Why QB UPEC

A sign of trust for stakeholders in the construction industry, the QB certification mark promotes the quality of products from manufacturers who have committed to the certification process. Based on unbiased and independent third-party assessments conducted by the CSTB, QB certification guarantees performance levels that confirm the compliance of products with an established reference system for an area of application. The CSTB monitors product characteristics and production sites regularly.

These checks validate the quality and fitness for use of products based on European standards and additional stringent performance criteria to respond to market needs.

The QB mark can be supplemented with a rating. For floor coverings, the UPEC rating enables stakeholders to make the best choice depending on the uses of the premises where they will be laid. For project owners and specifiers, using UPEC letter ratings to select performance criteria based on use is the simplest and safest way to choose high-quality floor coverings.

I CHOOSE QB UPEC!

Benefits for specifiers
A mark issued by an unbiased body recognized in France and internationally.
UPEC classification to:
- Determine the floor coverings best suited to user requirements and constraints on specific types of premises
- Ensure durability of characteristics with use
- Distinguish seemingly identical products for an objective, impartial and transparent decision

Turnkey certification for industrial companies
The CSTB provides full support to industrial companies, during certification process (tests in laboratories, audits in factories, ...) until the obtention of the certificate and its publication on the website evaluation.cstb.fr.
If a product no longer has the specified characteristics, the CSTB withdraws its certification.

Any fraudulent use of the QB mark is subject to prosecution.

INTERNATIONAL

QB is for any stakeholder who emphasizes quality assurance for works that incorporate reliable products with technical characteristics certified by third-party bodies like the CSTB.

more than 20 countries where plants are audited
more than 30,000 QB UPEC-certified products
more than de 950 valid certificates at evaluation.cstb.fr
+ de 150 production units audited in Europe and worldwide

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Certified performance levels

- **WEAR / USURE**
  - Characterizes the impact of footfall
  - Setting
  - Structural change
  - Fouling
  - Abrasion
  - Ratings: U₂, U₂S, U₃, U₃S and U₄

- **PUNCTURING / POINÇONNEMENT**
  - Characterizes mechanical effects
  - Furniture (static effect, shifting and rolling)
  - Falling objects (impacts)
  - Ratings: P₂, P₃, P₄ and P₄S

- **WATER RESISTANCE / EAU**
  - Characterizes how often a floor comes into contact with water
  - Occasional
  - Frequent
  - Regular
  - Ratings: E₁, E₂ and E₃

- **CHEMICALS / CHIMIE**
  - Characterizes resistance to stains and chemical agents
  - Ratings: C₀, C₁ and C₂

How does UPEC classification work?

Premises are divided into 11 categories corresponding to the levels of severity of use:
- Housing
- Civil & administrative buildings
- Train stations and airports
- Shops
- Hotels and resorts
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Medical facilities
- Retirement homes
- Sports facilities
- Kitchens and restaurants

A different rating is accorded to each performance level, depending on the type of premises and use. To guide your search, the document “Notice on the U.P.E.C. classification of premises” (CSTB Handbook No. 3782) provides all the premises classification tables. Supplemented by the letter A+, A++ or D+, QB UPEC certification provides an additional certified characteristic.

A+ and A++ acoustics options

- Characteristics measured:
  - Impact sound efficiency
  - Acoustic absorption
  - Walking noise
  - Performance targets vary depending on the product and are more demanding for UPEC A++ than for UPEC A+.

D+ dimensional option

- Concerns size criteria - reduced tolerances enabling thin joint installation of ceramic tiles.

F+ option

- For installation of ceramic tiles on pedestals.

QB-certified products

The CSTB issues QB certification associated with UPEC classification for the following products:
- Laminate flooring
- Ceramic tiles
- Textile flooring
- Resilient flooring
- Carpets

Certified performance over time
Streamlined decision support
A lever for progress in the sector
Greater trust between stakeholders
More satisfaction for customers