

# Government Regulations For Flooring Products

## TESTING AND DOCUMENTATION SUPPORT FOR REGULATORY, CODE-RELATED, AND MARKET REQUIREMENTS

Before reaching the market, flooring products can face a mix of regulatory, customer, retailer, and specification requirements. Testing helps clarify documentation needs for emissions, chemical content, fire performance, certification programs, and market access.



Flooring products can require documentation for government regulations, code-related requirements, customer specifications, and certification criteria before entering certain markets or projects. Requirements vary by product type, material chemistry, intended use, jurisdiction, and target market.

Government and market requirements affect flooring products across several areas, including emissions, chemical content, fire performance, product certification, labeling, documentation, and market access. These requirements can apply at the product, system, or project level, depending on how and where the flooring will be used.

Manufacturers also face customer, retailer or specification requirements that go beyond minimum regulatory obligations. Testing and certification clarify applicable requirements and provide documentation for compliance review, specification review, and product claims.

### Key Compliance Considerations

Flooring compliance programs are developed around the product type, material construction, intended use, target market, customer requirements, and applicable standards.

#### Compliance topics include:

- Formaldehyde emissions
- VOC emissions and indoor air quality
- Chemical content and restricted substances
- Fire performance
- Product certification documentation
- Code-related documentation
- Customer, retailer or specification requirements
- U.S., Canadian, and international market requirements

### Common Standards and Documentation Areas

Documentation requirements for flooring products often relate to emissions, fire performance, chemical review, product safety, or certification programs, with requirements differing by jurisdiction, product category, and end-use environment.

For some flooring products, ASTM E648 evaluates the critical radiant flux of floor-covering systems using a radiant heat energy source. Laminate flooring may also require documentation tied to formaldehyde emission standards, including verification under ANSI/NALFA LF-01 Section 3.11 where applicable.

Testing supports product evaluation, compliance documentation, certification planning, customer and retailer review, specification review, restricted substance review, fire performance documentation, and market access planning.

# GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS FOR FLOORING PRODUCTS



## When Testing Can Help

Testing and documentation support flooring products during:

- Product development
- Material changes
- Market entry
- Customer or retailer requests
- Certification review
- Code-related documentation
- Compliance planning
- Claim verification

Testing is useful when product changes affect material chemistry, surface coatings, backing, recycled content, adhesive systems or supplier sources. Even small changes can affect emissions, chemical content, fire performance, labeling or certification documentation. Results help show whether the revised product continues to meet customer expectations, certification criteria or specification requirements.

## Documentation Planning

Regulatory and market requirements are easier to address when they are considered early in product development. A flooring product can require different documentation depending on where it will be sold, how it will be used, and what customers or specifiers require.

Early testing identifies documentation gaps before a product moves into retail, project, or certification review. It also prepares teams for questions related to emissions, chemical content, fire performance, material changes, or product claims.

A documentation plan typically includes reviewing the target market, identifying

applicable regulations or standards, determining required tests, confirming customer or specification criteria, and organizing results for review. This reduces the risk of missing information later in the approval process.

Testing data also helps compare requirements across markets. A flooring product intended for U.S., Canadian, and international markets can require documentation based on product chemistry, application, project type, and certification goals. Reviewing those needs early helps align testing with the intended path to market.

The same planning applies during product updates. When a manufacturer changes a resin, coating, adhesive, backing, recycled content percentage, or supplier, the documentation package should be reviewed. Testing helps determine whether the change affects emissions, chemical content, fire performance, labeling, or certification files.

For project-based work, documentation can show how the product aligns with the requirements of architects, owners, contractors, or authorities having jurisdiction. A complete package can include test reports, certification records, product descriptions, and statements tied to the intended use. Organizing these materials early makes reviews more efficient.

## Intertek Advantage

Intertek provides testing and certification services to evaluate applicable requirements, develop documentation, and prepare flooring products for customer, retailer, specification, or compliance review.

Testing programs can address product evaluation, compliance documentation, certification planning, quality control, specification review, and claim verification. Through Intertek's global network, manufacturers can evaluate emissions, chemical content, fire performance, and market access documentation while preparing materials for ASTM International standards, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards, European Standards (EN), or other applicable requirements for U.S., Canadian, and international markets.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION



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