

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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SUBJECT: Carpet, Wall Base & Floor Tile Mastic Sampling (REVISED)

This Bulletin revises the Technical Bulletin regarding this topic dated November 20, 2008.

In an effort to adequately sample suspect carpet, wall base and tile flooring mastics, the following protocol should be utilized for sampling of carpet mastic, wall base mastic, and 12" x 12" floor tiles which are obviously not original to the building's construction and installed after 1981: sample these materials per homogeneous area of carpet, wall base, and floor tile within a given construction unit instead of simply targeting the material itself. The table below has been established to explain this revised sampling method for a building built in 1935 with 3 separate additions (note that *carpet* in the table below can be replaced with *wall base* or *12" x 12" floor tile*).

Construction Unit	Green Carpet		Red Carpet		Purple Carpet		Blue Carpet		Brown Carpet	
	Exist	#Samples	Exist	#Samples	Exist	#Samples	Exist	#Samples	Exist	#Samples
1935	Y	1	Y	1	Y	1	Y	1	Y	1
1957	N	--	Y	1	Y	1	Y	1	Y	1
1972	N	--	N	--	N	--	Y	1	Y	2*
1976	N	--	N	--	N	--	N	--	Y	3

* Assuming there is more brown carpet than blue carpet in target facility.

As shown in the table above, the idea is to target the construction unit more than the type of carpet, wall base, and floor tile when they are obviously not the original flooring materials. Assuming that each of the materials identified in the table above were installed in more than 3 rooms, our previous sample protocol would have us collecting 15 samples; our new protocol still has us procuring 15 samples however they would be collected in much different way. Note that if only one room in a given construction unit is carpeted then 2 samples of the mastic are sufficient (unless the one room is large or inspector feels more than 2 samples are necessary to deem that the mastic is a non-asbestos-containing material).

For information reported in table above, we would have a total of 4 bulk sample records for carpet mastic, one for each of the construction units. Behind each of the sample locations, simply enter color of carpet (in parenthesis) from which the sample was procured. The description for the bulk sample record will note that various colors and/or styles of carpet exist.

Note that this protocol is a guide; if field conditions warrant sampling in yet another manner (e.g., 50,000 square feet of any one type of carpet) then you as the inspector should take these samples in "a manner sufficient to determine" the asbestos-content of suspect materials. For example, inspectors should make sure that at least 3 samples of mastic from each homogeneous area of carpet should be analyzed if it is black or dark brown (those typically found to contain asbestos).

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