

UPEC – CLASSIFICATION



QB-UPEC is a French floor-tile classification for manufacturers pursuant to the QB 32 certification standard ‘General requirements for the QB classification’ and the ‘Technical and administrative appendix’. This optional certification is issued by the CSTB (Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment). Assuming that the products are in compliance with the requirements set out under the current CSTB specification sheet no. 3778, ‘Specification sheet concerning the UPEC classification and classification of the interiors’, they shall be certified and be assigned a UPEC classification. The UPEC classification and the classification of the interiors are presented in CSTB specification sheet no. 3782.

The primary objective of UPEC classification is to identify a floor covering the performance of which is tailored to the loads occurring within the room. It is generally assumed that

in the event of normal use and proper maintenance, the service life should be no less than ten years.

Only certified manufacturers are entitled to refer to the UPEC classification of their tested tiles. Consequently, Villeroy & Boch is entitled to use the QB-UPEC logo and to state the UPEC classification on tile packages of certified tile works.

This certification guarantees

- that the tiles comply with the EN 14411 standard, Appendices G and H,
- that the tiles actually possess the wear resistance properties defined by the UPEC classification (regular checking by an independent laboratory)
- and that the tiles originate from a production facility that is subject to extremely strict rules and monitoring at all times.

The meaning of the individual letters of the acronym

The following information is purely indicative in nature and does not replace the official result of the CSTB.

The letter “U” reflects the impact of footfall and its effects in: U2 and U2S for rooms intended for private use; U3 for rooms intended for moderate public use; U3S is assigned to rooms intended for public use in which footfall is greater than in U3; U4 is assigned to rooms intended for public use with heavy footfall.

‘P’ is assigned to the mechanical impacts of fixed or mobile furniture and maintenance equipment, along with falling objects (shocks) pursuant to the following key figures: P2 and P3 are assigned to interiors that are primarily utilised for people and for pedestrian traffic; P4 and P4S are assigned to interiors subject to heavy impacts.

‘E’ describes the behaviour of the floor covering when exposed to water and moisture. The highest value, Index 3, is always assigned to ceramic tiles.

The letter ‘C’ accounts for the consequences of chemical or physicochemical impacts of substances that have a negative effect on the durability of the floor covering (staining, attacks the impact of which extends to some depth, etc.).

These tiles are assigned the Index values 0, 1, 2 and – in exceptional cases – 3.

Index 3 is assigned to floor coverings only following specialised tests based on the specific use to which the rooms are to be put (examples: laboratories for medical analyses, hairdressing salons, etc.).

The tiles from Villeroy & Boch are classified C2, meaning that they offer excellent resistance to chemical products and are also quite resistant to staining.



Further information can be found on the official CSTB website
<https://database.cstb.fr/fr-FR/search>

WallPEC – CLASSIFICATION



CSTB introduced a new quality label for wall tiles in February 2021. The QB WallPEC Certification indicates compliance with the dimensional properties, mechanical resistance of the

tiles (letter P), their behaviour in response to water (Levels E1 and E3) and in response to chemical agents/staining (Levels C1 and C2).