



Why Accredited Flooring Testing Supports Better Product Decisions

Flooring manufacturers rely on test data to compare materials, validate performance claims, respond to retailer requests, support specifications, and confirm that products continue to perform as expected after formulation, supplier, or process changes.

That makes the lab behind the report an integral part of the product decision. Flooring products are sensitive to material construction, conditioning, moisture exposure, adhesives, installation methods, and test conditions. Results are most useful when the method fits the product, equipment is properly controlled, technicians understand the material, and the report holds up under review.

ISO/IEC 17025 provides a framework for that level of control. The international standard sets requirements for testing and calibration laboratories, including competence, impartiality, and consistent operation. For flooring manufacturers, working with an ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratory can provide added assurance that testing is performed under a defined quality system and within the laboratory's accredited scope.

Flooring Testing Depends on More Than the Standard

Accreditation does not mean every lab is the right fit for every flooring product. It means the laboratory has been independently assessed for specific testing activities within its scope. That distinction is important because results may be reviewed by retailers, specifiers, certification bodies,

“Accredited flooring testing helps manufacturers make better product decisions with reliable data that supports performance claims, approvals, specifications, and product changes.”

regulatory agencies, commercial buyers, or project teams.

ASTM, ISO, EN, AATCC, and other standards provide the framework for many flooring tests, but execution still affects the value of the results. The lab still needs to understand how the product is built, how it will be installed, and which conditions could affect its performance.

For flooring products, relevant variables can include fiber type, wear layer, core construction, backing system, adhesive, underlayment, surface finish, recycled content, moisture exposure, cleaning methods, temperature, humidity, and intended use.

Those details can affect testing for durability, dimensional stability, slip resistance, fire performance, indoor air quality, moisture exposure, indentation, adhesive compatibility, appearance retention, and cleaning or maintenance performance.

Why Accredited Flooring Testing Supports Better Product Decisions



For manufacturers, the goal is not just to achieve a passing result but to generate data that reflects the product being sold, the market it is entering, and the claims or requirements it must meet.

Old Test Data Can Lose Relevance

A flooring test report may remain in a file for years, but the product behind it may not stay the same. Materials change. Suppliers change. Production processes change. Standards are revised. A product originally tested for one environment may later be sold into a different one.

That can create gaps in the documentation manufacturers use for approval, specification, or compliance review. Retesting or an updated review may be needed when raw materials or suppliers change, when backing systems, coatings, adhesives, or finishes are modified, when manufacturing processes are adjusted, when standards are revised, or when a product enters a new market or application.

Updated testing can help confirm whether the existing data still applies and whether additional evaluation is needed to support the product's current use.

The Right Lab Helps Reduce Uncertainty

Choosing a flooring testing lab is not just a purchasing decision. It can affect product development timelines, retailer approvals, specification reviews, and the credibility of performance claims.

Before selecting a lab, manufacturers can assess capabilities by asking a few questions:

- Is the lab accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for the relevant methods?
- Does the team have experience with the specific flooring category?
- Are equipment calibration and environmental controls documented?
- Can the lab help identify the correct test method?
- Are reports clear enough for customers, retailers, specifiers, and project teams?
- Can the lab support retesting when standards, materials, or applications change?

These questions help distinguish a lab that can perform a test from one that can support the full testing process.

Accreditation and Flooring Expertise Work Together

Accreditation provides the quality system behind the results. Flooring expertise helps make the testing program fit the product, application, and standard.

Both are needed. Accredited systems support traceability, consistency, and defensible reporting. Flooring knowledge helps account for variables that can affect product performance, including construction, installation, environmental conditions, and market expectations.

That combination is especially useful when test data supports durability claims, indoor air quality requirements, fire performance, slip resistance, moisture resistance, installation compatibility, certification, retailer documentation, or market access.

How Intertek Supports Flooring Manufacturers

Intertek supports flooring manufacturers with testing and certification services for carpet, resilient flooring, laminate, wood, tile, rubber flooring, adhesives, underlayments, and related floor covering systems.

We help manufacturers identify the testing criteria that apply to the product, its intended use, and market requirements. Depending on the flooring type and application, Intertek can provide testing for durability, dimensional stability, slip resistance, fire performance, indoor air quality, moisture exposure, indentation, adhesive compatibility, installation conditions, and other performance areas aligned with ASTM, ISO, EN, AATCC, or other recognized standards.

By aligning testing with the product and its intended market, Intertek helps manufacturers generate data for product development, quality control, retailer submissions, project specifications, certification programs, compliance review, and market access. **Click here** for more information.

LinkedIn Insights (Issue 026)



1.800.WORLDFLAB



icenter@intertek.com



intertek.com/building

*Click here to
subscribe
to our LinkedIn
Newsletter*