The Commercial Flooring Report

Resilient Flooring News

Volume 30 • Page 1 *for the Commercial Floor Covering Industry* TOTALLY GREEN PUBLICATION August 2010

For this issue we've asked Dean Thompson, President of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute, to share with you the new Sustainability Standard for Resilient Flooring. The relevance of this issue to the "greening" of flooring products is something anyone involved in resilient flooring needs to know. Resilient flooring is one of the bright spots in the flooring industry. It is used extensively in hospitals, health care and schools which is still a lively market. We'll also share with you the EnviroStix installation system developed for resilient flooring and hard backed carpet tile products. The significance of this installation system is that it can eliminate the concerns for installing hard backed products on moisture sensitive floors that are failing at an epidemic rate.

Sustainability Standard for Resilient Flooring Now Available

By Dean Thompson
President – RFCI

As products with sustainability claims continue to inundate the market, third party developed sustainability standards will allow government agencies, consumers and specifiers to make better informed decisions when it comes to understanding and purchasing products, such as resilient floorcoverings. NSF/ANSI Standard 332 Sustainability Assessment Standard for Resilient Floor Coverings was recently approved and is now being used by flooring manufacturers to certify the sustainability attributes of resilient flooring. The goal of this new standard, is to improve the sustainability profile of resilient floor coverings and enable the industry to achieve higher levels of sustainable manufacturing in the future.

The American National Standard evaluates the sustainability of resilient flooring products including vinyl composition tile, sheet vinyl flooring, vinyl tile, rubber sheet flooring, rubber tile, linoleum sheet flooring, linoleum tile, polymeric flooring, resilient wall base and resilient stair treads. Certification to this standard enables manufacturers to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability and showcase environmentally preferable processes, practices, resources and materials used in the manufacture of resilient floorcoverings. NSF/ANSI 332 is certified by NSF, a highly respected independent certifier, providing the highest level of credibility in a marketplace with numerous and confusing green claims.

NSF/ANSI 332 uses a point-based system in which manufacturers achieve one of four levels of certification: conformant, silver, gold and platinum – with conformant status meeting entry level criteria and platinum adhering to the most strenuous requirements. The Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings Standard was designed, in part, to satisfy the following criteria:

- Product design - encourages manufacturers to integrate environmental and life-cycle thinking into the product(s) design process.
- Product manufacturing - encourages manufacturers to quantify the environmental impacts from their manufacturing, and then act to reduce or remove those impacts.
- Long term value - encourages manufacturers to maximize product(s) longevity.
- End of life management - ensures that existing and new resilient flooring products can be collected, processed, recycled, and/or composted within the existing materials recycling infrastructure.
- Corporate governance - encourages corporate social responsibility in the forms of providing a desirable workplace, being involved in the local community, and demonstrating financial health.
- Innovation to give manufacturers the opportunity to be awarded points for exceptional performance above the requirements set forth in this Standard.

The standard was developed over four years' time by NSF and a multi-stakeholder, consensus-based group including members of the Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI), architects, academics, environmental program managers, state and federal agencies responsible for procurement practices,

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and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. NSF led the development of the consensus standard, which is built upon scientific principles including the ISO 14000 series on Life Cycle Standards. NSF is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that administers many building products standards including NSF 140, the sustainable carpet standard. NSF/ANSI 332 was opened for public comment and voting for a period of two years, before being approved in March 2010.

NSF/ANSI 332 will promote the greater use of sustainability practices in the manufacture of resilient flooring while also bringing more transparency and clarity to the sustainability process. This new standard represents the next generation of product sustainability assessment standards. It builds upon the work done by the carpet and furniture industries to develop ANSI standards for sustainable products. The multi-stakeholder development of the standard means it encompasses a broad set of interests and balances the need for robust performance with manufacturer capabilities. The widespread adoption of the standard by manufacturers and the marketplace will help the resilient flooring industry in its continuous improvement process related to sustainability.

For more information on NSF/ANSI 332, contact RFCI at 706.882.3833.

