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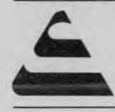
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AS/NZS 1957:1998

# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup> 1957—1987

## CARE LABELLING OF CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES, FURNISHINGS, UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, BEDDING, PIECE GOODS AND YARNS

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This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles. It was approved on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 22 September 1987 and published on 2 November 1987.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/4:

Attorney-General's Department  
Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers  
Australian Consumers Association  
Australian Council of Furniture Manufacturers  
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations Inc.  
Australian Knitting Industries Council  
Australian Leather Institute  
Australian Retailers Association  
Australian Wholesale Softgoods Federation  
Australian Wool Corporation  
AWTA Textile Testing  
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Department of Community Development, N.T.  
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Department of Consumer Affairs, W.A.  
Department of Public and Consumer Affairs, S.A.  
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Drycleaning Institute of Australia  
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Textile Clothing and Footwear Council of Australia Limited  
Textile Rental and Laundry Association (Aust) Ltd  
Trade Practices Commission  
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

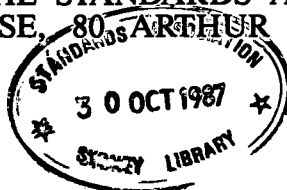
**CARE LABELLING  
OF CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD  
TEXTILES, FURNISHINGS,  
UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE,  
BEDDING, PIECE GOODS AND  
YARNS**

**AS 1957—1987**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Care Labelling of Textiles, to supersede AS 1957—1982. It was first published in 1966 and revised in 1971, as AS L38, Informative Labelling of Textiles and Textile Articles for Laundering and Dry Cleaning, and was revised again in 1976 at the request of the State Ministers for Consumer Affairs. At that time, the scope of the Standard was extended to include leather, plastics and plastics-coated articles.

The State Consumer Affairs Ministers had requested that the revision include performance tests and criteria which could be used either as a guide in the choice of appropriate phrases or, if necessary, to determine if the care instructions given were appropriate. However, the wide range of textile products marketed meant that the task of developing the tests and of establishing the criteria had to be undertaken as a long term project.

It was therefore decided to develop the guide as a separate document. The guide, AS 2621 Care Labelling—Guide to the Selection of Correct Care-labelling Instructions from AS 1957, was published in 1983. In addition to the performance tests and criteria for colour fastness and shrinkage, it provides a procedure to assist manufacturers in choosing washing, bleaching, drying, ironing, and drycleaning instructions.

In December 1977 it was decided to adopt the international symbols (ISO) for drycleaning and an amendment was published to this effect. In 1978 a further edition was published and the scope was extended to include furs. Several additional care phrases and a requirement that both washing and drycleaning instructions were to be given, where both were appropriate to an article, were also added.

In the 1982 edition, the application of the Standard was extended at the request of the manufacturers of sheepskin products, to include skins and hides. Upholstered furniture and bedding which incorporate a textile, plastics or plastics-coated fabric, leather or sheepskin were also included at that time.

The changes included in this edition were requested by the Australian Retail Traders Association. One change is the deletion of the requirement for a care instruction to be provided from each of the five care categories. Drying and ironing instructions can now be omitted for articles where no specific or prohibited instruction is required for their proper care. Another change is the inclusion of a reference to AS 2621 for guidance in selecting the correct care-labelling instructions for a particular article.

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD ....	3
1 SCOPE ....	4
2 APPLICATION ....	4
3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS ....	4
4 DEFINITIONS ....	4
5 LABELLING ....	4

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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.

The purpose of this Standard is to establish a concise, uniform system of care labelling for clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture, bedding, piece goods and yarns.

