

Australian Standard 2392—1980

LABELLING OF CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES AND FURNISHINGS



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.

Australian Confederation of Apparel Manufacturers, N.S.W.

Australian Consumers Association

Australian Federation of Consumer Organizations

Australian Knitting Industries Council

Australian Retailers Association

Australian Wholesale Softgoods Federation

Consumer Affairs Bureau, Queensland

Department of Business and Consumer Affairs

Department of Consumer Affairs, N.S.W.

Department of Public and Consumer Affairs, S.A.

Furnishers Society of Australia

Home Economics Association of Australia

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Victoria

Trade Practices Commission

In addition, two label manufacturers were coopted to the committee.

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AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

**LABELLING OF CLOTHING,
HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES AND
FURNISHINGS**

AS 2392—1980

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PREFACE

This standard has been prepared at the request of clothing manufacturers, retailers and consumers who realized the urgent need for a labelling standard to ensure that labelling requirements for textile articles, covering brand, size, care, fibre content, country or origin and fire hazard category, are feasible and do not conflict.

The standard is applicable to clothing, household textiles and furnishings whether of textile or plastics, plastics-coated fabric or suede or grain leathers or furs. However, labelling of carpets and floor rugs is to be dealt with in a separate standard, AS , Informative Labelling of Textile Floor Coverings*, and therefore does not come within the scope of this standard.

The standard relates to permanent labelling requirements. Therefore, care labelling information on piece goods, yarns and haberdashery items, and the labelling of hosiery which is stated on the package for economic reasons, are not included.

This standard may require reference to the following standards:

- AS 1182 Size Coding Scheme for Infants' and Children's Clothing
- AS 1344 Size Coding Scheme for Women's Clothing
- AS 1954 Size Designation Scheme for Men's Clothing
- AS 1957 Care Labelling of Clothing, Household Textiles, Furnishings, Piece Goods and Yarns
- AS 1989 Classification and Labelling of Children's Night Clothes for Fire Hazard
- *AS Informative Labelling of Textile Floor Coverings

*In course of preparation.

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STANDARDS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**Australian Standard**

for

LABELLING OF CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES AND FURNISHINGS**FOREWORD**

The sizing of garments for children, women and men is covered by standards AS 1182, AS 1344 and AS 1954 respectively, care labelling by AS 1957 and the labelling of fire hazard classification for children's night clothes by AS 1989. Federal and/or State Regulations require that textile articles be labelled with the care instructions and fibre content and, in the case of imported goods, the country of origin. In addition, children's night clothes must be clearly and conspicuously labelled with the fire hazard category.

In the case of clothing, the committee responsible for the development of the sizing and care labelling standards recognized that although it would be desirable to label each garment at the top centre back, this would not always be possible because of the style, type or fashion of the garment. However, to enable a prospective purchaser to make an informed choice, the labels must be either 'clearly visible' or 'accessible'. These terms are used in some of the labelling standards and in government regulations.

The aim of this standard, therefore, is to define the position or positions on garments which are considered to be 'conspicuous', 'clearly visible' or 'accessible'.

The alternatives given make it possible for labels to be attached so that they do not mar the appearance of the garment and, in the case of a close-fitting garment, do not irritate the wearer.

In many cases it may be possible to include all of the information on one label. However, some garments may carry up to six different pieces of information—brand, size, fire hazard, fibre content, care instructions and country of origin—making this difficult. To assist manufacturers in designing labels, the above information has been divided into two categories: primary information, which may be linked together on one label placed in the most conspicuous position, and secondary information, which may be linked together and placed on the reverse side of the primary information label. A label carrying the secondary information may also be placed adjacent

to the main label or at the alternative position given in Appendix A for that particular garment. Where composite labels are not feasible for economic or other reasons, individual labels may be used.

The regulation covering labelling of children's night clothes requires the fire hazard label to be either combined with the size label or attached adjacent to it.

Consumer representatives state that the brand name, size and care instructions are the pieces of information the consumer generally seeks when making a purchase. Fibre content and care labelling form a logical grouping, as do brand, size and country of origin.

The practice at the present time, both in Australia and overseas, is to give care instructions either on the back of the brand and size label or on a separate label sewn into a side seam just above the hem of the garment. This latter method reduces the likelihood of a care label being cut off because of irritation to the wearer or because it shows when attached at the back of the neck.

A warning label must be attached in the most conspicuous position possible. Where applicable, it therefore has top priority.

