

Australian Standard[®]

**Textiles for health care facilities
and institutions**

**Part 5: Wool blankets—Laundering
procedures**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TX/15, Hospital Textiles and Textiles Product. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 22 December 1993 and published on 11 April 1994.

The following interests are represented on Committee TX/15:

AWTA Textile Testing
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers
Australian Linen Services Executive
Australian Nursing Federation
Commercial Services Group, N.S.W.
Department of Corrective Services, N.S.W.
Department of Health, N.S.W.
Department of Health, W.A.
Federation of Sterilizing Research and Advisory Councils of Australia
Hospital Laundry Managers Association of Australia
N.S.W. Operating Theatre Association
Queensland Health
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Textile Rental and Laundry Association
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First published as AS CL2—1962.
Revised and redesignated as AS 2391—1980.
Second edition 1985.
Revised and redesignated AS 3789.5—1994.

PUBLISHED BY STANDARDS AUSTRALIA
(STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA)
1 THE CRESCENT, HOMEBUSH, NSW 2140

ISBN 0 7262 8188 3

PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on Hospital Textiles and Textile Products, TX/15, on behalf of the Joint Multitechnics Standards Policy Board. It supersedes AS 2391—1985, *Textiles for hospitals and institutions—Wool blankets—Laundering procedures*.

The laundering operation, which is designed to clean blankets complying with AS 3789.4, involves the use of neutral synthetic detergents at elevated temperatures causing the destruction of pathogenic organisms.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

Textiles for health care facilities and institutions

Part 5: Wool blankets—Laundering procedures

1 SCOPE This Standard sets out procedures to be adopted for the laundering of wool blankets used in hospitals and kindred institutions. The Standard incorporates a high temperature method of laundering which will destroy most pathogenic organisms.

2 APPLICATION The Standard is applicable to the laundering of wool blankets manufactured in accordance with AS 3789.4.

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

AS

1792 Method for determining the biodegradability of surfactants

3789 Textiles for health care facilities and institutions

3789.4 Part 4: Wool blankets

4 DETERGENT COMPOSITION

4.1 Essential ingredients and requirements The detergent shall be either a free flowing powder of homogeneous composition or a suitable liquid with long-term stability. The detergent shall include the following essential components:

- (a) Surface active agents which are biologically soft as defined in AS 1792.
- (b) A sequestering agent to prevent discolouration of the laundered articles from traces of iron or copper in the water or from associated plant and machinery.
- (c) A suitable builder to give adequate soil suspension.

4.2 Optical brighteners The detergent shall contain no optical brightening agent substantive to wool.

4.3 pH of the detergent solution The pH of the 1 percent solution of the detergent shall be within the range 6.5 to 8.0.

5 LAUNDERING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1 Recommended washing conditions The recommended washing conditions are set out in Table 1.

The recommended washing conditions are based on using a washer extractor system as most laundries would use this type of equipment when processing wool blankets. However, if laundries intended to process wool blankets through a continuous batch washing system (CBW) then the recommended extractor washing conditions should be translated for use in the CBW. Refer to Note 3, Table 1.