

NFPA[®]

265

**Standard Methods of
Fire Tests for Evaluating Room Fire
Growth Contribution of Textile or
Expanded Vinyl Wall Coverings on
Full Height Panels and Walls**

2019



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NFPA® 265

Standard Methods of

Fire Tests for Evaluating Room Fire Growth Contribution of Textile or Expanded Vinyl Wall Coverings on Full Height Panels and Walls

2019 Edition

This edition of NFPA 265, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Evaluating Room Fire Growth Contribution of Textile or Expanded Vinyl Wall Coverings on Full Height Panels and Walls*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 5, 2018, with an effective date of November 25, 2018, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 265 was approved as an American National Standard on November 25, 2018.

Origin and Development of NFPA 265

The danger of using carpet-like textile coverings on walls and ceilings is well known, and these coverings have been recognized as a major contributing factor in many fires. Research conducted by the Fire Research Laboratory of the University of California at Berkeley and the American Textile Manufacturers Institute produced a report, "Room Fire Experience of Textile Wall Coverings," that indicated that consideration of only the flame spread rating as measured by NFPA 255, *Standard Method of Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*, might not reliably predict the fire behavior of textile wall coverings.

The proposed standard was intended to fill a void and complement the series of interior finish fire tests that were being referenced in NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, and other codes. The standard created a testing method that addressed the recognized hazards of using textile materials for wall coverings by supplying a means to evaluate the performance characteristics under specified fire exposure conditions and providing a valid repeatable and reproducible fire test method.

The 1998 edition was revised to include current practices used in testing laboratories. Requirements for the measurement of smoke obscuration were also added. These changes were directly associated with the revisions to the 1997 edition of NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*, on interior finishes.

The 2002 edition was revised to comply with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents* regarding standardization of format.

The 2007 edition was revised to include new requirements for visual documentation. Specific protocols and other related requirements were added for video and photographic equipment. Revisions were also made to the test procedure, and what was known as the Method A Test Protocol in previous editions was moved to Annex C. Method A is a screening protocol and was deemed not to be equivalent to Method B, which tests three fully lined walls.

The 2011 edition was revised to include expanded vinyl wall coverings. New requirements were added to Section 5.1 to provide more guidance on specimen mounting.

The 2015 edition was updated to include new requirements for specimen descriptions and to address adhesives used in panels constructed at the test facility.

The 2019 edition has been updated to address modern fiber-cement board used for mounting wall coverings.