

AS/NZS 1957:1998

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

Textiles—Care labelling

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/4:

Apparel & Textile Federation of New Zealand
Apparel Importers Association of Australia
Australian Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
Australian Retailers Association
Australian Wool Processors Council
Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation
AWTA Textile Testing (Australia)
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia
Department of Fair Trading N.S.W., Consumer Protection Agency
Drycleaning Institute of Australia
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs (Commonwealth of Australia)
Furnishing Industry Association of Australia
Melbourne Institute of Textiles
Ministry of Consumer Affairs (New Zealand)
New South Wales Guild of Furniture Manufacturers
New South Wales TAFE Commission
New Zealand Furniture Manufacturers Federation
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles, to supersede AS 1957—1987, *Care labelling of clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture, bedding, piece goods and yarns*.

It was first published in 1966, revised in 1971 as AS L38 and again in 1976 at the request of the State Ministers for Consumer Affairs.

The Ministers had requested that the 1976 revision include performance tests and criteria which could be used either as a guide in the choice of appropriate phrases or to determine if care instructions are appropriate. It was therefore decided to develop as a separate document a guide entitled AS 2621, *Care labelling—Guide to the selection of correct-care labelling instructions from AS 1957*, which was published in 1983 and has been superseded by AS/NZS 2621:1998, *Textiles—Guide to the selection of correct care labelling instructions from AS/NZS 1957*, a companion document to this. Reference should be made to AS/NZS 2621 for performance tests and criteria for colourfastness and shrinkage because it provides a procedure to assist manufacturers in choosing washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and drycleaning instructions.

Other revisions of AS 1957 occurred in 1977, 1982 and 1987 and during this time drycleaning symbols were picked up from ISO 3758. Changes in these editions relate to which textile products require labelling and what the label should include.

In this new edition the decision was made to ensure that individual pieces of a suite of furniture be care labelled due to problems arising when one piece is taken to be drycleaned with no care instructions and to expand the care instructions for leather and upholstery. The Standard has also been reformatted into Sections.

The international symbols for care treatments other than drycleaning (drycleaning symbols are required as they were in the 1977, 1982 and 1987 editions) can be included as options, although the requirement of this Standard is that written instructions are to be supplied. Current textile labelling legislation should be referred to in addition to this Standard in order to ensure correct labelling of textile articles. Legislation may list items excluded from care labelling requirements but does not prevent care labelling.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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FOREWORD

The developments in fibres, blends and finishes for textile articles have made it difficult, if not impossible, for consumers, and the laundering and drycleaning industries to determine appropriate cleaning procedures from the mere appearance of the article, or even from a description of its fibre content.

This Standard specifies the use of phrases and a number of symbols relating to drycleaning which have clearly established meaning. The proper use of phrases is a means of informing the consumer of the laundering, drycleaning, maintenance or other care procedures to be followed in order to avoid damaging the article.

The Standard does not prevent a manufacturer either from supplying additional information, if this is considered desirable, or from using phrases not included in the Standard when none of the 'stock' phrases are appropriate, provided that they accurately describe the necessary required care procedure.

The following are some of the causes of damage to textile, leather, plastics and plastics-coated articles that were considered by the committee when developing the care instructions:

- (a) **General care hazards**
 - Cleaning matched articles separately when colour or shade of one may change in which case 'Clean matched separates together' or a similar statement may be used as an instruction.
- (b) **Laundering hazards**
 - Washing when the article should not be washed.
 - Rough handling, twisting, or rubbing.
 - Washing at too high a temperature.
 - The use of bleach on an article that should not be bleached.
 - The use of soap, starch, or other finishing agent on a leather article or one which has a flame-resistant or other special finish.
 - Drying in direct sunlight or close to direct sources of heat.
 - Drying in a tumble dryer where the fabric or garment construction is not appropriate to this treatment.
- (c) **Drycleaning hazards**
 - Drycleaning when the article should not be drycleaned.
 - The use of an inappropriate drycleaning solvent.
- (d) **Pressing and ironing hazards**
 - Ironing at too high a temperature.
 - Steam pressing when the article should not be steam pressed.
- (e) **Spot cleaning and sponge cleaning**
 - The use of inappropriate cleaning fluids.
 - The use of too much moisture.

