

Textile articles including cordage, ropes and string (other than articles included in the list of small items above) normally intended:

- a) for use as equipment components in the manufacture and processing of goods;
- b) for incorporation in machines, installations (e.g. for heating, air conditioning or lighting), domestic and other appliances, vehicles and other means of transport, or for their operation, maintenance or equipment, other than tarpaulin covers and textile motor vehicle accessories sold separately from the vehicles.

Textile articles for protection and safety purposes such as safety belts, parachutes, life jackets, emergency chutes, fire-fighting devices, bulletproof waistcoats and special protective garments (e.g. protection against fire, chemical substances or other safety hazards)

Air supported structures (e.g. sports halls, exhibition stands or storage facilities) provided that particulars of the performances and technical specifications of these articles are supplied.

This leaflet is a brief summary of the law regarding textile labelling. It is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance. For further details or clarification please contact the Trading Standards Service.

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Business Information

Textile Labelling of ready-made items

Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1986

Garments and other textile products are required to be labelled with an accurate indication of fibre content. Fibre content information can be given on a label (either sewn-in or sticky), a swing ticket or printed directly on the item. If the item is pre-packed, the information can be on the packaging, a label or both. Customers must be able to see the information at the time of purchase.

The law only allows certain names to be used to describe fibre content - so items must be labelled with one or more of the names in this list:

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Abaca | Acetate | Acrylic | Alfa |
| Alginate | Animal or horse hair | Aramid | Broom |
| Chlorofibre | Coir | Cotton | Cupro |
| Elastane | Elastodiene | Elastomultiester | Flax or linen |
| Fluorofibre | Glass fibre | Hemp | Henequen |
| Jute | Kapok | Lyocell | Maguay |
| Modacrylic | Modal | Nylon or polyamide | Polycarbamide |
| Polyester | Polyethylene | Poly lactide | Polymide |
| Polypropylene | Polyurethane | Protein | Ramie |
| Silk | Sisal | Sunn | Triacetate |
| Trivinyll | Vinylal | Viscose | Wool |

Alpaca, llama, camel, cashmere, mohair, angora, vicuna, yak, guanaco, cashgora, beaver, otter – these may be followed by the word wool or hair.

The name of the material of which fibres are composed -for example: metallic, asbestos, paper -these may be followed by the word yarn or fibre.

The expressions '100 per cent', 'pure' and 'all' can only be used if the product is made completely of one type of fibre.

The word 'silk' must not be used in any description if there is no silk in the product. This includes words like 'silky'.

The name of any fibre cannot be used to describe another type of fibre. The only exception to this is 'cotton wool'. This name can be used as long as the correct fibre content is given - for example: 'Cotton Wool, 100% viscose'.

If you sell made to measure products the fibre content can be given on the sales invoice or any other document given to the customer.

Some small items do not have to be labelled individually and can have a label on the container they are sold from.

Washing Instructions

There is no legal obligation to provide washing instructions. Where such instructions are given, they must be accurate.

Country of Origin

The country of origin does not have to be given unless there could be any confusion -for example: a t-shirt with a picture of the Union jack flag must have a label saying where it was made unless it was made in the UK.

Small items

These do not have to give the fibre content individually but should be labelled on the container. They include:

Floorcloths, Cleaning cloths, Edgings and trimmings, Passementerie, Belts, Braces, Suspenders and garters, shoe and bootlaces, ribbons, elastic, something sold as a new packaging, table mats, handkerchiefs, bun nets and hair nets, ties and bow ties for children's bibs, washgloves and face flannels packing string, agricultural twine, cordage and ropes for mountaineering and watersports, sewing, meding and embroidery yarns in packs of less than 1 gram, tape for curtains, blinds and shutters.

Goods which do not have to be labelled

Sleeve supporting armbands

Labels and badges

Tea cosies

Watch straps of textile materials

Stuffed pan holders of textile materials

Coffee cosies.

Sleeve protectors

Artificial flowers

Painted canvas

Gaiters

Felt hats

Travel goods of textile materials

Buttons and buckles covered with textile materials

Toys

Oven cloth and gloves

Make-up cases

Toilet cases

Sails

Flags and banners.

Purses, pouches, cases, bags and saddlery of textile materials.

Spectacle, cigarette and cigar, lighter and comb cases of textile fabric

Protective requisites for sports with the exception of gloves

Textile products for base and underlying fabrics and stiffenings

Old made up textile products, where stated to be such.

Hand embroidered tapestries, finished or unfinished and materials for their production

Table-mats having several components and a surface area of not more than 500cm².

Disposable articles (including textile articles designed to be used once only or for a limited time, the normal use of which precludes any restoring for subsequent use for the same or a similar purpose) with the exception of wadding.

Textile articles subject to the rules in force from time to time of the European Pharmacopoeia and covered by a reference to those rules, non-disposable bandages for medical and orthopaedic use and orthopaedic textile articles in general.

Muffs other than in pile fabric

Pin cushions

Felts.

Packagings, not new and sold as such

Funeral items

Slide fasteners

Textile parts of footwear except warm linings

Book covers of textile materials

Egg cosies

Tobacco pouches of textile fabric

Shoe cleaning cases

Animal clothing

Please turn over...