

Introduction

The ANSI A326.3-2021 standard addresses the dynamic coefficient of friction (DCOF) of hard surface flooring materials, primarily focusing on pedestrian safety and slip resistance. This standard builds upon the existing ANSI A326 series and introduces enhanced testing procedures under dry conditions and performance criteria with incorporation of product use classification. Previous testing was done under wet conditions and did not provide a clear understanding of where products could be installed.

Scope

The ANSI A326.3-2021 standard applies to all hard surface flooring materials, including but not limited to ceramic and porcelain tiles, natural stone, concrete, and other similar materials used in commercial and industrial settings.

Key Updates

The ANSI Accredited Standards Committee responsible for the standard, developed five categories, which allow manufacturers to directly communicate areas of use based on the slip resistance characteristics of their products.

Classification	Reference Category	Criteria	Possible Areas of Use
Interior, Dry	ID	Manufacturer Declared or ≥ 0.42 dry DCOF	Hotel lobbies • Office buildings • Indoor shopping malls (not food court) <i>Includes polished finish</i>
Interior, Wet	IW	Manufacturer Declared or ≥ 0.42 wet DCOF	FOH restaurant (fine or casual dining - closed kitchen) • Grocery stores • Entry foyers • Public restrooms (without showers) • Home Interiors & Hotel Units including Kitchens and Bathrooms
Interior, Wet Plus	IW+	Manufacturer Declared or > 0.50 wet DCOF	FOH restaurant (open kitchens + all quick service, fast-casual and self service restaurants) • Public Restrooms with Showers, including Locker & Steam Rooms. • Interior pool decks • Covered exterior areas
Exterior, Wet	EW	Manufacturer Declared or > 0.55 wet DCOF	Walkways • Exterior pool decks • Patios
Oils/Greases	O/G	Manufacturer Declared or > 0.55 wet DCOF	BOH restaurant • Food prep area Any area where oil, grease, and/or fats may be present.

Benefits

Product use classifications provide a clear and immediate indication of suitable installation locations based on manufacturer declaration. An understanding of where flooring products can be used eliminates confusion and serves useful to specifiers, builders, and consumers alike. All products from Creative Materials that have a product use classification are noted on the product pages of the website. Testing is available from the TCNA, with applicable costs, for product use classification, where not available from the manufacturer.

Limitations

There is no control over which method(s) or standard(s) manufacturers use for testing and product declaration. Not all manufacturers are using product use classification for their products. The use of product use classifications does not prevent slip/fall events, which may occur due to an unexpected change in traction, but rather avoids installations in non-recommended locations.