It is the committee's opinion that all information should be accessible to the purchaser without unreasonable effort at the point of purchase. The standard has been developed on this basis. Therefore where articles are packaged, displayed or folded in such a way that the information is inaccessible, the size, care instructions and any warning must be given on a swing ticket or adhesive label, or in a pamphlet accompanying the article. The information on articles sold in packages that may be opened and reclosed and still be fit for display is deemed to be accessible.

A purchaser may request the retailer to open packaged goods to allow reasonable examination of them prior to purchase, and the retailer would be obliged to comply with such a request if he wishes to make a sale.

SPECIFICATION

1 SCOPE. This standard sets out methods for the permanent labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings with the brand name, size or dimensions, care instructions, fibre content, country of origin, and for children's night clothes the fire hazard classification.

2 APPLICATION. The standard is applicable to all types of clothing, household textiles and furnishings, whether of textile, plastics, plastics-coated fabric or suede or grain leathers and furs.

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

Permanent label—a label which will withstand the cleaning instructions given for the article to which it is attached and which will remain legible and attached to the article throughout the useful life thereof.

Primary information—information of prime importance to the purchaser, including size, fire hazard warning, country of origin (if applicable) and the brand name or trade mark.

Secondary information—information of secondary importance to the consumer, including fibre content and care instructions.

Fire hazard label—a label which classifies the fire hazard risk of a child's nightwear garment in accordance with AS 1989.

4 LABELLING REQUIREMENTS.

4.1 General. Permanent labels shall be used.

NOTE: For exemptions from this requirement, reference should be made to the appropriate State and Federal Legislation.

4.2 Contents of Label. The information given on the label or labels shall be in accordance with the requirements of the following standards and relevant State and Federal Labelling Regulations, as appropriate:

(a) *Sizing.*

AS 1182, Size Coding Scheme for Infants' and Children's Clothing (Underwear and Outerwear)

AS 1344, Size Coding Scheme for Women's Clothing (Underwear, Outerwear and Foundation Garments)

AS 1954, Size Designation Scheme for Men's Clothing (Including Multiple Fitting Outerwear and Industrial Wear)

(b) *Care labelling.*

AS 1957, Care Labelling of Clothing, Household Textiles, Furnishings, Piece Goods and Yarns.

(c) *Fibre content.*

State Textile Labelling Laws.

(d) *Fire hazard classification* (for children's night clothes).

AS 1989, Classification and Labelling of Children's Night Clothes for Fire Hazard.

(e) *Other requirements.* Reference must be made to State and Federal labelling regulations to ensure compliance with requirements of any

regulations which are additional to those specified in this standard.

4.3 Design and Manufacture.

4.3.1 General. The number of labels used to convey the information relevant to a particular article should be kept to a minimum. Wherever possible, one label should be used.

The overall design of composite labels shall be such that it complies with the design requirements for labels specified in whichever of the standards nominated in Clause 4.2 are relevant.

Where a single label is used, the primary information shall be given on the obverse side. The secondary information shall be given totally or in part on the obverse side but any secondary information not so given shall be given on the reverse side of the single label.

4.3.2 Sew-in labels. The material used for a label designed to be sewn at more than one side shall have similar shrinkage characteristics to the base fabric.

4.3.3 Adhesive labels. Where adhesive labels are used, they shall be such that the adhesion between the label and the fabric of the garment or article produces no bubbling or delamination when the garment is subjected to the cleaning treatments specified in the care instructions.

4.3.4 Stencilled, stamped and transfer-printed labels. Where labelling requirements are stencilled, stamped or transfer-printed onto an article, such labelling shall be deemed to comply with this standard provided that it complies with Clause 4.3.2 and with the definition of a permanent label.

4.4 Attachment of Labels.

4.4.1 General. Labels shall be attached to all articles covered by this standard so that they are accessible for examination by the prospective purchaser. Locations on such articles that are deemed to comply with these criteria are specified in Appendix A.

Where an article is packaged, displayed or folded in such a way that it may be opened and reclosed with care and still be fit for display purposes, the labels of articles contained therein shall be deemed to be accessible. Where this is not the case, the information contained on labels which are not visible 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.

To reduce the risk of a consumer removing the labels, the position or positions of attachment on clothing shall be chosen so that the label(s)—

(a) will not irritate the wearer; and

(b) do not mar the appearance of the garment, e.g. by being placed on a garment where they would be visible through a transparent material when the garment is worn.

4.4.2 Methods of attachment. Where two or more labels are used, they shall be attached in one of the following ways:

(a) With the label containing the primary information in the most conspicuous position