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**World Floor Covering Association Announces  
the Approval of the S600  
by American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**

***New Standard and Reference Guide Provides  
Universal Procedures for Residential and Commercial  
Carpet Installation Practices***

April 17, 2015 - Anaheim, CA – Today the World Floor Covering Association (WFCA) announced the official approval of the S600 Carpet Installation Standard developed under the expert guidance of the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). The acceptance of S600 as an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard is a significant achievement for the flooring industry, marking the first time that the entire industry assembled to jointly develop a universal standard for carpet installations across all sectors—both commercial and residential.

The initiative, which was sponsored and primarily underwritten by WFCA, took five years from inception to approval. The ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR), which is responsible for the approval and withdrawal of ANSI Standards, made the final decision to pass the Standard on April 9, 2015. Official public notification of the certification will appear in the April 17<sup>th</sup> *ANSI Standards Action* publication. At this point unresolved objectors have been given the opportunity to appeal the Standard to the ANSI Board of Standards Review. The S600 will become official if no appeals are received within 15 business days of the announcement.

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The lack of a universally accepted carpet installation standard posed a profound challenge across the industry. Through a collaborative process with a multi-stakeholder group of manufacturers, suppliers, inspectors, installers, retailers and other industry participants, a standard that will provide the industry with a quality control system to significantly reduce issues associated with installation was born. The S600 standard establishes a common, industry-accepted framework identifying universal procedural standards for professional carpet installation in residences and commercial settings.

S600 is not written to teach installation procedures. Numerous installation organizations, both union and non-union alike, will offer appropriate training. This standard was created for use primarily by professional carpet installers, and secondarily for carpet manufacturers, product suppliers, building contractors, architects, specifiers, designers, distributors, flooring retailers, end-users, facility managers, institutions and others involved in the carpet industry. With S600 professional installers are able to determine appropriate accepted procedures that will ensure a flawless carpet installation. S600 identifies techniques for evaluating: carpet types, characteristics and conditions; specifications, site conditions, floor preparation and various types of installation procedures.

Every type of carpeting has unique characteristics, and each installation project requires careful evaluation to determine proper application of this standard. The Standard is broken down into twelve chapters. ANSI S600 certification allows industry members to:

- Offer universally accepted installation procedures for residential and commercial grade carpet making them preferred vendors;
- Provide a clear standard for future teaching and certification of carpet installation;
- Save money by adopting universally accepted operational practices and business approaches; and
- Use the ANSI S600 Certified mark on their products and services and in their advertising.

“As the largest segment in the flooring industry, it did not seem acceptable that the carpet sector did not have a universally accepted ANSI standard,” said Scott Humphrey, Chief Executive Officer of the WFCA. “The S600 was a much-needed Standard achieved through a five-year journey with countless hours of work. If not for the consensus body that included all sectors of the flooring industry, this achievement would not have been possible. I commend their efforts and congratulate the selfless industry leaders who made this possible.”

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“In North America, ANSI standards are well known, recognized, and relied upon by most industries,” said Tom Jennings, Chair of the S600 Consensus Body and Vice President of Member Services, WFCA. “The S600 provides a universal reference guide for professional carpet installation which will benefit people in all sectors and at all levels across our industry.”

For more information about the S600 visit [www.wfca-pro.org](http://www.wfca-pro.org). The WFCA will continue to keep the industry informed on the availability of the S600 to interested parties.

### **About WFCA**

The World Floor Covering Association (WFCA), the official sponsor of the annual Surfaces tradeshow, is the floor covering industry's largest advocacy organization, representing floor covering retailers, contractors and allied service providers throughout North America.

The WFCA is a recognized leader in marketing research and industry programs for flooring professionals. In addition, it publishes the only retailer-oriented trade periodical, Premier Flooring Retailer. On the consumer end, in addition to an ongoing consumer focused flooring awareness public relations program, it operates the highly successful and award-winning premier consumer flooring website, WFCA.org, which provides unbiased information about every type of floor covering and connects customers to members' retail stores. The WFCA also influences public policy affecting the floor covering industry and consumers. For more information about the WFCA, visit WFCA.org.

### **ABOUT IICRC**

The IICRC is an international, ANSI-accredited standard-development organization (SDO) that certifies individuals in 20+ categories within the inspection, cleaning and restoration industries. Representing more than 54,000 certified technicians and 6,000 Certified Firms in 22 countries, the IICRC, in partnership with regional and international trade associations, represents the entire industry. The IICRC does not own schools, employ instructors, produce training materials, or promote specific product brands, cleaning methods or systems. For more information, visit [www.iicrc.org](http://www.iicrc.org).

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### **ABOUT ANSI**

As the voice of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment system, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) empowers its members and constituents to strengthen the U.S. marketplace position in the global economy while helping to assure the safety and health of consumers and the protection of the environment.

The Institute oversees the creation, promulgation and use of thousands of norms and guidelines that directly impact businesses in nearly every sector: from acoustical devices to construction equipment, from dairy and livestock production to energy distribution, and many more. ANSI is also actively engaged in accrediting programs that assess conformance to standards – including globally recognized cross-sector programs such as the ISO 9000 (quality) and ISO 14000 (environmental) management systems.

ANSI has longstanding involvement in efforts to use accreditation to bolster the legitimacy and validation of personnel certifications and certificate programs across a variety of fields and sectors.

The ANSI Accreditation Program for Personnel Certification Bodies is designed to provide assurance that accredited personnel certifiers are appropriately assessing the knowledge and skills possessed by professionals, as prescribed by an international standard. It also requires that certifiers have a program in place to ensure continual updating of the knowledge and skills, increasing the mobility of certified professionals and industry confidence in the legitimacy of the certifications.

ANSI also carries out important work through the ANSI Certificate Accreditation Program (ANSI-CAP), which accredits organizations that issue education and training assessment-based certificates to the U.S. workforce, based on the requirements of an American National Standard. By demonstrating compliance to this standard, accredited certificate programs give employers confidence that certificate-holding workers have acquired relevant knowledge and skills, producing a more qualified workforce.