
**Textiles — Care labelling code using
symbols**

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



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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 2, *Cleansing, finishing and water resistance tests*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3758:2005), of which definition 2.4.2 **natural drying** was revised. Symbols for natural drying processes were added in the new Table 4 and Annex C of the 2005 edition was deleted. Subclause 4.3 **Use of symbols** was revised as in this edition. The symbols for bleaching in Table 2 have been technically revised and one symbol concerning bleaching has been changed. In Table 6, **Symbols for professional textile care**, a symbol for “do not professional wet clean” was added in this edition. Some editorial changes have also been made.

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, based on the GINETEX care labelling system, for use in the permanent marking of textile articles with information on their care in use as an International Standard in 1991. In certain countries GINETEX has the intellectual property right of the 5 main symbols specified in this International Standard.

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 and second editions of this International Standard published in 1991 and 2005 were 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 international care label used in this International Standard gives care instructions using a sequence of symbols in the order of five main treatments: washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and professional textile care.

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 deals with regional and national requirements in care labelling.

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

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, and for providing information on the most severe treatment that does not cause irreversible damage to the article during the textile care process, and
- specifies the use of these symbols in care labelling.

The following domestic treatments are covered: washing, bleaching, drying and ironing. 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 domestic symbols will also be of assistance to the professional cleaner and launderer.

NOTE Symbols for industrial laundering can be found in ISO 30023.

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 80 % 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