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**Category:** 3 – Surface Coating of Fabrics

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711

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SUBJECT: Fabric Printing Definition

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THRU: Richard Rhoads, Director  
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It is true that fabric printers are not fabric coaters. (We use the term "fabric printing" rather than "textile printing.") A separate CTG is being prepared for the fabric printing industry. This work is being performed by GCA Corporation with Fred Porter of EPA in charge of the work. A first draft of this CTG should be available by spring of 1981, and the final document is expected to be completed by October 1981.

To determine the regulatory status of fabric companies, I suggest you use the following definitions.

Fabric printing is a decorative design applied to a fabric by intaglio roller, rotary screen or flat screen. Printing of sheets, towels and light-weight fabric for apparel is fabric printing.

Fabric coatings are uniform coatings applied to fabric by blade, roller coater, reverse roll coater, or by rotogravure coater. The bulk of fabric coating will consist of coating rubber, elastomeric polymers, or polyurethane onto a fabric substrate.

Vinyl coating is covered under CTG Volume II even though decorative designs are applied by rotogravure. All coatings applied to a vinyl substrate are considered vinyl coating. Examples are the leather appearance often printed on vinyl upholstery for automobiles, and the topcoating which provides the sheen for similar upholstery.

cc: John Calcagni  
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