Purchasers of piece goods, yarns and other textiles are entitled to information on how to care for garments or articles they may make from those materials. This Standard requires that the information be made available at the point of purchase.

The Committee emphasizes that instructions are to be verified to ensure their suitability to that article, prior to the article being available for sale. It has also expressed concern that under-claiming or 'low labelling' is occurring. For example, phrases such as 'Dryclean only' are being used, when washing is also a suitable care treatment. Consumers then lose confidence in labels and attempt to wash articles that legitimately need to be drycleaned only. In the case of leather upholstery or garments in particular, if the prohibitive instructions 'Do not wash' and 'Do not dryclean' are used together, the manufacturer will

need to verify that this is the case. Suitable care instructions are required to be provided to the consumer in accordance with this Standard. Refer to AS/NZS 2621 as a guide to how to determine appropriate care instructions such as whether drycleaning, washing or both are suitable.

In the care of leather upholstery or garments it is particularly important to carry out the stipulated care treatment from the beginning of the article's use so that oversoiling does not occur thus making the item harder to clean. Experience has shown that slow build up of grime can go unnoticed for some time. When it does become obvious, consumers have found that a once expensive or cherished article retains this film which could have been avoided with regular maintenance from the start. Regular maintenance is therefore encouraged. Manufacturers should consider indicating this to the consumer in a pamphlet, ticket or on the label itself.

Since the previous edition of this Standard was published, a process known as wet cleaning has become established. Currently there is no national or internationally accepted test method for determining whether a garment can be safely wet cleaned, therefore no instructions have been included in this Standard. There is also no test method for confirming the suitability of hot water extraction or on-site drycleaning processes for furniture (see Table 2). A colourfastness test to hot water or to the relevant drycleaning solvent may be used as an indication. If a manufacturer selects these phrases as suitable care treatments, it is their responsibility as in all other cases, to evaluate the process and ensure that the article will not sustain any damage.

In relation to drycleaning solvents, the use of chlorofluorocarbons such as trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113) is currently under review. Future legislation may prevent these solvents from being used in drycleaning. It is anticipated the Standard will then be revised or amended, also that different solvents will be specified when available.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard
Textiles—Care labelling

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard sets out words, phrases and symbols to be used for giving care instructions for clothing, household textiles, apparel, furnishings, upholstered furniture and bedding, piece goods and yarns, leather apparel and upholstery. It also specifies methods by which these goods may be labelled or where appropriate, the instructions separately supplied.

NOTE: For assistance in selecting the correct care-labelling instructions for a particular article, reference should be made to AS/NZS 2621, a guide which was prepared at the request of the textile industry.

1.2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide manufacturers and consumers with a concise uniform system of care labelling a textile product with care-treatment information. Information on the selection of care labelling phrases is provided in AS/NZS 2621.

1.3 APPLICATION The Standard is applicable to textiles, plastics and plastics-coated fabrics, suede and grain leathers, furs, skins and hides.

1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

2392 Labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings

AS/NZS

2621 Textiles—Guide to the selection of correct care labelling instructions from AS/NZS 1957

ISO

3758 Textiles—Care labelling code using symbols

1.5 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard the definitions below apply.

1.5.1 After treatments—any process which follows the primary cleaning process, including drying, ironing, brushing or the application of soil-resistant chemicals.

1.5.2 Bleaching—a process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during or after the washing processes using a bleach for removing stains or improving whiteness.

1.5.3 Chlorine bleach—a bleach that releases the hypochlorite ion in solution, for example, sodium hypochlorite.

1.5.4 Drycleaning—a process for cleaning an article by means of organic solvents. The process may include pre-spotting, cleaning proper, rinsing, spinning, drying and restoring to shape.

1.5.5 Dry powder cleaning—a process for cleaning an article with powder which is either applied by hand or from a pressure pack.



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