

Australian/New Zealand Standard[®]

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

AS/NZS 2621:1998

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 September 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 11 November 1997. It was published on 5 January 1998.

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
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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 assist in the selection of appropriate care instructions from those listed in AS/NZS 1957, *Textiles—Care labelling*, for articles which may be washed, drycleaned or otherwise refurbished. Where adequate or appropriate instructions for a particular article are not included in AS/NZS 1957, it allows other short phrases to be used, provided that such phrases adequately describe the required care procedure.

Changes to this edition of the Standard include—

- (a) more detail on the five basic care treatments, and depending on the product end use which treatments should be included;
- (b) more information on the selection of leather and upholstery care instructions; and
- (c) changes to requirements in Tables 2 to 8 based on recent technology and experience as well as heightened consumer expectations.

Current textile 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.

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FOREWORD

Correct phrase selection is based on the philosophy that the consumer has a right to expect that, after treatment according to the care instructions on the label, the previously soiled article should be clean, and will still be suitable for the purpose for which it was originally designed and manufactured.

This Standard sets out a procedure, the aim of which is to assist in making decisions as to whether or not a textile product is cleanable, (in particular washable, drycleanable or both or neither) and the way in which it should be dried and pressed, these decisions being based on both the fabric/fibre type and the product end use. It also specifies basic performance requirements and the procedure and tests for verifying whether or not the phrases chosen are appropriate. The performance characteristics covered are colourfastness, dimensional stability and finish durability, which are the three aspects of garment and product performance resulting in the majority of complaints.

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 wetcleaned therefore no guidance has been given in this Standard. Similarly, there is no test method for confirming the suitability of hot water extraction or on-site dry cleaning processes for furniture included in AS/NZS 1957, however, guidance is given in Table 5. If a manufacturer selects these phrases as suitable care treatments, it is the manufacturer's responsibility as in all other cases, to evaluate the process and ensure that the article will not sustain any damage.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA/STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND

Australian/New Zealand Standard**Textiles—Guide to the selection of correct care labelling instructions from AS/NZS 1957**

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard sets out guidelines intended to assist manufacturers in the selection of appropriate care-labelling instructions from AS/NZS 1957. It also specifies basic performance requirements with respect to colourfastness, dimensional stability and finish durability and nominates test methods that may be used to determine whether an article complies with those requirements when cleaned in accordance with the instructions on the label.

1.2 OBJECTIVE The objective of this Standard is to provide manufacturers and consumers with performance requirements and information on how to select care treatment information from AS/NZS 1957 in order to ensure the correct care labelling of textile articles.

1.3 APPLICATION The Standard applies to the choice of care instructions for articles which are washable and drycleanable. It also applies to articles which are more usually cleaned by hot water extraction, shampoo cleaning, on-site dry cleaning and wipe cleaning.

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

AS

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| 2001 | Methods of test for textiles |
| 2001.4.1 | Colourfastness tests—Definitions and general requirements |
| 2001.4.2 | Colourfastness tests—Determination of colourfastness to daylight of textile materials |
| 2001.4.3 | Colourfastness tests—Determination of colourfastness to rubbing |
| 2001.4.8 | Colourfastness tests—Determination of colourfastness to water |
| 2001.4.15 | Colourfastness tests—Determination of colourfastness to washing |
| 2001.4.16 | Colourfastness tests—Determination of colourfastness to drycleaning solvents |
| 2001.4.21 | Colourfastness tests—Determination of colourfastness to light using an artificial light source (mercury vapour, tungsten filament, internally phosphor-coated lamp) |
| 2001.5.4 | Dimensional change—Determination of dimensional change in laundering of textile fabrics and garments—Automatic machine method |
| 2001.5.7 | Dimensional change—Determination of dimensional change on drycleaning in perchloroethylene excluding finishing—Machine method |
| 2663 | Textiles—Woven and knitted fabrics for window furnishings |
| 2663.1 | Part 1: Uncoated fabrics |
| 2687 | Textiles—Upholstery fabrics for domestic and commercial use (excluding face-coated fabrics) |

AS/NZS

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| 1957 | Textiles—Care labelling |
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