

RUFUS MORISON, Ph.D.
1301 BAYLISS DRIVE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 223 02-3511

MARCH 17, 1993

Correspondence Branch
U.S. Federal Trade Commission
6th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

Re: Complaint about Carpet and Rug Institute

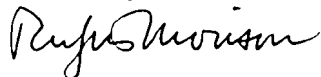
Dear Sirs:

I enclose a letter to *Home Mechanix* concerning an "article" appearing in the November 1992 issue. It represents carpet bearing the Green Tag promoted by the Carpet and Rug Institute to be "safe" .

My colleague, Dr. J. William Hirzy wrote to the FTC in late August 1992 requesting an investigation of the CRI Green Tag program as fraudulent and deceptive adversting.

Please advise us of progress on the your inquiry.

Yours truly,



Rufus Morison, Ph.D.
Ecologist

cc: J. William Hirzy, Ph.D.
Enclosures

'Greener' Carpets For Better Air Quality



When you see this label on a carpet, you can be assured it won't pollute your home's air with VOCs.

With a new consumer labeling program now in place, you don't have to worry about whether the carpeting you buy will pollute the air in your home. Until recently, most carpeting emitted high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), which are known air pollutants. (Also see "First Non-VOC Paint," below.) When the impact on indoor air quality became clear, many manufacturers reduced emission levels. But others didn't, and until now, there was no way to tell the difference between high- and low-VOC carpeting.

In July, The Carpet and Rug Institute, a trade association representing 95 percent of the U.S. carpet and rug industry, started the Green Tag carpet testing and labeling program to let consumers know that a carpet meets indoor air-quality testing criteria. Those that do may bear the institute's label (left).

Manufacturers submit carpet samples to the institute, which sends the samples to Air Quality Sciences, an independent laboratory in Atlanta, for blind emissions testing. If the sample exceeds the established emissions criteria, the institute advises the company and requests that it make manufacturing changes. After modification, the manufacturer may resubmit a sample. The institute has pledged to retest products on at least an annual basis.

Quick-Charge Batteries

Saft America has made it more convenient to use rechargeable batteries with its new Saftman battery

charger. The recharger powers up one to four AA-size cells in one hour. Because one rechargeable battery replaces 300 similar throw-away cells, rechargeables make better ecological sense.

Saft's slim, shirt-pocket-size design is similar to Sanyo's one-hour charger ("What's New for '92," December/January '91). The only other one-hour charger is Gates Energy Products' RapidCharger ("Home Environment," April '92), but it is a bulkier tabletop design. Other battery chargers take from three to four hours to do their job. The \$25 Saftman comes with four AA cells.

First Non-VOC Paint

The Glidden Company has eliminated air-polluting petroleum solvents in some of its products. The absence of these solvents in Glidden's Spread 2000 means it's the first conventional type interior latex paint in the United States to offer zero emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Once emitted, petroleum-based VOCs react with nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere to form low-level ozone, a component of smog. Paints are a minor contributor to smog, but they are regulated by many states and municipalities. The strictest regulations limit VOC emissions in paint to 250 grams per liter. Most latex paints emit somewhat less than that.

Prior to the development of Spread
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The thin-profile Saftman battery charger from Saft America (below) will recharge up to four AA cells in one hour.