About RFCI: RFCI is a non-profit industry trade association whose mission is to enhance the long-term growth and well-being of the North American resilient flooring industry. RFCI represents the major manufacturers of resilient flooring marketed throughout North America. RFCI also administers FloorScore®, a voluntary, independent certification program developed by RFCI in conjunction with Scientific Certification Systems (SCS). FloorScore tests and certifies hard surface flooring and associated products for compliance with indoor air emissions requirements of the California Section 1350 program. RFCI serves as a clearinghouse for information on the resilient floor covering industry and helps educate specifiers, end-users and consumers about resilient flooring. More information is available on the RFCI web site: http://rfci.com/

EnviroSTIX

Appropriately following the efforts of the RFCI it is important, as with all floor covering products, to insure they are specified and installed so they won't have to be removed prematurely. As I've been saying about flooring products, "Get it in the door and keep it on the floor" should be the mantra of

anyone specifying, selling and installing flooring materials. This is the easiest way to be and stay green. Resilient flooring material installation is very often compromised by moisture and alkalinity in concrete substrates resulting in installation failure and premature replacement of the product. This is completely avoidable and totally contrary to the efforts of RFCI that you just read.

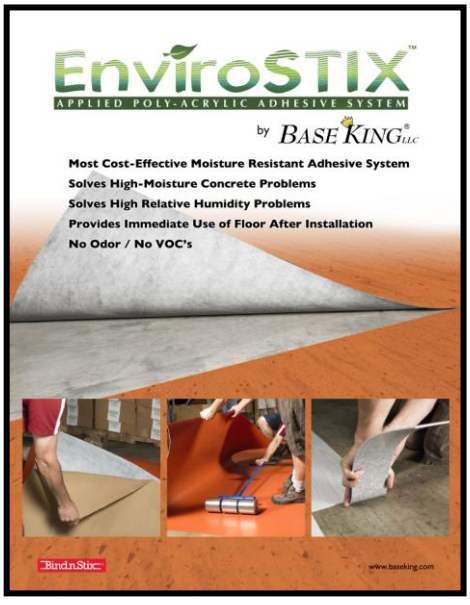
If there was a way to insure the products could be installed without compromise, wouldn't you want that? Wouldn't any of you reading this be happy if you knew that the installation of resilient flooring material and hard backed carpet tile wouldn't fail because of moisture and alkalinity problems? This can be accomplished without the expenditure of several dollars a square foot to mitigate the substrate, before or after an installation. It is important to understand that marketing claims are being made about surface treatment products, topically applied, that are supposed to prevent moisture and alkalinity related failures but they all come with caveats. None of these topical systems offer assurances there won't be an installation failure.

The patented EnviroSTIX Installation System which utilizes a double sided poly acrylic adhesive, pre-applied to any hard surface flooring material or hard back carpet tile, is the most cost effective moisture resistant adhesive system on the market. This installation system can be used with ph limits up to 11, moisture vapor emission rates of 18 and relative humidity levels of 100%. In fact, in most cases, moisture actually makes the system more aggressive. Flooring materials installed with the EnviroSTIX system can be put into use immediately and there is no odor or VOC's. Sheet vinyl flooring can be welded immediately. With no cure time and no harmful vapors EnviroSTIX allows for immediate access onto the flooring without fear of compromise. This is a huge benefit in sensitive environments such as hospitals and health care facilities and for time critical projects.

Will it Fail?

LGM's business is dealing with flooring material failures and technology that will prevent them. With hundreds of thousands of square feet of tile, sheet goods, vinyl plank, linoleum tile and rubber tiles there has not been a failure or compromise of an installation with the EnviroSTIX installation system. In fact the EnviroSTIX installation system has been used to repair failures of all types of hard surface flooring products. We have product installed in extremely moist conditions and the material gets wet and dry daily without any negative effect. If there is a weak spot in this technology we haven't found it. Being a poly acrylic adhesive system, with a long and stellar proven history of performance worldwide and now brought to new levels, this system will allow installation of hard surface flooring products on substrates that typically compromise installations.

