The specification and classification for usage areas for most flooring products is covered by product specification standard. This may be a British and European (BS EN) standard or more recently an international standard (ISO) which is, in most cases, adopted as a BS and EN (BS EN ISO) standard. These standards detail the essential product specification requirements and the prescribed test methods applicable for the performance characteristics appropriate to the product. The performance results are used to classify the product for type and intensity of use.

These standards generally relate to the product construction and the physical performance properties relevant to durability in use. As such, manufacturers will provide a product technical specification listing the construction and performance details of the product against the essential characteristics listed within the product specification standard.

In addition to the above standards, there is also a harmonised standard which covers Resilient, Laminate and Textile floorcovering (BS EN14041:2004 resilient, laminate and textile floor coverings. Essential characteristics). Harmonised standards relate to performance properties largely concerned with health and safety matters and require declarations of performance in relation to factors such as fire behaviour and slip resistance. Declarations of performance against such properties have to be made against the requirements of the harmonised standard to allow CE marking of products.

CE marking is a legal requirement of the European Construction Product Regulation (CPR) for products subject to a harmonised standard and sold in the EU. Product manufacturers are required to make declarations of performance against a number of optional and mandatory performance criteria.
A declaration of fire behaviour is a mandatory requirement of BS EN14041. In this case the fire behaviour of the floor covering is classified in accordance with BS EN 13501-1:2007+A1:2009. Fire classification of construction products and building elements. Classification using test data from reaction to fire tests

Local building requirements or regulations may also apply in addition to CE marking, the requirements of which may be in addition to, or require higher performance levels than those required for CE marking.

Where a harmonised standard does not exist for a specific product group, CE marking is not required but, where they exist, local regulations will still need to be met.

How do the above affect Nuway Tuftiguard entrance flooring systems?
Entrance flooring systems will fall into one of two categories, textile or rigid (rigid systems with textile inserts would still be classified as rigid systems). Nuway Tuftiguard is a rigid system.

Textile products fall within the scope of both a product standard (BS EN1307; 2008 Textile floor coverings. Classification of pile carpets) and the harmonised standard for floor coverings (BS EN14041). A technical specification will therefore be provided by product manufacturers that confirms the product characteristics and performance properties against the requirements of the product standard. In addition, there will be an additional performance table which details the performance declarations against the mandatory requirements of the harmonised standard which will include fire behaviour.

The diversity of construction of rigid entrance systems is such that they are not covered by any product standard, nor do they come under the scope of a harmonised standard. There is not, therefore, a common set of performance criteria for rigid systems to meet or to be measured against, or any requirement for CE marking. Technical information provided by manufacturers will, therefore, generally reflect the physical characteristics of the product most relevant to its construction and intended area of use.

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