

YACHT INTERIOR FABRIC SPECIFICATION CHECKLIST

For use by interior designers specifying fabric for commercial and private yacht interiors subject to IMO fire standards and MCA requirements.

Project / Vessel name: _____ Designer: _____
Flag state: _____ Classification society: _____
GT / LOA: _____ Date: _____

1. APPLICABLE FIRE STANDARD

- Vessel gross tonnage confirmed — determines whether IMO Resolution A.652(16) or FTP Code applies
Commercial vessels 500 GT and above: IMO FTP Code Part 7 and 8. Below 500 GT: confirm with classification society.
- Flag state identified and fire standard confirmed with classification society
MCA (UK flag): MGN 580 applies. Other flag states may specify equivalent national standards.
- MCA MGN 580 requirements reviewed if UK flagged
MGN 580 sets out the specific upholstery and curtain fire test requirements for UK-registered vessels.
- Applicable space category confirmed for each area — accommodation, service, control, open deck
Different fire standards apply to different space categories under SOLAS and the FTP Code.
- Equivalent national standard confirmed if non-IMO flag state
Some flag states accept IMO equivalents; others specify their own. Confirm in writing with the classification society before specifying.

2. UPHOLSTERY FABRIC — FIRE CERTIFICATION

- IMO Resolution A.652(16) test certificate obtained for each upholstery fabric
Certificate must be issued by an approved testing laboratory. Supplier's own statement is not sufficient.
- Certificate confirms test conducted on the specific fabric and filling combination to be installed
The certificate covers the assembly — face fabric, interliner, and foam. Substituting any component invalidates the certificate.
- Filling specification confirmed — foam type, density, and interliner reference matches the test certificate
- Fabric supplier confirmed that the colourway ordered is covered by the certificate
Certificates issued on one colourway do not automatically cover other colourways in the same range. Confirm with the supplier.
- Certificate expiry date confirmed — some classification societies require certificates issued within defined period
- Certificate retained in project file and copy provided to vessel owner at handover
Classification society surveyor may request certificates during survey. Ensure copies are available on board.

3. CURTAIN FABRIC — FIRE CERTIFICATION

- IMO curtain fire test standard confirmed with classification society for the specific vessel and space
Requirements vary by vessel type and gross tonnage. Confirm before specifying.
- Test certificate obtained for each curtain fabric
- Curtain construction — heading, lining, interlining — confirmed with certificate
A lined curtain may perform differently from the tested unlined fabric. Confirm the construction tested matches what will be installed.
- Net and sheer fabrics: separate fire certification obtained
Sheer fabrics are not covered by a certificate issued for a heavier curtain fabric in the same range.

4. FABRIC PERFORMANCE — DURABILITY AND CLEANING

- Martindale rub count confirmed for each upholstery fabric
Minimum 40,000 rubs for commercial vessel passenger seating. Crew areas minimum 30,000 rubs.
- Pilling resistance confirmed — minimum grade 4 to ISO 12945-2 at 2000 cycles
Pilling is a separate test from abrasion. Confirm both before specifying.

- **Cleaning code confirmed for each fabric and compatible with vessel cleaning products**
S-coded fabrics cannot be cleaned with water-based products. Confirm compatibility with the vessel's housekeeping protocol.
- **Faux leather or coated fabrics: salt water and UV resistance confirmed**
Open deck and semi-outdoor positions require solution-dyed or UV-stabilised materials only.
- **Light fastness grade confirmed — minimum ISO 105-B02 grade 5 for areas with natural light exposure**
South-facing or glazed accommodation areas may require grade 6 or above. Confirm the specific position's light exposure.

5. OUTDOOR AND SEMI-OUTDOOR POSITIONS

- **All outdoor deck upholstery: solution-dyed acrylic or marine-grade synthetic confirmed**
No natural-fibre fabric — mohair, cotton, linen, silk — is suitable for outdoor or semi-outdoor use on a vessel.
- **UV resistance specification confirmed for all sun deck and exposed positions**
Marine environments subject fabrics to intense UV. Standard interior fabric dyes degrade rapidly without UV stabilisers.
- **Moisture resistance confirmed — fabrics rated for outdoor use must withstand salt spray and rain**
- **Anti-mould and mildew treatment confirmed where applicable**
Enclosed semi-outdoor spaces on vessels can develop high humidity. Confirm antimicrobial treatment with the supplier.

6. DOCUMENTATION AND HANDOVER

- **Fire test certificates compiled for all fabrics — upholstery, curtains, wall coverings, bedding**
- **Fabric schedule produced listing: supplier, range, colourway, certificate reference, filling reference, and location**
Retain this schedule as part of the vessel's safety management documentation.
- **Cleaning and care instructions compiled for each fabric and provided to vessel owner**
Include cleaning code, recommended products, and any restrictions on cleaning temperature or solvent use.
- **Re-treatment schedule noted for any fabrics with topical FR treatment**
Topical FR treatments may require re-application after a defined number of cleaning cycles. Note the requirement and recommended interval.
- **Classification society surveyor notification confirmed — surveyor to inspect fabric installation during survey**
- **Owner handover pack compiled including: all fire certificates, fabric schedule, care instructions, supplier contacts**
The owner is responsible for maintaining fire safety compliance throughout the vessel's service life.