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CARE LABELLING—GUIDE TO THE SELECTION OF CORRECT CARE-LABELLING INSTRUCTIONS FROM AS 1957



STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
Incorporated by Royal Charter



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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 Institute of Drycleaning
Australian Institute of Launderers and Linen Suppliers
Australian Knitting Industries Council
Australian Leather Institute
Australian Retailers Association
Australian Wholesale Softgoods Federation
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**CARE LABELLING—
GUIDE TO THE SELECTION OF
CORRECT CARE-LABELLING
INSTRUCTIONS FROM
AS 1957**

AS 2621—1983

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PREFACE

This standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Care Labelling of Textiles to assist manufacturers in the selection of appropriate care instructions from those listed in AS 1957—1982, Care Labelling of Clothing, Household Textiles, Furnishings, Upholstered Furniture, Bedding, Piece Goods and Yarns, for articles which may be washed and/or drycleaned. Where adequate or appropriate instructions for a particular article are not included in AS 1957, it allows other short phrases to be used, provided that such phrases adequately describe the required care procedure.

In developing this guide the committee considered a similar document prepared by the National Swedish Board for Consumer Policies and acknowledgement is made of the assistance obtained therefrom.

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
FOREWORD	3
GUIDE	
1 Scope	4
2 Application	4
3 Referenced Documents	4
4 General Rule	4
5 Basic Performance Requirements	4
6 Procedure for Choosing Appropriate Care Instructions	4
PRODUCT END-USE INDEX	7
INTRODUCTORY NOTES ON USE OF TABLES 1, 2 AND 3	10
TABLES	
1 Detailed Care Treatment for Textile Products, Accessories and Trims	11
2 Detailed Care Treatments for Industrial Products, Uniforms, Work Clothes etc	12
3 Detailed Care Treatments for Accessories Requiring Special Care	12
4 Colourfastness—Basic Performance Requirements	13
5 Dimensional Stability—Basic Performance Requirements	14
6 Examples of When to Use the Prohibited Treatment Phrases and Warning Phrases Given in AS 1957	15

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**Australian Standard****for****CARE LABELLING—GUIDE TO THE SELECTION OF CORRECT CARE-LABELLING INSTRUCTIONS FROM AS 1957****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 still be able to be used for the purpose for which it was originally designed and manufactured.

This standard sets out a procedure the aim of which is to assist the manufacturer in making decisions as to whether or not a textile product is washable and/or drycleanable 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 and dimensional stability, the two aspects of garment and product performance about which the majority of complaints appear to be concerned.

Because manufacturers of textile fabrics are required by law to supply care instructions with their fabrics and because many manufacturers of made-up articles do not have testing facilities, the guide recommends that the manufacturer of the made up article verify his choice of care instructions by subjecting his product to the care treatment chosen. It is proposed that the test procedures specified in Tables 4, 5 and 6 be used for reference purposes in deciding whether or not the product meets the levels set which are considered acceptable.

Attention is drawn to the fact that where the care instructions prove to be too severe for an article a further test should be carried out using a less severe treatment. Should the product not meet the performance levels specified when subjected to the treatment required to clean the article, the manufacturer must include prohibited treatment or warning phrases as indicated in this guide.

GUIDE

1 SCOPE. This standard sets out guidelines intended to assist manufacturers in the selection of appropriate care-labelling instructions from AS 1957. It also specifies basic performance requirements with respect to colourfastness and dimensional stability 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.

2 APPLICATION. The standard applies to the choice of care instructions for only those articles which are washable and/or drycleanable.

3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS. The following standards are referred to in this standard:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| AS 1287 | Methods for the Determination of Dimensional Change in Fabrics
Part 5—Dimensional Change in Laundering of Woven and Knitted Fabrics and Garments |
| AS 1957 | Care Labelling of Clothing, Household Textiles, Furnishings, Upholstered Furniture, Bedding, Piece Goods and Yarns |
| AS 2001 | Methods of Test for Textiles
2001.4.2 Colourfastness Tests—Determination of Colourfastness to Daylight
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 of Textiles to Washing
2001.4.16 Colourfastness Tests—Determination of Colourfastness of Textiles to Drycleaning Solvents |
| AS L15 | Methods for Determining the Colour Fastness of Textiles
Part XIX—Colour Fastness to Washing in the Presence of Sodium Hypochlorite as Used in Commercial Laundering
Part XX—Colour Fastness to Washing in the Presence of Sodium Perborate |
| ISO 105 | Textiles—Tests for Colour Fastness |
| ISO 3175 | Textiles—Determination of Dimensional Change on Dry Cleaning in Perchlorethylene—Machine Method |

4 GENERAL RULE. After treatment in accordance with the care instructions on the label, the article should be clean, and be fit for the purpose for which it was designed and manufactured.

5 BASIC PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS. When treated in accordance with the care treatment phrases chosen, the colourfastness and dimensional stability of the article should comply with the performance requirements set out in Tables 4 and 5. In those instances where the performance levels are those specified in Table 6, the appropriate warning phrases must be included in the care instructions given.

The correctness of the care treatment chosen can be established by treating the article in accordance with those instructions or by using the test procedures specified in Tables 4, 5 and 6. Reference should be made to Step 4 (see Clause 6.2) and the accompanying notes for assistance in carrying out the verification procedure.

With multicoloured articles, the assessment of colourfastness should be based on the poorest performing colour, panel trim or component.

6 PROCEDURE FOR CHOOSING APPROPRIATE CARE INSTRUCTIONS.

6.1 Flowchart. Flowchart A sets out the basic procedure for choosing appropriate care instructions for cleaning an article by laundering and/or by drycleaning. It consists of several steps which *must* be followed in sequence. Guidelines on how to undertake these steps are given in Clause 6.2.

6.2 Guidelines To Assist in Undertaking Each Step of the Flowchart. The following procedures are recommended to ensure that the care instructions chosen are the correct ones which, if followed, will ensure satisfactory end-use performance of the article:

Step 1 Classification of article by end-use and fabric and fibre type. The classification of an article by its end-use and fabric, yarn and fibre type or types is necessary as these two factors form the basis for the choice of cleaning treatment to be used and are the key to the proper use of Tables 1, 2 and 3, which give details of care treatment suitable to various textile products and accessories.

Step 2 Reference to product end-use index. In this Index, products have been classified into specific groupings according to end-use, e.g. pull-overs appear under the general heading of outerwear, while singlets are listed in underwear.

Decide on the end-use of the article being considered. Opposite the end-use in the 'Recommended Treatment' column guidance is given as to whether washing and/or drycleaning are appropriate cleaning processes. This is based on the treatment normally given to the particular article. For example, a washing treatment would not normally be given to a wool worsted suiting, drycleaning would be the appropriate care treatment; similarly, a drycleaning treatment, except for special reasons, would not normally be given to a cotton/polyester shirting, washing would be the appropriate care treatment. Some articles may be cleaned, equally efficiently, by either washing or drycleaning. In such instances the washing process is to be given prominence on the label.