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Australian Standard®

**Labelling of clothing, household
textiles and furnishings**

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/44, Labelling of Clothing and Other Textiles. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 28 March 1990 and published on 17 September 1990.

The following interests are represented on Committee CS/44:

Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers, N.S.W.
Australian Consumers Association
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations
Australian Knitting Industries Council
Australian Retailers Association
Australian Wholesale Softgoods Federation
Consumer Affairs Bureau, Qld
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.
Department of Public and Consumer Affairs, S.W.
Furnishers Society of Australia
Home Economics Association of Australia
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Victoria
Trade Practices Commission

Additional interests participated in preparation of Standard:

Label manufacturers

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Australian Standard®

**Labelling of clothing, household
textiles and furnishings**

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PREFACE

This Standard has been prepared at the request of clothing manufacturers, retailers and consumers who realized the urgent need for a labelling Standard to ensure that labelling requirements for textile articles, covering brand, size, care, fibre content, country of origin and fire hazard category, are feasible and do not conflict.

The Standard is applicable to clothing, household textiles and furnishings whether of textile or plastics, plastics-coated fabric or suede or grain leathers or furs. However, labelling of carpets and floor rugs is dealt with in a separate Standard, AS 2914, *Textile floor coverings—Informative labelling*, and therefore does not come within the scope of this Standard.

The Standard relates to permanent labelling requirements. Therefore, care labelling information on piece goods, yarns and haberdashery items, and the labelling of hosiery which is stated on the package for economic reasons, are not included.

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

- 1182 *Size coding scheme for infants' and children's clothing*
- 1249 *Children's nightclothes having reduced fire hazard*
- 1344 *Size coding scheme for women's clothing*
- 1954 *Size designation scheme for men's clothing*
- 1957 *Care labelling of clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture, bedding, piece goods and yarns*
- 2622 *Textile products—Fibre content labelling*
- 2914 *Textile floor coverings—Informative labelling*

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FOREWORD

The sizing of garments for children, women and men is covered by Standards AS 1182, AS 1344 and AS 1954 respectively, care labelling by AS 1957 and the labelling of fire hazard classification for children's night clothes by AS 1249. Federal and/or State Regulations require that textile articles be labelled with the care instructions and fibre content and, in the case of imported goods, the country of origin. In addition, children's night clothes must be clearly and conspicuously labelled with the fire hazard category.

In the case of clothing, the committee responsible for the development of the sizing and care labelling Standards recognized that although it would be desirable to label each garment at the top centre back, this would not always be possible because of the style, type or fashion of the garment. However, to enable a prospective purchaser to make an informed choice, the labels must be either 'clearly visible' or 'accessible'. These terms are used in some of the labelling Standards and in government regulations. The aim of this Standard, therefore, is to define the position or positions on garments which are considered to be 'conspicuous', 'clearly visible' or 'accessible'.

The alternatives given make it possible for labels to be attached so that they do not mar the appearance of the garment and, in the case of a close-fitting garment, do not irritate the wearer.

In many cases it may be possible to include all of the information on one label. However, some garments may carry up to six different pieces of information—brand, size, fire hazard, fibre content, care instructions and country of origin—making this difficult. To assist manufacturers in designing labels, the above information has been divided into two categories: primary information, which may be linked together on one label placed in the most conspicuous position, and secondary information, which may be linked together and placed on the reverse side of the primary information label. A label carrying the secondary information may also be placed adjacent to the main label or at the alternative position given in Appendix A for that particular garment. Where composite labels are not feasible for economic or other reasons, individual labels may be used.

The regulation covering labelling of children's nightclothes requires the fire hazard label to be either combined with the size label or attached adjacent to it.

Consumer representatives state that the brand name, size and care instructions are the pieces of information the consumer generally seeks when making a purchase. Fibre content and care labelling form a logical grouping, as do brand, size and country of origin.

The practice at the present time, both in Australia and overseas, is to give care instructions either on the back of the brand and size label or on a separate label sewn into a side seam just above the hem of the garment. This latter method reduces the likelihood of a care label being cut off because of irritation to the wearer or because it shows when attached at the top of the neck.

A warning label must be attached in the most conspicuous position possible. Where applicable, it has top priority.

It is the committee's opinion that all information should be accessible to the purchaser without unreasonable effort at the point of purchase. The Standard has been developed on this basis. Therefore, where articles are packaged, enclosed or folded in such a way that the information is inaccessible, the size, care instructions and any warning must be given on a swing ticket or adhesive label, or in a pamphlet accompanying the article. The information on articles sold in packages that may be opened and reclosed and still be fit for display is deemed to be accessible.

A purchaser may request the retailer to open packaged goods to allow reasonable examination of them prior to purchase and the retailer would be obliged to comply with such a request if he wishes to make a sale.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings

1 SCOPE This Standard sets out methods for the permanent labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings with the brand name, size or dimensions, care instructions, fibre content, country of origin, and, for children's night clothes, the fire hazard classification.

2 APPLICATION The Standard is applicable to all types of clothing, household textiles and furnishings, whether of textile, plastics, plastics-coated fabric or suede or grain leathers and fur.

3 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this Standard, the following definitions apply:

3.1 Permanent label—a label which will withstand the cleaning instructions given for the article to which it is attached and which will remain legible and attached to the article throughout the useful life thereof.

3.2 Primary information—information of prime importance to the purchaser, including size, fire hazard warning, country of origin (if applicable) and the brand name or trade mark.

3.3 Secondary information—information of secondary importance to the consumer, including fibre content and care instructions.

3.4 Fire hazard label—a label which classifies the fire hazard risk of a child's nightwear garment in accordance with AS 1249.

4 LABELLING REQUIREMENTS.

4.1 General. Permanent labels shall be used.

NOTE: For exemptions from this requirement, reference should be made to the appropriate State and Federal Legislation.

4.2 Content of label. The information given on the label or labels shall be in accordance with the requirements of the following Standards and relevant State and Federal Labelling Regulations, as appropriate:

(a) *Sizing.*

AS

1182 Size coding scheme for infants' and children's clothing (underwear and outerwear)

1344 Size clothing scheme for women's clothing (underwear, outerwear and foundation garments)

1954 Size designation scheme for men's clothing (including multiple fitting outerwear and industrial wear)

(b) *Care labelling.*

AS

1957 Care labelling of clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture, bedding, piece goods and yarns

(c) *Fibre content.*

AS

2622 Textile products—Fibre content labelling

(d) *Fire hazard classification (for children's nightclothes).*

AS

1249 Children's nightclothes having reduced fire hazard

(e) *Other requirements.* Reference must be made to State and Federal labelling regulations to ensure compliance with requirements of any regulations which are additional to those specified in this Standard.

4.3 Design and manufacture.

4.3.1 General. The number of labels used to convey the information relevant to a particular article should be kept to a minimum. Wherever possible, one label should be used.

The overall design of composite labels should be such that it complies with the design requirements for labels specified in whichever of the Standards nominated in Clause 4.2 are relevant.

Where a single label is used, the primary information shall be given on the obverse side. The secondary information shall be given totally or in part on the obverse side but any secondary information not so given shall be given on the reverse side of the single label.