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Appearance of Flocked Fabrics after Repeated Home Laundering and/or Coin-Op Drycleaning

Developed in 1975 by AATCC Committee RR81; reaffirmed 1978, 1989, 2000, 2011; editorially revised and reaffirmed 1983, 1994, 2005; editorially revised 1985, 1986, 1988, 1991, 1993, 1996, 2004, 2008, 2010.

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for evaluating the durability of flocked fabric to home laundering or coin-op drycleaning with the use of flock loss and appearance at the edgewear areas of simulated pant leg specimens as the criteria.

2. Principle

2.1 Simulated pant leg specimens prepared as described in 6.1 are laundered or drycleaned as set out in 7.1 and 7.2 and then evaluated for appearance and durability as described in Section 8.

3. Terminology

3.1 **drycleaning**, *n.*—the cleaning of fabrics with organic solvents such as petroleum solvent, perchloroethylene or fluorocarbon.

NOTE: The process also includes adding detergent and moisture to the solvent, up to 75% RH, and hot tumble drying to 71°C (160°F).

3.2 **laundering**, *n.*—of textile materials, a process intended to remove soils and/or stains by treatment (washing) with an aqueous detergent solution and normally including subsequent rinsing, extracting and drying.

4. Safety Precautions

NOTE: These safety precautions are for information purposes only. The precautions are ancillary to the testing procedures and are not intended to be all inclusive. It is the user's responsibility to use safe and proper techniques in handling materials in this test method. Manufacturers MUST be consulted for specific details such as material safety data sheets and other manufacturer's recommendations. All OSHA standards and rules must also be consulted and followed.

4.1 Good laboratory practices should be followed. Wear safety glasses in all laboratory areas.

4.2 The 1993 AATCC Standard Reference Detergent may cause irritation. Care should be taken to prevent exposure to skin and eyes.

4.3 All chemicals should be handled with care.

4.4 Perchloroethylene is toxic by inhalation, by repeated contact with skin and by ingestion; it should be used only in a well vented atmosphere. Toxicology studies with laboratory animals have shown evidence of cancer in rats and mice exposed to perchloroethylene vapors at 100-400 ppm concentrations for prolonged times. Fabric saturated with this solvent should be dried in an adequately ventilated hood. Use chemical goggles or face shield, impervious gloves and an impervious apron when handling perchloroethylene.

4.5 An eyewash/safety shower should be located nearby and an organic vapor respirator should be readily available for

emergency use.

4.6 Exposure to chemicals used in this procedure must be controlled at or below levels set by governmental authorities (e.g., Occupational Safety and Health Administration's [OSHA] permissible exposure limits [PEL] as found in 29 CFR 1910.1000; see web site: www.osha.gov for latest version). In addition, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) comprised of time weighted averages (TLV-TWA), short term exposure limits (TLV-STEL) and ceiling limits (TLV-C) are recommended as a general guide for air contaminant exposure which should be met (see 11.1).

5. Apparatus and Materials (see 11.2)

5.1 Patterns for pant leg panels made from 3 mm (0.125 in.) tempered Masonite or other suitable material. See Fig. 1

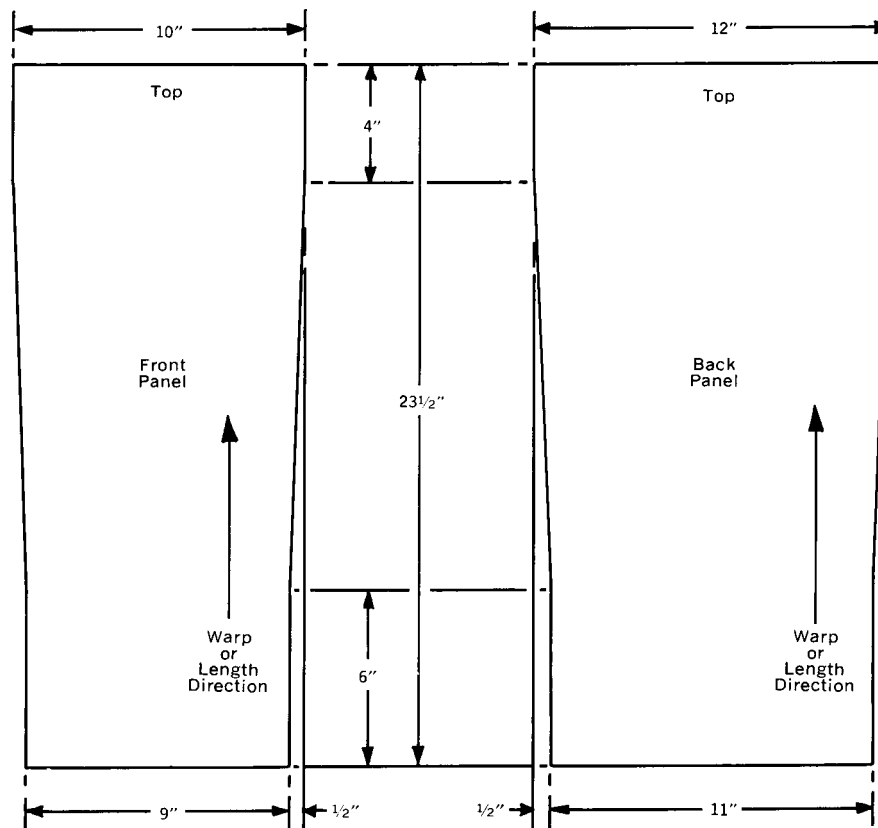


Fig. 1—Simulated pant leg for edgewear evaluation.