EnviroSTIX is being used on hard surface products marketed by Bentley Prince Street, Parterre and CBC America Flooring. The system is also endorsed by Armstrong. It is being specified by Kaiser Permanente, the largest managed health care facility in the US and also being implemented by J&J. It has been applied to almost every manufacturer's hard surface flooring products for installation all over the US. The effectiveness of this system leaves no doubt as to its ability to combat the largest single flooring failure issue in the world today, moisture, and the hundreds of millions of dollars it costs the flooring industry yearly. EnviroSTIX is available to anyone in the industry, for any individual project on any hard surface or hard backed flooring material you want to use. Contact them at:



http://baseking.com/products/envirostix/

The new Velcro Brand Carpet Protector is ready to go. This product takes the place of clear plastic coverings with pressure sensitive adhesive that have created a host of problems for the industry. The new Velcro Brand Carpet Protector is made for use on loop and cut and loop carpet; the vast majority of commercial carpet. Bentley Prince Street is the first carpet manufacturer to offer this unique product.
http://www.velcro.com/

INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE REPAIR INSTITUTE

Concrete Moisture Testing Technician Certification – Grade I

The International Concrete Repair Institute (ICRI) is pleased to introduce their Concrete Moisture Testing Technician Certification Program. The purpose of this program is to help improve the performance of concrete slab moisture testing in the U.S. to result in more consistent, accurate results that will help flooring manufacturers, architects, and contractors to make better decisions as to when a concrete floor is ready for a floor covering installation.

The certification program has 2 tiers. Tier 1 applicants are those who are not regularly engaged in moisture testing yet have an active interest in learning more about the tests, what the tests mean and how the tests should be performed. Tier 2 applicants are those who have applied for full certification. Both tiers require attendance at a 3 hour educational session followed by a written exam. Tier 2 full certification applicants will also be required to perform each of the 4 tests under the watchful eye of a qualified judge who will not provide any level of coaching. Prequalification for acceptance into full certification Tier 2 will be previous testing experience.

Tier 1 consists of a 3 hour educational session, a written exam and a training session. Those who complete the course and pass the exam will be issued an ICRI Letter of Education. Tier 2 consists of the same 3 hour educational session, the written exam and a field performance exam. By passing both the written and performance exams, an ICRI Concrete Moisture Testing Technician - Grade I certification will be issued to those who successfully demonstrate their knowledge and ability to properly perform and record the results of each of the four field moisture tests on hardened concrete. Those who pass both the written and performance exams will receive a certificate and wallet registration card.

Both the written exam and the field tests will be based on the following four (4) ASTM Standards, including all Annexes and Appendices:

F 710	Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring; Section 5.3 pH Testing
F 1869	Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride
F2170	Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using *in situ* Probes
F2420	Determining Relative Humidity on the Surface of Concrete Floor Slabs Using Relative Humidity Probe Measurement and Insulated Hood

ICRI Certification for Slab Moisture Testing Technician– Grade I shall be valid for a period of five [5] years from the date of completion of all applicable certification requirements.

The two day certification program begins on the first day with registration from 8 - 9 am, followed by the 3 hour educational session. There will be a provided lunch and study break from 12 – 1 pm followed by the written exam from 1-2 pm. Following the written exam Tier 1 students will attend a training session where they may receive or observe hands on training on how to properly perform each of the four tests.

For those registered for the Tier 2 Certification, day two begins at 8 am, and each applicant will be required to perform all 4 ASTM tests listed above.

ICRI currently has six Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification programs scheduled in 2010.

Atlanta - June 22-23

Denver - June 29-30

Chicago - September 14-15

Baltimore - October 5-6

San Diego - November 15-16

San Jose - November 18-16

Click here

CERTIFICATION APPLICATION with LGM and Associates

for more information

or email:

lgm_anita@optilink.us

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•IDENTIFYING CONCRETE, MOISTURE AND FLOORING FAILURES

•LEGAL CASE ASSISTANCE AND PROFFERED EXPERT WITNESS

•SPECIFICATIONS, CONSULTING AND INFORMATION – BEFORE AND AFTER THE SALE

•OVERSEE MANUFACTURING AND INSPECTION OF PRODUCT AT THE SOURCE

•EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

•CERTIFIED PRODUCT TESTING

•INSTALLATION OVERSITE, GUIDANCE CORRECTION AND SPECIFICATION WRITING

•INSURANCE LOSS EVALUATIONS

"WE ARE THE GO-TO GUYS"