

TO WHOM DO THE REGULATIONS APPLY?

The regulations apply to any person who supplies or offers to supply textile products, in the course of a trade or business, in the United Kingdom.

Also covered are advertisements intended for retail customers where the advertisements describe the textile product or products in enough detail to enable the products to be ordered.

ARE THERE ANY EXEMPTIONS FROM THE REGULATIONS?

There are a number of products which are generally exempt from compulsory labelling or marking. These are given in Schedule 4 to the Regulations.

Certain products do not require to be individually marked. For example, a box of floor cloths requires only a single indication giving fibre content details. Schedule 5 to the Regulations gives a list of such items, and is reproduced at the end of these notes, as is Schedule 4. In addition, the fibre content of undifferentiated goods such as rolls of cloth, shall be given by labelling the reel.

Any textile products intended for export to any destination other than a member state are also exempt.

WHAT IS A TEXTILE PRODUCT?

Raw, semi-worked or made up products composed of textile fibres.

Products containing at least 80% by weight of textile products (including furniture, umbrella and sunshine coverings).

Textile parts of carpets, mattresses, camping goods and the warm linings of footwear, gloves, mittens (provided such parts and linings contain not less than 80% of textile fibres).

Textiles incorporated in, and forming an integral part of other products where the textile parts are specified.

SCHEDULE 5

Products in the case of which an indication of fibre content may relate to a number of products of the same type and composition.

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Floorcloths | 2 | Cleaning cloths |
| 3 | Edgings and trimmings | 4 | Passementerie |
| 5 | Belts | 6 | Braces |
| 7 | Suspenders and garters | 8 | Shoe and boot laces |
| 9 | Ribbons | 10 | Elastic |
| 11 | New packagings sold as such | 12 | Packing string and agricultural twine string, cordage and ropes (other than articles included in item 38 of schedule 4), including cordage and ropes intended for use mountaineering or watersports |
| 13 | Table mats | 19 | Tape for curtains, blinds and shutters |
| 14 | Handkerchiefs | | |
| 15 | Bun nets and hair nets | | |
| 16 | Ties and bow ties for children | | |
| 17 | Bibs, washgloves and face flannels | | |
| 18 | Sewing, mending and embroidery yarns presented for retail sale in small quantities with a net weight of 1 gram or less | | |

Copies of the department of Trade and Industry Guidelines "Fibre Content Labelling of Textiles" may be obtained from HMSO Bookshops. ISBN number 011513845 5 should be quoted when ordering.

These notes have been prepared by Aberdeenshire Council Environmental Health & Consumer Protection. They are provided for the guidance of traders and are not intended to be a definitive statement of the law. Only the courts can give an authoritative interpretation of legislation.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>26 Table mats having several components and a surface area of not more than 500cm²</p> <p>30 Tobacco pouches of textile fabric</p> <p>32 Protective requisites for sports with the exception of gloves</p> <p>34 Shoe-cleaning cases</p> <p>36 Disposable articles (including textile articles designed to be used once only or for a limited time, the normal use of which precludes any restoring for subsequent use for the same or a similar purpose) with the exception of wadding</p> <p>38 Textile articles including cordage, ropes and string (other than articles included in item 12 of schedule 5) normally intended:</p> <p>(a) For use as equipment components in the manufacture and processing of goods</p> <p>(b) For incorporation in machines, installations (eg for heating, air conditioning of lighting), domestic and other appliances, vehicles and other means of transport, or for their operation, maintenance or equipment, other than tarpaulin covers and textile motor vehicle accessories sold separately from the vehicle</p> <p>43 Flags and banners</p> | <p>27 Oven gloves and cloths</p> <p>28 Egg cosies</p> <p>29 Make-up cases</p> <p>31 Spectacle, cigarette and cigar, lighter and comb cases of textile fabric</p> <p>33 Toilet cases</p> <p>35 Funeral items</p> <p>37 Textile articles subject to the rules in force from time to time of the European Pharmacopoeia and covered by a reference to those rules, non-disposable bandages for medical and orthopaedic use in orthopaedic use textile and or orthopaedic textile articles in general</p> <p>39 Textile articles for protection and safety purposes such as safety belts, parachutes, lifejackets, emergency chutes, fire-fighting devices, bulletproof waistcoats and special protective garments (eg protection against fire, chemical substances or other safety hazards)</p> <p>40 Air-supported structures (eg sports halls, exhibition stand or storage facilities), provided that particulars of the performances and technical specifications of these articles are supplied</p> <p>41 Sails</p> <p>42 Animal clothing</p> |
|--|--|

HOW SHOULD THE PRODUCT BE LABELLED?

