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# Australian Standard 1957-1978

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



**STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

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THE FOLLOWING, SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, CONSUMER AND GOVERNMENTAL organizations and departments were officially represented on the committee entrusted with the preparation of this standard:

ACT Consumer Affairs Bureau  
Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers  
Australian Consumers Association  
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations  
Australian Institute of Drycleaning  
Australian Institute of Launderers and Linen Suppliers  
Australian Knitting Industries Council  
Australian Leather Institute  
Australian Retailers Association  
Australian Wool Corporation  
Australian Wool Testing Authority  
Bureau of Consumer Affairs, W.A.  
Consumer Affairs Council, Tasmania  
Cotton and Allied Textile Manufacturers Association of Australia  
Cotton and Manmade Fibres Federation  
Department of Business and Consumer Affairs  
Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.  
Department of Public and Consumer Affairs, S.A.  
Department of Technical and Further Education, N.S.W.  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Victoria  
Northern Territory Consumers Protection Council  
Queensland Consumer Affairs Council  
University of New South Wales  
Wool Textile Manufacturers of Australia

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This standard, prepared by Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles, was approved for publication on behalf of the Council of the Standards Association of Australia on 24 November 1978, and was published on 31 December 1978.

To keep abreast of progress in industry, Australian standards are regularly reviewed. Suggestions for improvements to published standards, addressed to the head office of the Association, are welcomed.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

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

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## PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Care Labelling of Textiles. 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 as a guide in the choice of appropriate phrases and, 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 establishing the criteria could only be undertaken as a long term project. The committee therefore decided initially to concentrate on providing labelling requirements and care instructions.

Part 1, Method of Labelling—Made-up Articles, Part 2, Care Instructions, and Supplement No 1, Method of Labelling Piece Goods, were published in October 1976. In December 1977 it was decided to adopt the international symbols (ISO) for dry-cleaning and an amendment was published to this effect.

In this present edition the scope has been extended to include furs, and Parts 1 and 2, Supplement No 1 and Amendment No 1 have been incorporated into the one standard. Several additional care phrases and a requirement that both washing and drycleaning instructions must be given where both are appropriate to an article have also been added.

The committee considered the adoption of the proposed ISO care labelling symbols for laundering. However, a consensus has not yet been reached as many countries, including Australia, believe the scheme in its present form is far too complex.

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# STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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## Australian Standard for CARE LABELLING OF CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES, FURNISHINGS, PIECE GOODS AND YARNS

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### FOREWORD

The development of new fibres, blends, and finishes for textile articles has made it difficult, if not impossible, for the housewife 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 contents.

At present, many manufacturers provide a label or swing ticket which carries an indication of the cleaning procedure to be followed. However, there are difficulties associated with the variety of terminology and the tendency for swing labels to be mislaid.

The purpose of this standard, therefore, is to establish a concise, uniform system of care labelling. It covers clothing, household textiles, furnishings and 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, cleaning or other care and maintenance procedures to be followed in order to avoid damaging the article.

The standard does not prevent a manufacturer from supplying additional information if this is considered desirable or of using where necessary phrases not included in the standard provided that they accurately describe the required care procedure. Where appropriate, a phrase from each of the washing, drying, ironing and drycleaning phrase categories is to be stated on the label.

The following are some of the causes of damage to textiles, 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.

It is recognized that the consumer is entitled to information on how to care for garments or articles she or he 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 supply of a care label which can be sewn on 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 when the purchase is made.

## SPECIFICATION

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

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

**3 DEFINITIONS.** For the purpose of this standard the following definitions apply:

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

*Chlorine-based bleaching*—a process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during or after the washing processes using a chlorine-based bleach for the purpose of removing stains and/or the improvement of whiteness.

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

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

*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.

*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 the useful life thereof.

## 4 LABELLING.

**4.1 General.** The care label shall include, where appropriate, adequate instructions from each of the care instruction categories B, C, D and E set out in Table 1 applicable to the particular article or piece good. Phrases of a general nature, and those indicating that a treatment is prohibited or that special care is to be taken shall be used only in conjunction with the appropriate care instructions.

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.

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

### 4.2 Made-up Articles.

**4.2.1 General.** Made-up articles shall be care labelled in accordance with Clauses 4.1 and 4.2.2.

The care instructions shall apply to the whole article, taking into account particularly vulnerable

components, including trims, unless their removal is advised.

#### 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. Additional instructions may be given on the label where instructions beyond those specified in Table 1 are necessary to assist the consumer, launderer, or drycleaner. A manufacturer may also set out additional care instructions on a swing ticket, in a pamphlet, or on a package.
3. Care instructions may be included on or placed adjacent to, the label that gives the fibre content.

**4.2.2 Label.** The care instructions shall be given on a permanent label complying with the following requirements:

- (a) The label shall be accessible for examination by a prospective purchaser, or, where this is not possible because of the manner in which the article is packaged, displayed or folded, the same care instructions shall be provided additionally on the package, or on a removable label or ticket attached to the article, or on a pamphlet accompanying the article.
- (b) The label shall carry the entire wording of the appropriate care instructions in accordance with Clauses 4.1 and 4.2.
- (c) The wording of the label shall be clearly legible, and of medium width lettering of which no individual letter shall be less than 1.5 mm high (see Note).
- (d) A separate permanent label shall be fixed to those individual components of multiple articles that require different care because of, for example, different fabric or fibre.

NOTE: By 'medium width' is meant the width which the manufacturer (of the type) puts forward under the name of the family, i.e. the group or typefaces which are derived from one basic design, as representing the design in that normal width from which variants in the family have been or may be derived.

## 4.3 Piece Goods, Yarns and Other Textile Materials.

**4.3.1 General.** Care instructions for piece goods, yarns and other textile materials shall be made freely available to the consumer and supplied in accordance with Clauses 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 4.3.4.

**4.3.2 Instructions.** The care instructions given shall be in accordance with Clause 4.1. Additional instructions may be given to assist the consumer, for example, where a fabric has a specific end use or requires special thread, trimmings, facings or interfacing or a special method of sewing.

**4.3.3 Piece goods.** Care instructions for piece goods shall be supplied—

- (a) by a label intended for the consumer to sew into a finished garment or article, or
- (b) by a ticket attached to each roll of material, or
- (c) by a pamphlet.

Where practicable, manufacturers should incorporate care instructions in the selvedge.

**4.3.4 Yarns and other textile materials.** Labelling of textile materials, other than those referred to above, shall be by means of a ticket or band fixed to the skein, ball or other form of the material.