

Specification for

Underlays for textile floor coverings

ICS 59.080.60

Confirmed January 2011

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee (TCM/-) to Technical Committee TCM/3, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Consulting Scientists
- British Carpet Manufacturers' Association Ltd.
- British Polyolefin Textiles Association
- British Retailers' Association
- British Shops and Stores Association (BSSA)
- British Textile Technology Group
- Carpet Cleaners' Association
- Confederation of British Wool Textiles Limited
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Contract Flooring Association
- Fibre Bonded Carpet Manufacturers' Association
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- International Wool Secretariat
- Man-made Fibres Producers' Committee
- Power Loom Carpet Weavers' and Textile Workers' Association
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- South Western Regional Health Authority
- Wholesale Floorcovering Distributors' Association.

The following bodies were also represented in the drafting of the standard, through subcommittees and panels:

- British Rubber Manufacturers' Association
- Needleloom Felt Manufacturers' Association

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 29 March 1991

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee. It is a revision of BS 5808:1979 which is withdrawn.

This standard is complimented by BS EN 14499:2004 which also sets out minimum requirements for carpet underlays. As BS EN 14499:2004 does not include a classification system for carpet underlays this standard is still current.

The main differences in the minimum performance requirements are that BS EN 14499:2004 has requirements for short-term static loading, minimum thickness and appearance retention, whilst this standard has minimum requirements for compression, which are not included in BS EN 14499:2004.

In this revision, the factors which affect the use of an underlay in a given application have been rationalized. An attempt has been made to accommodate the technological requirements of underlays suitable for different end uses with the practical experience of underlay manufacturers, resulting in a system for classifying underlays by work of compression after dynamic loading and compression after dynamic loading.

Flammability requirements have not been included. Methods for assessing the ignitability of materials such as a textile floor covering are under development, but their application to underlays has not been determined. However, some work has shown that the contribution of an underlay to the ignitability of a textile floor covering is likely to be small.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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Summary of pages

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