

Green Label Plus: Carpet And Adhesives

Sets Higher Standard for Indoor Air Quality

Green Label Plus, a voluntary industry testing program for carpet and adhesive products, establishes the highest standard for indoor air quality (IAQ) ever set by the carpet industry. The Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI) created Green Label Plus to identify carpets and adhesives that are tested by an independent, certified laboratory and meet stringent criteria for low chemical emissions.

Expands CRI's IAQ Green Label Program

There is a growing demand to make indoor environments as healthy and “green-friendly” as possible. Choosing the right materials is a critical step. To assist in the process, CRI has added Green Label Plus for carpet and adhesives to its well-established Green Label program.

- Green Label ensures customers they are purchasing among the lowest emitting carpet, adhesive and cushion products on the market.
- Green Label Plus is designed for architects, builders, specifiers and facility managers who want assurances that carpet and adhesive products meet the most stringent criteria for low chemical emissions.
- Green Label Plus represents the fourth time the carpet industry has voluntarily enhanced the IAQ standard for its products.



Meets California's CHPS Criteria

Green Label Plus meets, and even exceeds, California's indoor quality standards for low-emitting products used in commercial settings such as schools and office buildings.

Working in cooperation with California's Sustainable Building Task Force and the Department of Health Services, Indoor Air Quality Section, the carpet industry voluntarily enhanced its Green Label program for carpet and adhesives to meet testing protocols used by the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS).

Under the agreement between CRI and the California agencies, Green Label Plus is acceptable in lieu of Section 01350, the CHPS low-emitting materials criteria for use in schools.

Commercial carpet and adhesives that meet the criteria for Green Label Plus are listed on both the CRI and CHPS websites.

Passes Rigorous Testing

To receive Green Label Plus certification, carpet and adhesive products must undergo a rigorous testing process, as required by Section 01350 guidelines that measure emissions for a range of chemicals and is administered by an independent laboratory. The test methodology for small scale environmental chamber testing was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

- Carpet products are tested for emission levels for seven chemicals as required by Section 01350, plus six additional chemicals.
- Subsequent annual and quarterly testing of certified carpet is based on 24-hour chamber testing for targeted chemicals and the total level of volatile organic compounds (TVOC).
- Adhesive products are tested for emission levels for 10 chemicals as required by Section 01350, plus five additional chemicals.
- Subsequent annual and semi-annual testing of certified adhesive products is based on 24-hour chamber testing for targeted chemicals and the total level of volatile organic compounds (TVOC).
- Green Label Plus expands on Section 01350 in several respects, including annual tests for the specific chemicals, a chain of custody process and an annual audit of the testing laboratory.

The CRI Indoor Air Quality Green Label Plus indicates:

- The manufacturer voluntarily participates in the program and is identified by an assigned number on the certification label.
- The manufacturer is committed to developing ways to minimize any adverse effects on indoor air quality.
- A representative sample of the product type is tested by an independent laboratory and meets the established emissions requirements.

Green Label Plus Measures Up

The Green Label Plus is an example of the Carpet and Rug Institute’s leadership in the best practices of environmental responsibility.

	CHPS Section 01350	Green Label	Green Label Plus
Chain of Custody / Sample Validation		✓	✓
Test for “Chemicals of Concern”	✓	limited	✓
Annual Testing		✓	✓
Annual Testing for “Chemicals of Concern”			✓
Quarterly Testing for TVOC		✓	✓
Tested Against the Most Stringent Criteria			✓
Certified Laboratory Required		✓	✓
Reproducible Protocols		✓	✓
Annual Audit of Laboratory		✓	✓
Oversight by Scientific Review Board			✓
Bottom line: Assurance specification = delivered		✓	✓



For more information about the Green Label Plus Testing program, contact the CRI Technical Department at 706-428-2101.

The Carpet and Rug Institute, headquartered in Dalton, Georgia, is the national trade association for the carpet and rug industry. Its members are manufacturers, suppliers, and service providers, representing over 90% of all carpet produced in the United States. CRI is the source for science-based information and insight into how carpet and rugs can create a better environment - for living, working, learning and healing. For more information visit, www.carpet-rug.org.