

NFSI B101.5-2020

B101.5 Standard Guide for Uniform Labeling Method for Identifying the Wet Dynamic Coefficient of Friction (Traction) of Floor Coverings, Floor Coatings, and Treatments

(Product Information Safety Marking)

Secretariat



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Foreword

(This Foreword is not part of the proposed NFSI B101.5-2020 Standard)

The NFSI was founded in 1997 with the mission: "To aid in the prevention of slips, trips and falls through education, research and standards development." The development of the NFSI B101.5 Standard is a direct result of the mission of the NFSI answering a need for consumer education to ameliorate the effects of falls.

The NFSI B101.5-2020: *Standard Guide for Uniform Labeling Method for Identifying the Wet Dynamic Coefficient of Friction (Traction) of Floor Coverings, Floor Coatings, and Treatments* answers the perceived need for this standard, through an educational approach, to stem the growing number of slips and falls as they relate to insufficient walkway surface traction by defining three separate ranges of traction. Given that the consumer of floor coverings is rarely provided information relevant to the slip resistance characteristics of the floor coverings they purchase, and are unable to comprehend technical information relevant to the measurement of coefficient of friction (COF) the need for an easy-to-understand, consumer driven label using a tested symbol graphic to do so has been brought forth.

The B101 Standards series are targeted at slip, trip and fall prevention which, in this context, set standards for maintaining a safe wet coefficient of friction on various walking surfaces members of the public may encounter. The B101.5 Standard is a part of that development project and exists to provide a consumer-friendly symbol graphic to be displayed on these products so purchasers of flooring and floor maintenance products are educated and informed of the inherent slip resistance of that particular product. By referring to this graphic the consumer can make an educated buying decision on flooring and floor maintenance products by being easily able to compare the relative slip resistance properties of competing products. By affixing the graphic this standard establishes a product labeling method which specifies three levels of traction derived from the *NFSI B101.3 Test Method for Measuring Wet DCOF of Common Hard Surface Floor Materials*.

The symbol graphic presented in the standard was developed from a field of several collected by the standards developer. This standard's use of color is, in part, based on those developed by the ANSI Z535.1 Safety Colors Standard, which focused on improving labeling safety through uniformity in safety color coding. Like the ANSI Z535.1 standard, the safety color codes used in this standard were selected to provide the best feasible discrimination for observers with either normal or color-deficient ("color blind") vision.

Neither the B101 Main Standards Committee, nor the standards developer, perceive that this standard is perfect or in its ultimate form. It is recognized that new developments in communications are to be expected, and that revisions of the standard may be necessary as the combination of science and art progresses and further experience is gained. The committee does believe, however, that the standard in its present form provides a comprehensive guide when selecting flooring materials and floor maintenance products. To this end, it is intended that the requirements contained herein will be adopted by the affected general public, contractors, property owners, and relevant professionals as they seek to make a more informed decision in selecting appropriate floor materials.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

Requests for interpretations or suggestions for improvement of this standard should be directed to the National Floor Safety Institute (NFSI).

The information in this publication was considered technically sound by the consensus of persons engaged in the development and approval of the document at the time it was developed. Consensus does not necessarily mean that there is unanimous agreement among every person participating in the development of this document.

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This standard was processed and approved for submittal by the NFSI B101 Committee on Safety Requirements for Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention. Committee approval of the standard does not necessarily imply that all committee members voted for its approval. At the time it approved this standard, the B101 Standards Committee had the following members:

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In Memory of Mrs. Catherine Eugenia "Jean" Finnegan

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	2
B101 Main Committee Roster	4
B101.5 Subcommittee Roster	5
Section 1 Scope/Application/Purpose	7
Section 2 Reference to Standards and Other Documents.....	7
Section 3 Definitions	7
Section 4 General Requirements of Label/Marking	8
4.1 Location on Package	8
4.2 Symbol/Marking Specifications	8
4.3 Symbol size.....	9
4.4 Graphic presentation of the marking symbol.....	9
4.5 Exemplars of Figures.....	9
Section 5 Package/Container Marking.....	12
Section 6 Point of Purchase (POP) Information.....	12

Figures

1. A-C Traction Symbols – Black on White
2. A-C Traction Symbols - Color
3. A-B Minimum Size Traction Symbol

B101.5 Standard Guide for Uniform Labeling Method for Identifying the Wet Dynamic Coefficient of Friction (Traction) of Floor Coverings, Floor Coatings, and Treatments

Section 1 Scope/Application/Purpose

1.1 Scope: This guideline sets forth a uniform product labeling method which identifies the wet dynamic coefficient of friction (traction) of floor coverings, floor coatings, and floor treatments (collectively referred to as “floor products”). Carpeting, rugs, mats, runners, and artificial turf, however, are not within the scope of this standard and, therefore, are not within the scope of “floor products”.

1.2 Application: This standard applies to floor products used primarily on public and private areas for household, individual or non-commercial use where pedestrians ambulate. The term “floor products” refers to floor coverings, coatings, and treatments intended for floor coverings except carpeting, rugs, mats, runners, and artificial turf.

1.3 Purpose: The purpose of this standard is to offer, at the point of product sale, guidance to users/purchasers on the traction capabilities of the contents of the package through display of labels and markings.

Section 2 Reference to Standards and Other Documents

2.2 NFSI B101.3 (most current version) Test Method for Measuring the Wet DCOF of Hard Surface Walkways

2.3 ANSI Z535 Signs and Colors Standards Series¹

Section 3 Definitions

3.1 cleaner - a chemical substance used to remove foreign matter, soil, or other treatments from a surface.

3.2 floor (in a building) - surface, usually horizontal, which persons typically walk or run.

3.3 floor coatings - a layer of any substance or liquid applied to a surface that dries or cures to form a solid protective finish to enhance its functional or decorative characteristics. (ie: floor polish, finish, paint, or floor coating).

3.4 floor covering - an essentially planar material, combination of resilient materials or combination of resilient material and rigid materials used to provide a finished walking surface on a floor to enhance the beauty, comfort, and utility of the floor.

¹ See ANSI Z535 2006 Color Chart, NEMA Rosslyn, VA 22209 for more information regarding Pantone Matching System.