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Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

Textiles — Code d'étiquetage d'entretien au moyen de symboles



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Terms and definitions	1
3 Description and definition of symbols	3
4 Application and use of symbols	9
Annex A (informative) Characteristics and available test methods for the correct selection of care symbols	11
Annex B (informative) Regional and national practices in care labelling	16
Annex C (informative) Symbols for natural drying	19
Annex D (informative) Examples of additional wording	21
Bibliography	22

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3758 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 11, *Care labelling of textiles and apparel*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3758:1991), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

The variety of fibres, materials and finishes used in the production of textile articles together with the development of cleansing and care procedures makes it difficult and often impossible to decide on the appropriate cleansing and care treatment for each article simply by inspecting it. To help those who have to make such a decision (principally the consumer but also launderers and dry-cleaners), this code of graphic symbols was established for use in the permanent marking of textile articles with information on their care in use as an International Standard in 1991.

In order to make this code “easily understandable and recognizable” for the consumer world-wide, symbols have been limited as to types and numbers as far as practicable.

The first edition of this International Standard published in 1991 was a result of a compromise between two requirements: being simple enough to be understood by users in all countries — irrespective of the language they speak — yet providing as much information as possible to prevent irreversible damage being caused during care treatments. This International Standard has been made sufficiently flexible to accommodate the needs of practically all who wish to use it. This has been achieved by providing a sufficiently large selection of care treatments, from which the user may select the most suitable for any particular need.

The revision was necessary to reflect current cleansing practices including technical developments, new bleach systems, and the alternative to conventional dry cleaning using aqueous systems. Furthermore, modifications in the description of care processes have been introduced in order to avoid hindering process development.

The ISO international care label gives care instructions using a sequence of symbols in the order washing, bleaching, drying, ironing, and professional textile care. Certain basic symbol outlines in the order washing, bleaching, ironing, dry cleaning, and tumble drying (5-symbol label) are used as a regional label and are subject to international trademark No. 492423 registered at WIPO. See Annex B.

Annex A has been developed to give a description of characteristics and available test methods to ensure the correct selection of care symbols.

Annex B and Annex C have been added dealing with the symbolization of washing temperatures by means of added dots and the symbolization of natural drying processes.

When deemed necessary, words may be used as well as the symbols. Examples are included in Annex D.

The Annexes are not an integral part of this International Standard.

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Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

1 Scope

This International Standard

- establishes a system of graphic symbols, intended for use in the marking of textile articles (see also 4.1), providing information to prevent irreversible damage to the article during the textile care process;
- specifies the use of these symbols in care labelling.

The following domestic treatments are covered: washing, bleaching, ironing, and drying after washing. Professional textile care treatments in dry and wet cleaning, but excluding industrial laundering, are also covered. However, it is recognized that information imparted by the four domestic symbols will also be of assistance to the professional cleaner and launderer.

This International Standard applies to all textile articles in the form in which they are supplied to the end user.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

textile articles

yarns, piece goods and made-up articles containing at least 60 % by mass textile material

2.2

washing

process designed to clean textile articles in an aqueous bath

NOTE Washing includes all or some of the following operations in relevant combinations:

- soaking, pre-washing and main washing — carried out usually with heating, mechanical action and in the presence of detergents or other products — and rinsing;
- water extraction, i.e. spinning or wringing performed during and/or at the end of the operations mentioned above.

These operations may be carried out by machine or by hand.

2.3

bleaching

process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during, or after washing, requiring the use of an oxidizing agent including either chlorine or oxygen/non-chlorine products, for the purpose of improving soil and stain removal and/or improving whiteness

2.3.1

chlorine bleach

agent that releases hypochlorite ions in solution, e.g. sodium hypochlorite