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Textile floor coverings — Guidelines for installation and use on stairs

Revêtements de sol textiles — Lignes directrices pour la mise en oeuvre et l'utilisation sur les escaliers

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **iv**
Introduction ..... **v**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Criteria for the assessment of stair suitability **2**
4.1 General 2
4.2 Pile carpets 2
4.3 Flat needled floor covering 4
4.4 Pile needled floor covering 5
4.5 Carpets without pile 6
5 Design **7**
5.1 General 7
5.2 Planning and layout 7
6 Installation **8**
6.1 Carpet gripper method 8
6.2 Direct stick method 8
6.3 Protective stair nosings 8
Bibliography **9**

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 219, *Floor coverings*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 13746:2000), which has been technically revised.

The main changes compared to the previous edition are as follows:

— this document has been aligned with EN 1307:2014+A3:2018, Annex C;

— a reference to ISO 1766, ISO 12951 and ISO 4919 has been added.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user’s national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

Although the aspect of suitability of carpets for use on stairs is worldwide, different countries have approached its solution from different perspectives, e.g. not guaranteeing carpets on stairs, recommending that carpets be periodically moved on stairs, accepting that the wear life on stairs can be half that in the equivalent flat location, use of proprietary stair nosings, etc.

Associated with some of these perspectives is tacit acceptance of test methods, although no universal test method exists to predict the property for all carpet types.

In order to define the perspectives more closely, ISO/TC 38/SC 12 (the then responsible TC) circulated a questionnaire to its participating experts. From the replies, it became apparent that problems with carpets on stairs can be centred on three different characteristics:

— wear to the backing, particularly on stair nosings;

— tuft loss;

— appearance retention on the treads.

The problem is further complicated by the fact that some countries suggest movement to even out wear and appearance changes, and also that the use and type of underlay play an important part in the subsequent performance of the carpet on stairs.

Over the years, in practice, EN 1307 proved to be satisfying on the issue of suitability of carpets for use on stairs, so it was decided to bring this guideline in line with its Annex C.

For all the above reasons, it was agreed that, until test methods can be developed to cover all eventualities, this document would be developed as guidelines for the installation and use of textile floor coverings on stairs.

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Textile floor coverings — Guidelines for installation and use on stairs

1 Scope

This document provides recommendations for the installation and use of textile floor coverings on stairs for both residential/domestic and contract/commercial purposes. It covers all products composed of textile material with a pile or non-pile use surface including the use of such products in tile form.

This document is applicable only to carpets that are intended to be installed without the use of protective stair nosings. For carpets that are intended to be installed using protective stair nosings, the overall use class determines the stair suitability.

NOTE 1 The use of stair nosings/edgings in public areas is often the subject of local bye-laws and legislations.

NOTE 2 In many split-level dwellings, a room can have one or two steps between different levels. This situation differs from a stairway in several important respects:

— the steps are usually wider and therefore traffic intensity in any one place is usually lower;

— the carpet can be bent over steps in either the machine direction or the across-machine direction. On a stairway, it is normal practice to lay the carpet with the pile lying down the stairs.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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.

ISO 2424, *Textile floor coverings — Vocabulary*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 2424 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
stair nosing
junction of the top edge of the riser and the forward edge of the tread

3.2
protective stair nosing
prefabricated, decorative, angled retaining strip made from metal, vinyl, wood, etc., used to eliminate the need to bend the carpet over the *stair nosing* (3.1), thereby extending the life of the carpet

3.3
crotch
junction of the lower edge of the riser with the rearmost edge of the stair-tread

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