



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Carpet and Anti-Microbial Performance Claims

As a fiber manufacturer, *INVISTA makes no antimicrobial claims* on any of its fiber products.

The use of antimicrobials in carpet gained visibility in the mid-1980s, when concerns arose over the potential spread of infection in healthcare environments. Since then, the need for antimicrobial protection has been debated for this and other end uses such as schools. There continues to be debate, even in the scientific community, on the efficacy and need for antimicrobial agents in carpet and in other interior furnishings and fabrics.

In the 1990s, issues surrounding antimicrobial claims on treated products by manufacturers outside the contract furnishings industry heightened EPA awareness in all industries. The result was EPA rule changes around antimicrobial claims.

The EPA requires manufacturers who wish to make antimicrobial claims for a product to register the product under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). For a carpet manufacturer to claim a *carpet* is antimicrobial, the *carpet* must be registered with the EPA. Registration, however, can be a lengthy and expensive process. At this time there is no treated carpet product registered with the EPA.

If there is an end-user request for carpet to exhibit antimicrobial efficacy, a specifier may use AATCC TM 174 (or other relevant published standard) when writing a specification to determine if a carpet meets the required criteria. Since the test for antimicrobial efficacy is performed on finished carpet, it is the carpet manufacturer that must determine how to engineer their product to meet the quantitative reduction or inhibition of microbial growth specified.

A good reference for additional information is the CRI Technical Bulletin *Antimicrobial Carpet Treatments October 31, 2013*: http://www.carpet-rug.org/documents/technical_bulletins/Antimicrobial_Carpet_Treatment.pdf

For more information about Antron[®] carpet fiber and INVISTA environmental initiatives, visit our web site at antron.net.

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