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Superseded by AS/NZS 2450:1994

AS 2450—1987

Standards  
Association of  
Australia



# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup> 2450—1987

**TEXTILES—  
NATURAL AND MAN-MADE  
FIBRES—  
GENERIC NAMES**



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles, in conjunction with TX/-/1 Textiles Standards Board Executive. 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:

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Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers  
Australian Consumers Association  
Australian Council of Furniture Manufacturers  
Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations Inc.  
Australian Knitting Industries Council  
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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**TEXTILES—  
NATURAL AND MAN-MADE  
FIBRES—  
GENERIC NAMES**

**AS 2450—1987**

First published .....	1981
Second edition .....	1987

PUBLISHED BY THE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
STANDARDS HOUSE, 80 ARTHUR ST, NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.

ISBN 0 7262 4596 8



## PREFACE

This edition of this Standard was prepared by the Association's Committee on Care Labelling of Textiles, in conjunction with the Textile Standards Board to supersede AS 2450—1981. The first edition was published primarily for use in conjunction with AS 2622 Textile Products—Fibre Content Labelling. The Standard lists the generic names for textile fibres which may be used for technical and commercial purposes.

In fibre content labelling of textile products, it is essential that reference be made to the existing textile labelling laws which specify the generic names to be used.

The glossary is divided into two sections. The first contains the generic names for natural fibres and the second those for man-made fibres.

In the preparation of this glossary, reference was made to ISO 2076, Textiles—Man-made Fibres—Generic Names, and to the Council Directive of the European Economic Community, dated 26 July 1971 (71/307/EEC) relating to the labelling of textile products for marketing. ISO DP 6938, Textiles—Natural Fibres—Generic Names, was also considered. The descriptions of the fibres listed comply with those used in these documents. For the chemical derivation of man-made fibres, reference should be made to ISO 2076.

Changes in this edition are the insertion of linen as an alternative to flax and the deletion of rayon.

Linen is not a generic fibre name but is used to describe yarns and fabrics made from the flax plant (*Linum usitatissimum*). It has become so accepted from an international consumer view point, that the committees responsible for this Standard decided to allow its use for textile fibre content labelling of consumer goods.

The name rayon which is used generically for regenerated cellulose fibres in some countries, was not included in ISO 2076 because it does not have the same meaning everywhere. The committees responsible for this Standard decided to follow the ISO Standard on this point. However, as rayon like linen is a term familiar to consumers, it was decided to allow its use in labelling textiles for fibre content provided it is used in conjunction with the generic name of the relevant regenerated cellulose fibre, e.g. viscose rayon.

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## STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## TEXTILES—NATURAL AND MAN-MADE FIBRES—GENERIC NAMES

## NATURAL FIBRES

Name	Description
abaca or manila	Fibre obtained from the sheathing leaf of <i>Musa textilis</i> .
animal hair	Hair of various animals other than those listed in this glossary.
alpaca	Hair of the alpaca.
angora	Hair of the angora rabbit.
camel	Hair of the camel.
cashmere	Hair of the cashmere goat.
coir	Fibre obtained from the fruit of <i>Cocos nucifera</i> (coconut).
cotton	Seed hair of the cotton plant ( <i>Gossypium</i> ).
flax (see note)	Fibre obtained from the stem of the flax plant ( <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> ).
guanaco	Hair of the guanaco.
hemp	Fibre obtained from the stem of hemp ( <i>Cannabis sativa</i> ).
horsehair	Hair of the horse.
jute	Fibre obtained from the stem of <i>Corchorus olitorius</i> or <i>C. capsularis</i> .
kapok	Seed hair from the kapok tree: Java kapok ( <i>Eriodendron anfractuosum</i> ), Indian kapok ( <i>Bombax malabaricum</i> ).
kenaf	Fibre obtained from the stem of <i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> (hibiscus hemp).
llama	Hair of the llama.
mohair	Hair of the angora goat.
ramie	Fibre obtained from the stem of <i>Boehmeria nivea</i> or <i>B. tenacissima</i> .
silk	Fibre obtained exclusively from silk-secreting insect larvae, in particular <i>Bombyx mori</i> .
sisal	Fibre obtained from the leaves of <i>Agave sisalana</i> .
tussah silk	Fibre obtained exclusively from the silk-secreting insect larvae <i>Antheraea mylitta</i> .
vicuna	Hair of the vicuna.
wool	Hair of the sheep ( <i>Ovis aries</i> ).
yak	Hair of the yak.

NOTE: Linen, is not a generic fibre name but it is widely used internationally to describe yarns and fabrics made from flax. It may be used for textile fibre content labelling of consumer goods (see Preface).

## MAN-MADE FIBRES

The generic names apply to fibres which include at least 85 percent of the polymer described, the remaining portion up to 100 percent being made by additions not chemically linked with the said polymer.

Name	Description
acetate	Cellulose acetate fibre in which less than 92 percent but at least 74 percent of hydroxyl groups are acetylated.
acrylic	Fibre formed of linear macromolecules comprising at least 85 percent (by mass) in the chain of the acrylonitrilic pattern.
alginate	Fibre obtained from metallic salts of alginic acid.
aramid	Fibre formed of synthetic linear macromolecules made from aromatic groups joined by amide linkages, in which at least 85 percent of the amide linkages are joined directly to two aromatic rings and in which imide groups may be substituted for up to 50 percent of the amide groups.
chlorofibre	Fibre formed of linear macromolecules having in the chain more than 50 percent (by mass) of vinyl chloride or vinylidene chloride units (more than 65 percent in the case where the rest of the chain is made up of acrylonitrile, the modacrylic fibres being thus excluded).