

FCSS (FLOOR COVERING STANDARD SYMBOLS)

Resilient, textile and laminate floor coverings have a number of specific characteristics and are grouped into a number of use classes. A standardised system of graphic symbols has been developed in order to make the classification and to render these specific characteristics easily understandable and recognisable for the consumer.

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS (USE AND LUXURY CLASSES)

Use class: domestic or commercial

A distinction is made between carpets suitable for domestic use and carpets suitable for commercial use. In practice the latter means that the carpets can be used in areas with heavy traffic such as shops, hotels, offices...

Domestic

- light or occasional use (21)
- medium use (22)
- medium to intensive use(22+)
- intensive use (23)



light or occasional use (21) medium use (22) medium to intensive use (22+) intensive use (23)

Commercial use

- light or occasional use (31)
- medium traffic (32)
- intensive traffic (33)



light or occasional use(31) medium traffic (32) intensive traffic (33)

Luxury class

Within each of the use classes carpets may vary in luxury. This can be expressed by the following symbols. The highest luxury rating is class 5 with 5 crowns.



LC 1

LC 2

LC 3

LC 4

LC 5

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

In addition to the basic requirements of use and luxury, carpets are able to fulfil a large number of additional requirements, so that they can be installed and used in different use environments. Each of these additional features is visualised by an individual symbol.

Castor chairs



occasional (private) continuous (office etc.)

If castor chairs are used, the carpet pile, especially in those places where the chairs are used, is under extreme stress. Only carpets fulfilling the higher requirements according to a specific test procedure will be allowed to use these symbols.

Stairs



occasional continuous

If carpets are used on stairs, those parts of the carpet on the edge of a step are under extreme stress. Based on specific test conditions it can be decided whether a carpet can be used on stairs continuously or only occasionally.

Underfloor heating



If a carpet is installed over an underfloor heating system the carpet has to have minimum insulating properties. Thermal resistance has to be lower than 0.17 m² K/W. The symbol indicates that the carpet can be used in combination with underfloor heating systems.

Wet room



If carpets are to be used under circumstances where they might get wet they have to be dimensional stable and resistant to rotting. Generally this means that carpets containing natural fibres will not meet the respective requirements.

Slip resistance



According to EN 14041 floor coverings have to meet certain safety requirements. One of them is slip resistance. If this claim is made by the producer, the floor covering intended to be used under dry and non-contaminated (clean) conditions shall have a dynamic coefficient of friction > 0.30. In this case, symbol DS shall be used.

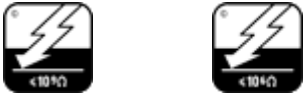
In all other cases, symbol NPD, No Performance Declared, has to be used. As shown by extensive test procedures all textile pile carpets floorcoverings meet the criteria for DS.

Antistatic



This symbol indicates that the carpet has "antistatic" properties. This means that static electricity after walking on the carpet (body voltage) is immediately discharged.

Electrical resistance



static conductive dissipative

Often, especially in professional environments, higher requirements have to be met, especially in rooms with electronic devices (computers etc). In those cases the symbols indicate for the specialist whether the flooring is "static dissipative" or "conductive".

Resistance to fraying



The symbol with the scissor indicates, especially for loop pile carpets, that the cutting edges and seams do not fray.

Sound absorption



If according to EN ISO 354 the sound absorption coefficient has been determined, this symbol can be used.

Acoustical impact noise



If according to EN ISO 140-6 the impact noise improvement has been determined this symbol can be used. The relevant value has to be mentioned in technical documents. All textile floorcoverings show an excellent impact noise improvement.

Light Fastness



This icon indicates that the carpet meets the basic requirements for light-fastness (≥ 5 , for pastel shades ≥ 4) in accordance with test methods EN ISO 105-B02.

Dimensional stability



Loose laid tiles have to fulfil additional requirements for shrinkage and extension (see EN 1407 Annex A or 1470; EN 13497; EN 15114). If these criteria are met the producer may use this symbol to indicate that the product is dimensionally stable.

Reaction to fire



Reaction to fire is strictly regulated in each EU member state. Today, new EU fire classes ranging from class F to class A (A not relevant for carpets) replace the former national classifications.

Fire classes D, C and B are subdivided in the classes s1 and s2. Smoke density in case of s1 is lower than in case of s2 meaning the product has an overall better performance within the same fire class.

Which fireclass has to be met depends on specific national regulations.

In general, Efl is sufficient for private application. Fireclasses Cfl and Bfl are generally used only in the contract area.

If the producer cannot give any information about the fire behaviour of his product he has to label the product with the Ffl pictogram.