

Code of practice for installation of laminate floor coverings

ICS 91.180; 97.150

*Confirmed
July 2014*

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted to PRI/60, Resilient floor coverings, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- British Adhesives and Sealants Association
- British Railways Board
- Contract Flooring Association
- Cork Industry Federation
- Health and Safety Executive
- Industrial Cleaning Machine Manufacturers' Association
- Institute of Chartered Arbitrators
- RAPRA Technology Ltd
- SATRA Technology Centre
- UK Cleaning Products Industry Association
- United Kingdom Resilient Flooring Association
- Wood Panel Industries Federation

This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 7 July 2003

© BSI 7 July 2003

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

The following BSI references relate to the work on this British Standard:
Committee reference PRI/60
Draft for comment 03/100121 DC

ISBN 0 580 42114 7

Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Exchange of information	2
5 Sub-floors	3
6 Materials	8
7 Installation	9
8 Completion	11
Annex A (normative) Dampness testing	12
Figure A.1a) — Typical apparatus using hygrometer	14
Figure A.1b) — Typical apparatus using rh probe	15

Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared by Technical Committee PRI/60.

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

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

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 15 and a back cover.

The BSI copyright notice displayed in this document indicates when the document was last issued.

1 Scope

This British Standard gives recommendations for the installation of laminate floor coverings in new or existing buildings. Generally, laminate floor coverings are installed as floating floors but, in some applications, they can be integrally glued to the subfloor. This British Standard only details suitable methods for floating floor installation and advises on the selection of materials required for their implementation.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 7916, *Code of practice for the selection and application of particleboard, oriented strand board (OSB), cement bonded particle board and wood fibre boards for specific purposes.*

BS 7953, *Entrance flooring systems — Selection, installation and maintenance.*

BS 8102, *Code of practice for protection of structures against moisture from the ground.*

BS 8204-1:2002, *Screeds, bases and in-situ floorings — Part 1: Concrete bases and cement sand levelling screeds to receive floorings — Code of practice.*

BS EN 204, *Classification of thermoplastic wood adhesives for non-structural applications.*

BS EN 13329, *Laminate floor coverings — Specifications, requirements and test methods.*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

fabricated substrate

manufactured board made from wood, wood particles or wood fibres in sheet form, gypsum, etc. to provide suitable a surface to receive the specified floor covering

3.2

screed

layer of well compacted material, commonly a mixture of cement and aggregate, applied *in situ* to a concrete base at the appropriate thickness

3.3

levelling layer

layer of compacted material, applied *in situ* to a sound base or screed where there is a need to raise the level of the floor surface to level a floor that is out of true, or to give a uniform absorbency where water-based adhesives are to be used

3.4

underlayment

thin layer of compacted material, applied *in situ* to a sound base, screed or substrate to provide a suitable finish to receive adhesive, the underlay or floor covering

3.5

flowing screed

in situ applied material that sets hydraulically or by chemical cure

NOTE It is normally a proprietary compound to be used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. It is poured or pumped directly to the concrete slab to form a smooth level surface, ready to receive most floor coverings

3.6

anhydrite screed

formulated flowing screed based on calcium sulfate

3.7

membrane

thin flexible sheet, at least 0.15 mm thick, for example of polythene, that is placed directly onto the surface of the mineral subfloor to protect the laminate floor covering from residual damp

4 Exchange of information

4.1 General

In order for the correct floor covering to be installed in appropriate conditions, at the right time, etc., it is essential that all parties have a clear understanding of the requirements of the project, e.g. new build or refurbishment, and of the implications for all concerned.

To ensure that this is achieved, it is essential that there is wide consultation between all parties involved in the project, including sub-contractors and materials suppliers. This consultation should start early in the design stage but will be necessary throughout the contract, especially should requirements or time scales change and as new sub-contract work is initiated.

As each project will be unique, it is impossible to give a definitive list of the information to be exchanged, but the following (4.2 to 4.9) are typical examples.

4.2 Project

The name and location of projects and personnel involved in pre-contract negotiations should be identified.

4.3 Contract conditions

A programme for commencement and completion of work should be defined, including any specific requirement for sequenced completion.

4.4 Special attendance

Access, unloading, hoisting and storage facilities, heat, light and power and any additional items considered necessary to expedite the work should be provided.

4.5 Design

4.5.1 *General*

The following layout and specifications, based on building type and occupational uses, should be provided:

- a) type of use: building, rooms;
- b) type and density of foot and/or wheeled traffic;
- c) specific requirements: fire resistance period, acoustic absorption level;
- d) particulars of use: staining, potentially abrasive conditions.

4.5.2 *Floor details*

The completed drawings/specification should provide comprehensive information on:

- a) whether upper floor, ground floor or below ground level;
- b) whether ground-supported or suspended construction;
- c) particulars of any under floor heating installation or security installation;
- d) position and treatment of expansion joints;
- e) curing and drying times of screeds and bases likely to be required before the installation of floor coverings;
- f) screed or base with finished floor level, permissible departure from datum and class of surface regularity required;