INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

Textiles — Fibres naturelles — Noms génériques et définitions

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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 6938 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 6938:1984), which has been technically revised.

Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

1 Scope

This International Standard gives the generic names and the definitions of the most important natural fibres according to their specific constitution or origin.

An alphabetical list of names in common use is provided, together with the corresponding standardized denominations.

2 Types of fibres

2.1 Natural fibres

Natural fibres are fibres which occur in nature; they can be categorized according to their origin into animal, vegetable and mineral fibres.

2.2 Animal fibres

These include in particular:

— fibres from silk glands, secreted by some insects, perticularly by larvae of the lepidopter order, in the form of two filaments of fibroin cemented together by sericin;

— fibres secreted by some molluscs;

— fibres from hair follicles, with a multicellular structure, composed of keratin, forming the fleece, the coat, the mane or the tail of certain animals.

2.3 Vegetable fibres

These include in particular:

— fibres from seeds: single-cell structure, generated by the epidermal cells of the seed, almost entirely constituted of cellulose;

— fibres from bast: composite fibres obtained from the bast of certain plants, mainly constituted of cellulose and accompanied with incrusting and intercellular materials (pectin bodies, hemicellulose, lignin);

— fibres from leaf: composite fibres obtained from leaves, constituted chiefly of cellulose plus incrusting and intercellular materials, consisting of lignin and hemicelluloses;

— fibres from fruit: composite fibres obtained from fruit, constituted chiefly of cellulose plus incrusting and intercellular materials, consisting of lignin and hemicelluloses.

2.4 Mineral fibres

Mineral fibres are obtained from rocks of fibrous structure, constituted principally of silicates.