



## **The Carpet and Rug Institute Seal of Approval Testing Program for Interim Maintenance Systems**

Thank you for your interest in the Carpet and Rug Institute's Seal of Approval program for Interim Maintenance Systems.

The general procedures for manufacturers to submit products for certification are quite simple. Read and understand the information on the attachments then follow these steps:

- Print two copies of the Participation Agreement. A company officer should sign both copies in the proper blank areas. Send one copy to the Carpet and Rug Institute, ATTN: SOA Program Administrator, P. O. Box 2048, Dalton, Georgia 30722. Keep the other copy for your records.
- Print a copy of the Product Submission form. Fill in the appropriate spaces for submission of your product. Please prepare a form for each interim maintenance system to be submitted. Return this form to CRI with the Participation Agreement.
- A Schedule of Fees for the program is attached. If you desire information on becoming a CRI member company, please call our membership desk at 706-428-2114. Your company does not need to be a CRI member to participate. Fees must be prepaid before any units are accepted for testing.

You may address questions about the program to Pat Jennings, e-mail [pjennings@carpet-rug.org](mailto:pjennings@carpet-rug.org) or at 706-428-2123.

Again, thank you for your interest.



## Interim Maintenance Systems Procedure Options

1. What kinds of products do you clean - Commercial Cut Pile, Commercial Loop, or both?
2. If both, do you want your equipment tested for both substrates, or one only?
  - a. If you notify us before testing begins, the laboratory will test and assess your equipment on both substrates simultaneously for an upcharge fee (see fee schedule). You will receive a rating report for both substrates.
  - b. If you request a Commercial Cut Pile test only **and the system passes**, you will automatically be approved for both substrates.
    - i. If you request a Commercial Cut Pile test only **and the system does not pass**, you may opt to test for Commercial Loop. If so, you will be charged for two substrate tests (see fee schedule).
    - ii. If you request a Commercial Loop test only and **the system passes**, the system will be rated/approved for use on Commercial Loop only.



## CRI SEAL OF APPROVAL PROGRAM for INTERIM MAINTENANCE SYSTEMS - PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT -

This Participation Agreement (the "Agreement") between \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (the "Company"),  
a duly registered corporation with its principal place of business at \_\_\_\_\_  
and the Carpet and Rug Institute ("CRI"), a nonprofit trade association duly registered as a Georgia corporation  
with its principal place of business at 100 South Hamilton Street, Dalton, Georgia, is entered into this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, CRI conducts a Voluntary Interim Maintenance Systems Program (the "Program"), which  
examines interim maintenance systems used in the maintenance of carpet, and authorizes the appropriate use  
of a CRI Seal of Approval label (the "Label") and logo (the "Logo") for those cleaning systems that meet all  
parts of the Program evaluation standards, and;

WHEREAS, the Company desires to participate in the CRI Voluntary Interim Maintenance Systems Seal of  
Approval Program to verify that cleaning equipment, cleaning chemicals and overall system procedures meet  
the evaluation Standard;

WHEREAS, this Participation Agreement is intended to govern the rights and obligations of all companies that  
elect to participate in the voluntary Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the matters recited above and the mutual covenants herein contained  
and intending to be legally bound hereby, the Company and CRI hereto agree as follows:

### 1. Interim Maintenance Systems Program - Test Procedures

(a) The Application. In order to be eligible for issuance of the Label or Logo, the company shall  
apply to CRI for testing and assignment of a company test identification number. The application, using a  
special CRI supplied application form, shall identify all aspects of the system including brand names, selling  
names, private label names, or other product identifiers representing the systems type that have the same  
components, including cleaning performance characteristics and mechanical makeup.

(b) Systems Submittals - Upon mutual signing of the Participation Agreement and within 30 days of  
the notification by CRI, the Company shall make available to CRI, or its agent, representative equipment and  
associated chemicals as commonly utilized in the system or offered commercially in the marketplace. Special  
laboratory or experimental units or chemicals not normally used with the system are not acceptable. The  
submission must be representative of normal usage and practices.