For retail sales, the items themselves, or where the items are offered for supply in packing, the packing must carry a label or mark indicating the fibre content.

For all other sales, where there are accompanying commercial documents, the fibre content must be included in these and in all other cases the products or packing must be labelled as for retail sales.

In both cases fibre content information must be clear, legible, in uniform lettering and must be separate and distinct from all other information (except trade marks, business names).

If the textile product is labelled but the label is not visible because of the container it is in, a second label should be affixed to the container.

HOW SHOULD TEXTILE PRODUCTS WITH TWO OR MORE COMPONENTS BE MARKED?

The fibre content of each component must be given, except where the component is less than 30% by weight of the product (unless such components are main linings) eg a trouser suit where the jacket differs from the trousers, or a dress where the bodice is different from the skirt.

Where the product consists of a single unit with two or more components with the same fibre content (eg a suit) a single fibre content indication may be given.

ARE THERE SPECIFIED NAMES FOR TEXTILE FIBRES?

Yes. The indication of fibre content must correspond to the material of which the fibres are composed. Schedule 2 of the Regulations lists the permitted names. Further information can be obtained from the contact addresses given at the end of this leaflet.

WHAT PARTICULAR EXPRESSIONS ARE CONTROLLED?

- (i) The description '100%', 'pure' or 'all' shall be used only if the product is composed exclusively of one fibre. (There is a small tolerance for manufacturing impurities and decorative fibres.)
- (ii) 'Fleece wool' and 'virgin wool' may only be used if the product is composed exclusively of wool fibre which has never before been used in a finished product. These expressions may be used in a fibre mixture, provided that:
 - (a) all the wool in the product satisfies the above requirements; and
 - (b) the wool is not less than 25% of the weight of the mixed fibre; and
 - (c) in the case of a scribbled mixture, the mixture consists only of wool and one other fibre.

HOW SHOULD PRODUCTS COMPOSED OF TWO OR MORE FIBRES BE DESCRIBED?

There are two main situation involving mixed fibre content:

- (i) A textile product consisting of two or more fibres where one of the fibres accounts for at least 85% of the total weight

Such a product should be labelled as follows:

- (a) The name of the main fibre preceded or followed by its percentage eg 85% cotton or cotton 85%, the word 'minimum' may also be used;

- or (b) The names of all the fibres in declining order of their weight preceded or followed by the percentage content eg 85% cotton, 10% viscose, 5% acrylic.

and

- (ii) A product consisting of two or more fibres, none of which account for 85% or more of the product weight

Such a product should be labelled as follows:

The name of the greatest, and the next greatest fibres and an indication of their percentages followed by the other fibres in order of descending weight with or without their percentages eg 60% cotton, 20% viscose, silk, elastane. N.B. Separate fibres accounting for less than 10% of the weight of the product may be indicated 'other fibres', provided their total weight is shown, but where a fibre is named and its weight accounts for less than 10%, the name of, and percentage by weight of every fibre shall be given.

In all cases the expression 'mixed fibres' and "unspecified textile composition" may be used on products whose fibre content is difficult to determine at the time of manufacture.

SCHEDULE 4

Products which are not generally subject to compulsory labelling or marking.

1	Sleeve-supporting arm-bands	2	Watch straps of textile materials
3	Labels and badges	4	Stuffed pan-holders of textile materials
5	Tea cosies	7	Sleeve protectors
6	Coffee cosies	9	Artificial flowers
8	Muffs other than in pile fabric	11	Painted canvas
10	Pin cushions	13	Felts
12	Textile products for base and underlying fabrics and stiffenings	14	Old made up textile products, where explicitly stated to be such
15	Gaiters	17	Felt hats
16	Packagings, not new and sold as such	18	Purses, pouches, cases, bags and saddlery, of textile materials
19	Travel goods of textile materials	21	Slide fasteners
20	Hand-embroidered tapestries, finished or unfinished, and materials for their production, including embroidery yarns, sold separately from the canvas and specially presented for use in such tapestries	22	Buttons and buckles covered with textile materials
		23	Book covers of textile materials
		24	Toys
		25	Textile parts of footwear, excepting warm linings

The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1986

Guidance Notes for Traders

FURTHER ADVICE IS AVAILABLE FROM:

Aberdeenshire Council,
Consumer Protection and Support Services,
Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie, AB51 3WA
Tel: 01467 628323 Fax: 01467 628117

Aberdeenshire Council
Consumer Protection and Support Services,
10 Commerce Street, Fraserburgh AB43 9AQ
Tel: 01346 510505 Fax: 01346 510484



Planning and Environmental Services