The Standard specifies the use of phrases and a number of symbols relating to drycleaning which have a clearly established meaning. The proper use of these phrases and symbols 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 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 in developing the care instructions:

- (a) 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 which 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
- (b) Drycleaning hazards
  - Drycleaning when the article should not be drycleaned
  - The use of an inappropriate drycleaning solvent
- (c) Pressing and ironing hazards
  - Ironing at too high a temperature
  - Steam pressing when the article should not be steam pressed
- (d) Spot cleaning and sponge cleaning
  - The use of inappropriate cleaning fluids
  - The use of too much moisture

Consumers and manufacturers of made-up articles are entitled to information on how to care for garments or articles they may make from piece goods, yarns and other textiles. The Standard requires that this information be made available at the point of purchase in one of the following ways:

- (i) By a care label which can be sewn onto the made-up article.
- (ii) By a care instruction ticket attached to the roll of fabric for perusal by the prospective purchaser.
- (iii) By a pamphlet which is given to the consumer or manufacturer of made-up articles when the purchase is made.

## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

CARE LABELLING OF CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES, FURNISHINGS,  
UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE, BEDDING, PIECE GOODS AND YARNS

**1 SCOPE.** This Standard sets out words, phrases and symbols to be used for giving care instructions for clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture and bedding, piece goods and yarns. It also specifies methods by which these goods shall be labelled or supplied with appropriate instructions.

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

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

**3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.** The following Standards are referred to in this Standard:

AS 2392 Labelling of Clothing, Household Textiles and Furnishings.

AS 2621 Care Labelling—Guide to the Selection of Correct Care-labelling Instructions from AS 1957.

**4 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this Standard the following definitions apply:

**4.1 Bleaching**—a process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during or after the washing processes using a bleach for removing stains and/or the improvement of whiteness.

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

**4.3 Drying (after washing)**—a process carried out on an article after washing to remove residual water.

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

**4.5 Ironing**—a process using heat and/or steam carried out on an article to restore its shape and appearance.

**4.6 Laundering**—a domestic or commercial activity involving in combination all or any of the washing, bleaching, drying and ironing procedures.

**4.7 Permanent label**—a label which will withstand the cleaning treatment given for the article to which it is attached, and which will remain legible and attached to the article throughout its useful life.

**4.8 Sponge cleaning**—a process for cleaning an article by sponging with a damp cloth to avoid excess moisture.

**4.9 Washing**—a hand or machine process designed to clean an article in an aqueous bath which may include soaking, pre-washing, washing proper, mechanical action, detergent, soap or other products, rinsing, and water extraction.

**5 LABELLING.**

**5.1 General.** The label shall include appropriate and adequate instructions for the care of an article. Care encompasses cleaning and maintenance. Appropriate care instructions are those that when followed comply with these requirements without damage to the article. Maintenance instructions are generally necessary only for articles which require a cleaning process other than laundering and/or drycleaning.

Phrases of a general nature and those indicating that a treatment is prohibited or that special care is to be taken shall be used in conjunction with the appropriate care or cleaning instructions. In rare cases where a cleaning technique is not available, warnings against the use of damaging treatments shall be given.

Where appropriate care instructions are not included in Tables 1 or 2, other phrases may be used, provided that such phrases accurately describe the required care procedure.

For made-up articles the care instructions shall take into account particularly vulnerable components such as trims, unless their removal is advised, or padding in upholstered furniture and bedding if covers are not removable for cleaning.

To assist the consumer, launderer, drycleaner or commercial cleaner, additional instructions beyond those given in Tables 1 and 2 may be included on the label. A manufacturer may also set out additional care instructions on a swing ticket, in a pamphlet, or on a package.

**NOTES:**

1. Thread, tapes, zippers, facings, etc should have similar dimensional stability and colourfastness as the base fabric for the particular care treatment advised.
2. For guidance on alternative attachment positions for labels and the way in which care information may be combined with other information on a label, e.g. fibre content, reference should be made to AS 2392.

**5.2 Made-up articles.**

**5.2.1 Care instructions for washable and/or dry-cleanable articles.** The care label shall include, where appropriate, adequate instructions from care instruction categories A, B, C, D and E, set out in Table 1 applicable to the particular articles.

Where both laundering and drycleaning treatments are appropriate to the care of an article, the label shall carry adequate instructions for both treatments and both sets of instructions shall be given on the same side of the label (see Note 1).

Where no specific or prohibited drying instruction is necessary for the proper care of an article, a drying instruction is not required (see Note 2).