1054

Darde - Rigid Core 2

Date of Issue:
11/27/2017





I. SCOPE

This report contains the reference to the test method, purpose, test procedure, preparation and conditioning of test samples, description of materials, test and post test observation data, and test results.

II. TEST METHOD

The test was conducted in accordance with ASTM Designation E648-17, "Standard Method of Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source." The test is also known as NFPA No. 253.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the test is to determine the critical radiant flux of horizontally-mounted floor covering systems exposed to a flaming ignition source in a graded radiant heat energy environment maintained in a test chamber. The specimen may be mounted over underlayment, a simulated concrete structural floor, bonded to a simulated structural floor, or otherwise mounted in a typical and representative way.

The test method provides a basis for estimating one aspect of fire exposure behavior for floor covering systems. The imposed radiant flux is designed to simulate the thermal radiation levels likely to impinge on the floors of a building whose upper surfaces are heated by flames and/or hot gases from fully developed fire in an adjacent room or compartment. The method was developed to simulate an important fire exposure component of fires which may develop in corridors or exit ways of buildings and is not intended for routine use in estimating flame spread behavior of floor covering in building areas other than corridors or exit ways.

IV. TEST PROCEDURE

The basic elements of the test chamber are: 1) an air-gas, fueled radiant heat energy panel inclined at 30° to and directed at 2) a horizontally-mounted floor covering system specimen. The radiant panel generates a radiant energy flux distribution ranging along the 100-cm length of the test specimen from a nominal maximum of 1.0 watts/cm² to a minimum of 0.1 watts/cm². The test is initiated by open flame ignition from a pilot burner. The distance burned to flame-out is converted to watts/cm² and reported as **critical radiant flux**.



Report on Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source as Determined by the ASTM E 648 Flooring Radiant Panel

Test Number: FRP-1054

Test Date: 11/14/17

Report Prepared For:	Armstrong Flooring Inc. Lancaster, PA
Material Tested:	Darde - Rigid Core 2

Sample Information:			
<u>Detailed Product Description:</u>	Rigid Core LVT. Vinyl wear layer over rigid pvc carrier base with cork backing.		
<u>Sample Preparation:</u>	Samples were cut and selected by the manufacturer.		
<u>Sample Selection By:</u>	Manufacturer	<u>Flux Profile Run Date:</u>	11/14/17
<u>Number of Samples:</u>	3	<u>Conditioning Days:</u>	54
<u>Surface Exposed:</u>	Surfaces (Faces Only)	<u>Sample Color:</u>	Brown
<u>Average Thickness (in.):</u>	0.234	<u>Average Weight (lbs):</u>	5.43

Test Data			
	Burn 1	Burn 2	Burn 3
<u>Preheat Time (min):</u>	5:00	5:00	5:00
<u>Starting Temp. (°C):</u>	183	184	183
<u>Burn Length (cm):</u>	6.9	7.7	6.5
<u>Time to Max Burn Length (min):</u>	10.08	10.10	10.03

Test Results			
	Burn 1	Burn 2	Burn 3
<u>Critical Radiant Flux (W/cm2):</u>	1.00	1.00	1.00
<u>Average Critical Radiant Flux (W/cm2):</u>		1	
<u>Standard Deviation:</u>		N/A	
<u>Coefficient of Variation:</u>		N/A	

<u>Observations:</u>	Blistering during the 5 minute preheat.
<u>Remarks:</u>	Each sample consisted of 7" wide piece of flooring and a 2.5" wide piece of flooring that were mounted in the sample holder as a floating system.
<u>Conclusions:</u>	The product is classified as Class I (Critical Radiant Flux greater than 0.45 W/cm ²) by NFPA 101.
<u>Test Operator:</u>	CK

Report Prepared By:

Report Reviewed By:

Manager of Fire Testing – Engineer

Director – HPVA Laboratories

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