ANTISTATIC PROPERTIES

Introduction

Static electricity is something you cannot ignore. However, by careful arrangement of furnishings, etc., and appropriate choice of materials, it is possible to reduce static charges to a level that does not cause discomfort.

Carpets are often associated with static electricity - and just as often erroneously. Only where they are old and worn, often needle felt products, are carpets a possible source.

Otherwise, the causes have to be sought elsewhere - shoe soles, swivel chairs, the plastic base of chairs, etc. Tests have shown that getting up from a swivel chair with a rayon cover generates up to 40-50 times the voltage from walking on an ordinary contract carpet.

All ege contract carpets are made from conductive fibres, which makes them permanently antistatic throughout the carpet's lifetime.

Test method

European Norm EN 1815 is used to determine our carpets' tendency to generate static electricity. This is measured on carpets using different types of shoe soles. The charge is expressed as a static electrical charge in kV (kilovolt). Charges of 0-30 kV can occur.

When is a carpet antistatic?

A carpet is antistatic if the person walking on it does not get a shock when touching conductive objects. This means that the charge that accumulates in the person walking on the carpet remains below the so-called detection limit of around 2 kV. A carpet which does not exceed the 2 kV threshold value is therefore generally acknowledged to be antistatic.

The charges are greater the lower the relative humidity. Tests of electrostatic properties therefore include the measurement of static electricity at a low relative humidity of 25% RF, which is typical in many working areas during winter.

When the test result at 25% RF, a charge of	shocks during the year will occur
less than 2 kV	rarely
3-4 kV	regularly during winter
more than 4 kV	frequently

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