

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on
Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011
on textile names and related labelling and marking of textile products**

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INTRODUCTION

Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011¹ on textile names and related labelling and marking of textile products (hereafter the Textile Regulation) lays down:

- conditions and rules for the labelling and marking of textile products
- rules on textile fibre names.

The Textile Regulation:

- covers products at all stages of the supply chain;
- requires that textile products sold in the EU be labelled or marked to provide information about their fibre composition.

It does not lay down any information requirements concerning:

- the producer or importer
- the presence of substances potentially detrimental to human health
- the materials and methods involved in manufacturing textile products.
- instructions or warnings to the consumer about using textile products.

The current obligations under the Textile Regulation have not significantly changed compared to obligations under Directive 2008/121/EC.² Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 repealed Directives 73/44/EC, 96/73/EC and 2008/121/EC as of 8 May 2012. Further details on the

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 September 2011 on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products — OJ L 272, 18.10.2011.

² Directive 2008/121/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 January 2009 on textile names — OJ L19, 23.1.2009.

Textile Regulation are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/textiles/single-market/reg-1007-1011/index_en.htm.

The legal text in all EU languages is available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:02011R1007-20111221:EN:NOT>

A number of terms used in the Textile Regulation, such as *making available on the market*, *placing on the market*, *importer or distributor* correspond to the definitions set out in Regulation (EC) No 765/2008. For the purposes of this paper, the term *marketed* shall be understood to mean *placed on the market* or *made available on the market* depending on the context.

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1. GENERAL

1.1 Does Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 already apply?

Yes, the Textile Regulation applied from 8 May 2012 (Article 28).

1.2 What about labelling that was being used before the Textile Regulation came into force? Does it need to be changed before the end of the transition period? Could retailers, for example, ask textile producers to re-label their products?

Textile products which were placed on the market and complied with Directive 2008/121/EC before the Textile Regulation came into force (i.e. before 8 May 2012) can still be marketed (i.e. continue to be made available on the market) until the end of the transition period (9 November 2014). However, after 9 November 2014, only products that comply with the Textile Regulation will be allowed on the market, and any non-compliant products will have to be re-labelled or otherwise removed from the distribution chain within the EU. As a result, retailers who are reviewing their stocks sometimes request textile products that already comply with the Textile Regulation. All products placed on the market after 8 May 2012 have to comply with the Textile Regulation. 'Placing on the market' means making a product available on the EU market for the first time (Regulation 765/2008).

2. SCOPE

2.1 What items does the Textile Regulation apply to?

The scope of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 is laid down in Article 2, which is the basis for businesses to consider whether the Regulation applies to their products. The labelling and marking requirements on fibre composition apply notably to textile products and textile components containing at least 80 % textile fibres by weight.

2.2 Would dress designers and milliners who make one-off pieces for clients and sell them through their own websites qualify for the exemptions that apply to ‘self-employed tailors’?

That depends. The Textile Regulation does not explicitly define ‘self-employed tailors’. However, the relationship between customised textile products and ‘self-employed tailors’ determines whether the Textile Regulation applies (Article 2.4 and Recital 4). For example, the Textile Regulation would apply to *non-customised* textile products sold by a self-employed tailor. On the other hand, the Textile Regulation would not apply to one-off pieces, referred to as ‘customised products’, sold by a self-employed tailor to a final consumer, whether through a website or any other channel.

2.3 What about textile products that are not intended for sale to final consumers, but which are sold to corporate purchasers (e.g. uniform rental and cleaning companies), worn by their employees, collected for cleaning and then sent out again to employees? Should such products carry labels stating their fibre contents and giving wash care instructions?

Yes, every textile product must be labelled or marked to show its fibre composition whenever the product is made available on the market (Article 14.1), excepting the cases set out under Article 14.2. ‘Making available on the market’ means supplying a product for distribution, consumption or use on the EU market in the course of a commercial activity, whether in return for payment or free of charge (Regulation (EU) No 765/2008). However, there are no harmonised EU rules on telling the consumer how to wash or maintain textile products.

2.4 Annex V of the Textile Regulation (previously Annex III of Directive 2008/121/EC), says that ‘textile parts of footwear’ need not be labelled or marked. Does this apply to every textile component in the footwear, or only to the warm lining? What about the linings of gloves, mittens and mitts?

The answer depends on the composition of each specific product. Under Article 2 of the Textile Regulation, a product is regarded as a textile product if it is made of at least 80% textile fibres. Consequently, businesses have to decide in each case whether the warm lining of their glove, mitten, etc. is a textile product for the purposes of the Regulation. In the case of footwear, even if the lining is a textile product, this category is exempted from mandatory labelling under Annex V item 23 of the Regulation. However, under the Footwear Directive (94/11/EC), the main components of footwear, including those made of textile fibres, have to be labelled.

2.5 Feather beds filled with down may contain less than 80% textile fibres by weight. Does this mean they are outside the scope of this Regulation?

Yes, if a product contains less than 80% textile fibres by weight, it does not fall within the scope of the Textile Regulation. However, the textile components of mattress coverings are treated as textile products (Article 2.2 lit c).

2.6 Are fashion/textile companies required to provide information about the country of origin of their products, the manufacturer and/or the circumstances (e.g. factory working conditions) under which these products have been made, whether in the EU or in other parts of the world?

