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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 World Industries, Inc. Innovation Center
Lancaster, PA
TEST NUMBER: FRP-955
Sample A - Luxury Vinyl Tile Flooring

Date of Issue:
12/29/2015





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 E 648, "Standard Method of Test for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source." The test is also described by 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-955

Test Date: 12/28/15

Report Prepared For:	Armstrong World Industries, Inc. Innovation Center Lancaster, PA
Material Tested:	Sample A - Luxury Vinyl Tile Flooring

Sample Information:			
Detailed Product Description:	Armstrong Luxury Vinyl Tile Flooring - Glue Down Product [Vivero(Good, Better, Best), Parallel 6i, Parallel 12i, and Parallel 20i]		
Sample Preparation:	The manufacturer adhered the samples to 1/2" cement board with Armstrong S-288 Adhesive.		
Sample Selection By:	Manufacturer	Flux Profile Run Date:	12/28/15
Number of Samples:	3	Conditioning Days:	6
Surface Exposed:	Surfaces (Faces Only)	Sample Color:	Grey
Average Thickness (in.):	0.523	Average Weight(lbs):	9.95

Test Data			
	Burn 1	Burn 2	Burn 3
Preheat Time (min):	5:00	5:00	5:00
Starting Temp. (°C):	121	120	120
Burn Length (cm):	16.0	9.9	18.7
Time to Max Burn Length (min):	10.06	10.12	10.00

Test Results			
	Burn 1	Burn 2	Burn 3
Critical Radiant Flux (W/cm2):	.9	.96	.87
Average Critical Radiant Flux (W/cm2):		0.91	
Standard Deviation:		0.05	
Coefficient of Variation:		5%	

Observations:	Wrinkling and peeling of laminate layer during tests.	
Remarks:	Weights and thicknesses include 1/2" cement board backer.	
Test Operator:	CK	

Report Prepared By: _____

Report Reviewed By: _____

Manager of Fire Testing – Engineer

Director – HPVA Laboratories

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