

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.*

#### **Contacting us**

email: [trading.standards@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@nottscc.gov.uk)

phone: 01623 452005

fax: 01623 452059

post: Trading Standards Service, County House,  
100 Chesterfield Road South,  
Mansfield, Nottingham NG19 7AQ

internet: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

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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	Vinyllal	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'.

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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

Watch straps of textile materials

Labels and badges

Stuffed pan holders of textile materials

Tea cosies

Coffee cosies.

Sleeve protectors

Muffs other than in pile fabric

Artificial flowers

Pin cushions

Painted canvas

Felts.

Gaiters

Packagings, not new and sold as such

Felt hats

Funeral items

Travel goods of textile materials

Slide fasteners

Buttons and buckles covered with textile materials

Textile parts of footwear except warm linings

Toys

Book covers of textile materials

Oven cloth and gloves

Egg cosies

Make-up cases

Tobacco pouches of textile fabric

Toilet cases

Shoe cleaning cases

Sails

Animal clothing

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 500cm<sup>2</sup>.

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.

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