
PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET

BLUE SCALES - Textile Fading Cards (Item: 986-1000)

The Blue Wool Standards

To determine what degree given samples are fading when exposed to ultra-violet rays, samples can be tested to various published standard test methods. These tests require test samples to be exposed to a specified light source with British Standard blue wool standards exposed at the same time.

There are eight of these blue wool standards that have increasing resistance to fading when exposed to light and are numbered accordingly. The numbers range from 1 (very poor resistance to light) to 8 (excellent resistance to light). To achieve a similar degree of fading on standard 2 as on standard 1, requires approximately twice the exposure time, standard 3 takes approximately twice as long as standard 2 to fade to the same degree, and so on to 8. If necessary, additional exposures to higher levels of resistance to light than 8 are possible.

Once exposure is commenced the test specimen is checked daily to detect an initial change in color. This is called the "initial break". Once this occurs the test specimen is compared to the eight blue wool standards exposed at the same time. A rating for the "initial break" is then decided by determining which of the blue wool standards has faded to the same degree as the test specimen. Exposure of the test specimen and blue wool standards is then continued and checked daily until a perceivable change in color is detected on the blue wool standard number 7.

After this the test specimen is compared against the eight blue wool standards, and it is then give a "final rating" by again determining which of the blue wool standards has faded to the same degree as the test specimen. Intermediate ratings eg. 5-6, can be given if the degree of change of the test specimen falls between the two blue wool standards. If applicable, changes in hue (shade) are reported.