

Nomenclature for Subjective Rating Processes

Adopted in 1951 by AATCC; revised 1957, 1967, 1990 (jurisdiction of AATCC Committee RA93); 1992.

Many textile test methods (e.g., for colorfastness, appearance retention, stain release, wrinkle recovery and disperse dye dispersibility) include a set of reference standards for subjectively rating the characteristic or characteristics under evaluation. The rating process results in an assigned grade. The terms rating and grade are defined as follows:

rating, n.—*in textile testing*, the process for determining or assigning a grade to a material by comparing it to a standard reference scale.

grade, n.—*in textile testing*, the symbol for any step of a multistep standard reference scale for a quality characteristic. Note 1: The grade is assigned to test specimens exhibiting a degree of the quality comparable to that step of the standard. Note 2: Numerical grades assigned to different specimens from a sample or by different observers are commonly averaged.

The number of rating steps or grades within a standard varies as follows:

Nine grades are provided for colorfastness to light when specimens are rated directly with reference to the eight Blue Wool Lightfastness Standards:

Grade	9	Superlative
	8	Outstanding
	7	Excellent
	6	Very Good
	5	Good
	4	Fairly good
	3	Fair
	2	Poor
	1	Very poor

Five grades—usually with intermediate decimal half grades—are provided for most other subjectively rated characteristics ranging from Grade 5, High, to Grade 1, Low. A grade lower than 1 is seldom of interest, but it may be designated Grade 0.

Terms which can be used to express the relative colorfastness or appearance of the grades as determined by the tests are as follows:

• Degree of Alteration in Lightness, Hue and Chroma of Color:¹

Grade	5	Negligible or no change
	4	Slightly changed
	3	Noticeably changed
	2	Considerably changed
	1	Much changed

• Terms for describing Differences in Color:¹

B1 = Bluer

G	= Greener
R	= Redder
Y	= Yellower
L	= Lighter
Da	= Darker
MC	= More Chroma
LC	= Less Chroma

• Degree of Staining:²

Grade	5	Negligible or no staining
	4	Slightly stained
	3	Noticeably stained
	2	Considerably stained
	1	Heavily stained

• Most other properties:³

Grade	5	Excellent
	4	Good
	3	Fair
	2	Poor
	1	Very poor

²Gray Scale for Staining: AATCC Evaluation Procedure 2. AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale: AATCC Evaluation Procedure 3.

³Crease Appearance Replicas: AATCC Methods 88C and 143. Durable Press Replicas: AATCC Methods 124 and 143. Photographs for Seams, Single and Double Needle: AATCC Methods 88C and 143. Dusting Test Scale: AATCC Method 170. Filter Residue Scale: AATCC Test Method 146. Photographs for Ranking Edge-wear on Flocked Fabrics: AATCC Method 142. Stain Release Replicas: AATCC Method 130. Wrinkle Recovery Plastic Replicas: AATCC Method 128. Foaming: AATCC Method 167.

¹Gray Scale for Color Change: AATCC Evaluation Procedure 1.