(c) Testing and Test Protocols - The systems performance tests will be conducted in a uniform and  
impartial manner by a testing facility which is independent of CRI, and is under contract with CRI for  
performance of Program testing. The Company's submittal shall be tested using consensus-based test  
standards to determine acceptable systems cleaning performance. Said standards are available from upon  
request from CRI.

(d) Program Acceptance - CRI will notify, through a formal written documentation, that the system  
was evaluated in accordance with the Program test procedures, and that the tests confirmed, or did not  
confirm, that the system meets the Program's performance Standards. In cases of failure, the notification shall  
specify which specific standards or parts of standards were not met. If the system meets the Standard criteria,  
the Company shall be entitled to use the Label and Logo in the manner set forth below. The Company shall be  
responsible to maintain consistent compliance of their tested products with the Standard. Test data is provided

to the Company for its internal use only. The specific information and details contained in these test data are not to be used in advertising or promotional materials. Any other use or distribution of these test data is prohibited without the express written consent of the Carpet and Rug Institute.

2. The Label. After the Company receives formal notification from CRI that the system was tested in accordance with the Program test procedures, and that the test confirmed that the system meets the Program Standards, the Company shall be entitled to use the Label or Logo in the manner set forth below:

(a) Label Specifications. CRI shall have the sole right to determine the Label design, its mode of intended application, or to permit the manufacturing or affixation of the Label.

(b) Use of the Label. The Company shall use the Label only as authorized by the Program. The Label's design as used by the Company cannot vary in any way from the Label as approved and used by the Program.

(c) Quality Assurance. The Company shall have sole responsibility, and shall take all steps reasonably necessary, to ensure that only the qualifying system, as tested and authorized, shall utilize the Label in accordance with Program requirements; any deviation from the Label's approved use may result in termination in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

(d) Non-transferability. The Label shall not be transferred to any other entity except in cases of sale, merger, or consolidation of the Company with such other entity.

3. Compliance with Changes in the Program Test Standards or Requirements. If the Program's test standards or requirements, or the Label or Logo itself, are changed by CRI subsequent to CRI's issuance of the Label or Logo approval, the Company shall comply with those changes within 6 months after receipt of notice of those changes. Failure to comply with those changes may result in decertification or termination in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

4. Company Payments to CRI. The Company shall remit to CRI the Program fee(s) established by CRI for testing, use of the Label and Logo, the registration and listing of their cleaning system, Remittance of fees shall be made prior to testing. A schedule of current fees shall be provided by CRI to all member and non-member companies.

5. Termination.

(a) CRI may unilaterally terminate this Agreement with the Company if the Company violates any term of this agreement, misuses the Label or Logo, or fails to adhere to any other specific conditions of the Program participation. Prior to such termination, the Company shall have thirty (30) days from receiving notice of any violation to present facts justifying reconsideration of the termination, including facts to demonstrate that the Company has remedied the violation or initiated corrective action to remedy such violation. Thirty (30) days after the Company receives termination notice, CRI, in its sole discretion, may terminate the agreement with the Company effective immediately, if the violation has not been remedied or corrective action to remedy the violation has not been initiated. All corrections of violations shall be completed within 90 days of notification of violations.

(b) The Company may terminate this Agreement and resign from the Program at any time by means of written notice to CRI.

(c) Rights of Termination. Upon the effective date of the Company's notice of resignation or termination from the Program, the Company shall have no future right to use the Label or Logo. The Company may not continue imprinting the Label or Logo. Any outstanding financial obligations relative to the Program

owed to CRI at the time of termination shall be paid by the Company within thirty (30) days after the Company's termination or resignation from the Program. Under no circumstances shall the Company be entitled to any refund from CRI. Termination shall not affect labels or logos applied prior to termination.

6. Confidentiality.

(a) "Confidential Information" for the purpose of this Agreement shall constitute any written information which is: (1) disclosed by the Company to CRI pursuant to the Program including, but not limited to, responses to questionnaires completed by the Company and sent to CRI, and (2) labeled by the Company as "Confidential Information." However, Confidential Information shall not include information which is or becomes part of the public domain as may be required by applicable law, regulation, or the Freedom of Information Act, and information which CRI can reasonably show was already in its or its staff's possession or otherwise in the public domain on a nonconfidential basis at the time of disclosure by the Company.

