

STOP PRESS

HSE Report-vinyl safety flooring offers same hygiene levels as smooth flooring RR889

At Polyflor, our aim is always to provide you with useful information from independent sources that may assist you in future flooring specifications.

The **Health & Safety Executive (HSE)** has recently issued a report regarding hygiene within the healthcare environment. An investigation was carried out to compare vinyl flooring materials that are typically found in hospitals and the ability to clean to acceptable infection control standards. The study's main objective was to look at the bacterial contamination remaining on the flooring surface both before and after floors with varying degrees of slip resistance had been cleaned. Floors were cleaned using the usual maintenance regimes adopted by the relevant NHS Trust under study.

Key conclusions from the study were:

- The ability to clean a typical hospital floor to a hygienic standard using conventional cleaning regimes is not influenced by the slip resistance of the flooring
- Slip resistant floors under study were cleaned as effectively as their smooth counterparts and the bacteria counted either before or after cleaning did not depend on the slip resistance of flooring
- The cleanability of the flooring should not be a barrier to the use of slip resistant flooring in foreseeably wet or contaminated work areas in hospitals
- Cleaning regimes undertaken by maintenance staff were effective at cleaning each type of flooring, regardless of material type but the importance of human factors in undertaking cleaning should not be underestimated
- Where variation in contamination remained after cleaning, this was due to factors such as cleaning technique and tools used

The full report can be accessed in pdf format by clicking the link below –

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr889.htm>



If you would like a local **Polyflor Technical Consultant** to go through the key tenets of vinyl safety flooring to aid specification or whether you wish to organise a free **RIBA Approved CPD Seminar** from Polyflor, please e-mail safetyflooring@polyflor.com with your details.