

Nottinghamshire  
County Council

# Business Information

## Footwear Labelling

### The Footwear (Indication of Composition) Labelling Regulations 1995

These regulations came into force on 23rd March 1996. They are designed to make sure that consumers know what type of material footwear is made of at the time of purchase. The regulations affect the whole of the European Union. They will standardise labelling across Europe, to help traders who sell footwear in more than one country. .

#### **What is covered?**

All footwear must be labelled in the new way, except:

- personal protective equipment (for example steel toe-cap boots)
- second hand or worn footwear
- toy footwear
- footwear covered by the Hazardous Materials Directive (for example boots containing asbestos).
- footwear prescribed by a Doctor

#### **Labelling requirements**

Your customers must be able to see information about the composition of the:

- upper
- outer sole
- lining and sock

The information need only be shown on one shoe of each pair. It can be shown as a pictogram (drawing) or in words. The pictograms and/or wording that must be used are shown on the back of this sheet. Pictograms have to be large enough to be easily understood. The labelling can be printed or embossed on to the shoes, on a sticker or on a swing ticket -it must be visible, securely attached, accessible and in English.

#### **Composition of the footwear**

The label must show the type of material which makes up:

- at least 80% of the surface area of the upper
- at least 80% of the surface area of the lining and sock
- at least 80% of the volume of the outer sole.

If no one material makes up 80% of the surface area or volume the label should state the two main materials used in that part of the shoe.


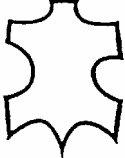

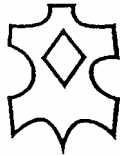

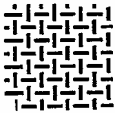

The label does not have to mention any accessories or reinforcements used on the upper (for example buckles, ankle patches, edging, tabs and eyelets) and these do not have to be taken into account when the composition of the material is worked out.

***Please turn over...***

## What you must do

The person responsible for attaching the labels is the manufacturer, the manufacturer's representative or the person who first supplies the footwear in the European Union. Retailers must make sure the labels are correct before the footwear goes on sale.

If any retail stock has pictogram labels the retailer must put up a prominent notice, conspicuously displayed, to explain these to customers.

Pictograms	Written indications	Pictograms	Written indications
	Upper		Leather
	Lining and sock		Coated leather
	Outer sole		Textile
			Other materials

*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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This information can be made available  
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