(b) CRI will treat Confidential Information in accordance with established professional standards of conduct for trade associations and will use such information internally only as necessary to effect the purpose of the Program for the benefit of the Company. CRI will not use, rely on, or disseminate to any person or entity outside of CRI any Confidential Information, unless such use, reliance, or dissemination is specifically approved in writing by a duly authorized representative of the Company in advance or is required by federal, state, or local law. It will not be inconsistent with CRI's duties of confidentiality hereunder to provide government authorities with summaries of participating Companies' data, as long as no Company's identity is disclosed therein.

(c) CRI recognizes that the Confidential Information provided in connection with this Program is and will remain the property of the Company, to be used by CRI for the duration of the Program only, and if the Program is terminated, CRI will, at the request of the Company, return the information to the degree possible and practicable to the Company.

7. Entire Agreement; Amendment; Waiver. This Agreement supersedes any previous arrangements or understandings, whether written or oral, and contains the entire agreement of the parties, with respect to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may be modified, varied, or otherwise amended only in writing, signed by the parties to be bound by such agreement. There shall be no modification of any provision of this agreement, including testing requirements, unless uniformly applied to all members and or participating companies.

8. Governing Law. This Agreement has been entered into under, and shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. By affixing their signatures hereto, CRI and the Company make themselves amenable to the jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Georgia. Each party shall have the right to institute judicial proceedings against the other party or anyone acting by, through or under such other party in order for enforce the instituting party's rights hereunder through specific performance, injunction or similar equitable relief.

9. Arbitration. All disputes and disagreements between the Company and CRI relating to this Agreement shall, at the option of either party and by notice to the other party, be settled by binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of the American Arbitration Association.

10. Notice. All notices and other communications required or permitted hereunder, or which are necessary or convenient in connection herewith, shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given three (3) business days after the date when mailed by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or the next business day if sent by a reputable overnight delivery service (except that notice of change of address shall be deemed given only when received), to the addresses provided as follows, or to such other names and addresses as the parties shall designate by notice to the other party in the manner specified in this paragraph.

If to CRI:

If to the Company:

The Carpet and Rug Institute, Inc.  
100 S Hamilton St, Dalton, GA 30720

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the date first written above.

Officer for The Carpet and Rug Institute, Inc.

Signed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Officer for the Company

Signed By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **The Following Standards are applied To Evaluate Interim Carpet Maintenance Systems**

### **Standard Laboratory Practice For Determining the level of Visual Improvement Attributed to an Interim Maintenance System**

This test practice determines the interim maintenance efficacy of carpet maintenance systems which are designed to be used between deep cleaning maintenance. The interim maintenance system is tested on uniformly soiled control carpets then rated visually and instrumentally to determine the degree to which the maintenance system was able to visually improve the appearance of the control carpet. A minimum of one full step visual improvement per AATCC gray scale is required.

### **Standard Laboratory Practice For Accelerated Re-soiling Propensity of Pile Yarn Floor Covering**

This test is intended to determine the effects of cleaning equipment, chemistry and technologies on the resoiling properties of a specified floor covering. A control test carpet (non-soiled) is cleaned according to the client's directions, allowed to thoroughly dry, and then soiled per ASTM D6540-2012. An additional control carpet, that has not been cleaned, is soiled per ASTM D6540-2012. The differential soil level between the cleaned and soiled carpet and the non-cleaned control soiled carpet is evaluated using the AATCC Gray Scale for Color Change. Less than a half-step differential per the AATCC gray scale is allowed.

### **Standard Laboratory Practice For Determining the pH of Cleaning Chemicals Intended for Use on Carpets**

Chemicals which are extremely acidic or alkaline have been known to adversely affect dyes and factory applied soil and stain release treatments. Chemicals with a more neutral pH are generally considered safer to use when cleaning carpets or rugs. The diluted formula is tested by a standard pH meter. The acceptable range is between 4pH and 10pH.

