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# International Standard



# 6938

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION • МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ПО СТАНДАРТИЗАЦИИ • ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE NORMALISATION

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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 developing International Standards is carried out through ISO technical committees. Every member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been authorized 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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 6938 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, and was circulated to the member bodies in December 1982.

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries:

Australia	Iran	Romania
Belgium	Iraq	Spain
Bulgaria	Israel	South Africa, Rep. of
Canada	Italy	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Jamaica	Tanzania
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Korea, Rep. of	Turkey
Finland	Mexico	United Kingdom
France	Netherlands	USA
Ghana	New Zealand	USSR
Hungary	Poland	Venezuela
India	Portugal	Yugoslavia

The member body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds:

Germany, F. R.

# Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

## 1 Scope and field of application

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, particularly 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 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.