### **Standard Laboratory Practice For Determining the Presence of Optical Brighteners in Cleaning Chemicals**

The presence of optical brighteners in carpet cleaning chemicals has been known to adversely affect fiber color, appearance and long term performance. The cleaning agent is evaluated for optical brightener content using fluorescence. No optical brighteners are allowed.

**Standard Laboratory Practice**  
**For Colorfastness Assessment of Cleaning Chemicals on a Standard Carpet Sample**

Cleaning chemical residues present on pile yarn floor coverings have been known to adversely affect dyes and accelerate color change. The level to which a chemical residue contributes to color change is determined by exposing a chemically treated standard test carpet with an untreated control sample to accelerated light in accordance with AATCC test Method 16. Accelerated color change in the treated test carpet is compared to the untreated test carpet after exposure. Less than a half step differential per AATCC gray scale is allowed.

**Standard Laboratory Practice**  
**For Evaluating Surface Appearance Change due to Repeated Cleanings**

This test practice provides a laboratory test for the measurement of surface appearance change of a textile floor covering as a direct result of multiple cleaning passes in a controlled environment. This test practice is applicable to all commercial cleaning systems. Thirty-three cleaning cycles (determined to be the life of the carpet) are applied to commercial cut and/or loop pile carpet for commercial specific systems. Texture appearance change is visually rated and be less than or equip to the CRI Reference Photograph.

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**The Carpet and Rug Institute**  
 P.O. Box 2048, Dalton, Georgia 30722 USA  
 Phone: (706) 428-2123 Fax: (706) 428-3103  
 Website: www.carpet-rug.org

## SOA Interim Maintenance Systems /Registration Form Commercial

1. We request testing of the following unit type:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
(full description of equipment)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_  
(accessories, if any, to be used with above)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_  
(chemicals, dilution rates, other)

The proposed procedure must be representative of reasonable practice. If not, CRI reserves the right to review the proposed procedure and it will be passed to a review committee for advice

Vacuum Brand (if employed) \_\_\_\_\_ Vacuum Passes \_\_\_\_\_ (total maximum passes – 4)

Chemical Selected \_\_\_\_\_ Intank \_\_\_\_\_ PreSpray \_\_\_\_\_

Dilution Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Application Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Brand (Extractor) \_\_\_\_\_ Wet Passes \_\_\_\_\_ Dry Passes \_\_\_\_\_

(Total maximum passes – 4)

Speed of passes \_\_\_\_\_

2. Listed below are “same as” systems, identical to the above model system except for cosmetic or brand differences. Note: Additional charges apply.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3.

Company	Submitted By (Coordinator) <span style="color: red;">*****</span>
Address	Phone
City, State, Zip	Fax
	Email

\*\*\*\*\* By signing this document the Coordinator verifies that the equipment company, accessories company (if to be used), and the chemical company have been notified and agrees that the submitter (coordinator) intends to combine the products for systems testing and certification. In addition, the Coordinator verifies that the procedure is the day-to-day procedure recommended for carpet cleaning system.

Note: Please submit separate form for each test to be performed.



**The Carpet and Rug Institute**  
P.O. Box 2048, Dalton, Georgia 30722 USA  
Phone: (706) 428-2123 Fax: (706) 428-3101  
Website: www.carpet-rug.org



### Interim Maintenance Seal of Approval Participation Fees

	<b>CRI MEMBER COMPANY</b>	<b>NON-CRI MEMBER COMPANY</b>
INITIAL TEST AND FIRST YEAR PARTICIPATION	\$3,275	\$4,000
ANNUAL RENEWAL FEE PER TESTED PRODUCT	\$50	\$75
Private Label* Fees	\$55 Each	\$75 Each

**NOTE: If Interim Maintenance System passes texture change using the standard commercial cut pile substrate it is approved for all commercial carpets.**

**If Interim Maintenance System supplier elects to submit their system for testing on the commercial loop pile and passes texture change the system is approved for only loop pile commercial carpet.**

\*\*Private Label” models are equipment with cosmetic or other variations that do not affect the overall performance as assessed in the SOA testing regimen. These may also be private labeled models of the same engineering design and performance.



## Seal of Approval – Administrative Procedures

### New Participants:

1. Inquiries for Participation –  
Direct to website, answer questions if not covered on website.  
Participation Agreement  
Registration Form  
Overview or Criteria  
Schedule of Fees – Downloaded or sent via mail, UPS, FedEx etc.
2. Participating company is instructed to return the following documents
  - a. Participation Agreement – signed
  - b. Registration Form – completed
  - c. Remittance of Fees
  - d. Sample of Product to be tested
    - i. If solutions, sample is sent directly to CRI
    - ii. If equipment is an extractor, deliver directly to laboratory
    - iii. If Vacuum Cleaner, send directly to CRI
3. Participation Agreement signed by President – CRI – Copy made, original returned to participant. Copy placed in newly generated customer file.
4. Registration Form copied and check, if present, given to accounting to invoice participating company
5. Entry made into database (Public Drive/D/Database/\*)
6. Initiate Chain of Custody form using number assigned from database

### “Same As” and/or Private Labels

1. Participant submits private label registration form – completed
2. Remittance of Fees by participant
3. Administrator enters information into database
4. Administrator requests webmaster to list product on website

### Sample Handling

1. Chain of Custody is required for all SOA testing either with new or established participants. Note: Manufacturers submitting samples for testing directly to the laboratory may not use test results for certification. All testing must comply with CRI's participation agreement and test procedures.
2. Administrator verifies that the product is commercially available in the market place. Special laboratory or experimental units or chemicals are not acceptable. In the case of solutions, a copy of

the container label and/or MSDS document must be obtained for inclusion in the participant's file.

3. Administrator coordinates transmission of samples to lab - Include Chain of Custody and sample of product.
4. Administrator records sample receipt date and date of delivery to laboratory on database.

### **Report Review – Obtained via e-mail, USPS or CRI pick-up.**

1. Report reviewed and information is entered into database, to include test number assigned by laboratory, test results recorded as pass/fail (for equipment, the level is recorded), and date of testing. If product is a vacuum, include company identification number. If a "same as" listing has been requested that information is also added to the database.
2. If deep cleaning systems testing has been done as per manufacturer's instructions and those instructions are deemed to be impractical from a productivity standpoint for real world application, the SOA Administrator will so inform CRI management for possible review by the Test Review Board. Until Board renders a decision on practicality, the disposition of the test will be placed on hold before further action.
3. Notification
  - a. Passing Notification – A congratulatory letter is prepared with the instructions on how to promote the successful product including a copy of the test results, electronic logo and/or label and graphic standard guidelines and is sent to the company's contact person via email when practical.
  - b. Failing Notification – An email is transmitted along with the test results explaining area of deficiency to the company's contact person.
  - c. Regardless of pass/fail status, copies of all pertinent documents are sent to
    - i. Coordinator – Seal of Approval Program
    - ii. Webmaster
      1. For inclusion on SOA website and to be submitted to the Communications Director for Newline entry
    - iii. Accounting Department
      1. To insure invoice has been paid prior to inclusion on website.

### **Follow Up**

1. Administrator will review unresolved administrative issues prior to retiring file to completed projects status.
2. Recertification of Solutions
  - a) During September of each year, randomly select twenty-five percent (25%) from pool of approved products.

- b) Administrator will collect sample and submit to laboratory for battery of tests as used for initial certification. Completion of the recertification process should be completed within sixty days.
- c) Procedures for this process are identical to the ones described above for new applicants. The product selected will be excluded from future testing for a period of four years.
- d) The company will be notified by the administrator of results.
- e) Failing products will require retesting within sixty (60) days of notification and shall be at the expense of the manufacturer.
- f) If such testing is not successfully completed within that time frame, the product will be removed from CRI's website until such time as the product passes the testing requirements.

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