No, the Textile Regulation does not lay down any such obligations to be provided on the label or marking. Nevertheless, businesses may, if they wish, state the country of origin and provide social and environmental information in the labelling or marking, provided it is not misleading to consumers. If the name of the manufacturer is provided, it may, and in some cases must, appear immediately before or after the fibre composition (Article 16.2). If the textile products fall within the scope of the Personal Protective Equipment Directive³ or of the Toys Safety Directive⁴ information on the manufacturer or importer has to be provided.

2.7 According to Annex V item 17, travel goods made of textile materials are not subject to mandatory labelling. This would include travel bags. If the manufacturer uses recycled polyester to make the bag, can the product be labelled as ‘100 % recycled polyester’? Is there any specific labelling requirement for products made with recycled fibres?

Labelling or marking is not mandatory on bags made of textile materials (items 16 and 17 of Annex V). If a textile product needs to have a fibre composition label or marking, its composition must be stated using one or more of the fibre names listed in Annex I (e.g. ‘polyester’). There is no requirement to use the term ‘recycled’, but the Textile Regulation allows manufacturers to give that information to the consumer if they wish, provided it is not misleading or deceptive for the consumer. If the manufacturer wants to give such information, it must be displayed separately (Article 16.2), e.g. polyester - recycled fibres.

2.8 What products are considered to be corsetry/underwear? Do edgings have to be labelled? Are there products for which an overall label is enough?

The Textile Regulation does not provide a definition or a list of items that would be considered corsetry or underwear products. Article 13 lays down special rules for labelling and marking certain textile products, including corsetry products. Exemptions that may concern corsetry or underwear are set out in Article 17. Annex V lists textile products for which labelling is not compulsory and Annex VI lists products for which inclusive labelling is sufficient.

2.9 Apparently, the labelling of the whole product with an overall composition is allowed only for certain corsetry products (Annex IV), where the limit for small parts is also 10 % instead of 30 %. Do all components of an article have to be calculated in the overall composition?

According to Article 11 of the Textile Regulation, textile components which have different textile fibre contents and represent less than 30 % of the total weight of the

³ Council Directive 89/686/EEC of 21 December 1989 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment (amended).

⁴ Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the safety of toys — OJ L170, 30.6.2009

product (and are not the main linings) do not need to be labelled or marked separately. However, these components must still be included in the calculation of the fibre content of a textile product. Article 9.1 of the Textile Regulation says that textile products have to be labelled or marketed with the name and percentage by weight of all constituent fibres, in descending order. Annex VII lists items that do not have to be taken into account in determining fibre composition of textile products. You have the flexibility to decide on practical aspects of meeting these requirements. But you can only use terms such as '100 %', 'pure' or 'all', e.g. '100 % viscose', if a product is made entirely of one single type of fibre (Article 7.1), with some exceptions set out in Article 7.2. Article 13 lays down specific labelling and marking requirements for products covered by Annex IV. The 10% threshold, which is mentioned in Annex IV, refers only to the components of certain corsetry products.

2.10 Do gloves need a label, stating size, fibre composition and care instructions, in both hands or is it enough just to label one hand of a pair?

If gloves contain at least 80 % textile fibres by weight, they are within the scope of the Textile Regulation. When two gloves have the same fibre composition and are normally sold as a single unit, labelling or marking one glove is enough (Article 11.3). In any case, the information has to be clearly visible for the consumer before they buy their gloves.

2.11 Would a reusable shopping bag (e.g. made of 100 % virgin or recycled polypropylene and calcium carbonate) be subject to the Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 and the REACH Regulation? What legislation applies to this product, which the consumer receives free-with-purchase?

The Textile Regulation requires all textile products containing at least 80 % textile fibres by weight to be labelled or marked to provide information about their fibre composition by using the fibre names listed in Annex I, notably 'Polypropylene' (item 37 in Table 2 of Annex I). Using brand names and other names not listed in Annex I is not enough to fulfil the requirements of the Textile Regulation to identify the fibre. Labelling and marking must be provided when the textile products are available on the market regardless whether they are supplied in return for payment or free of charge. Textile products must also fulfil general EU legislation relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation (EU) 1907/2006 and Annex I to Regulation (EU) 850/2004 on persistent organic pollutants). For further details on the requirements of REACH, contact ECHA or the nearest national helpdesk. Contact details of national helpdesks are available at: http://echa.europa.eu/help_en.asp.

2.12 Regulation 1007/2011 does not specifically mention swimwear products. Do these fall under the scope of this Regulation?

If swimwear products are composed of at least 80 % textile fibres by weight, they are covered by the Textile Regulation and must fulfil its labelling and marking requirements (Article 2).

2.13 Are covers, e.g. for tablets and similar portable devices excluded from mandatory labelling? Do such covers and computer cases fall into the scope of item 17 of Annex V? How should the surface of 160 cm² be measured? Are bigger covers among

the items which are included in Annex V? Are rucksacks included under the scope of Annex V, items 16 and 17?

The surface of (not more than 160 cm²) referred to in Annex V – No 30 (covers for mobile telephones and portable media players) is understood as one side of the cover (length x height) and not as the whole surface of the cover. Rucksacks are understood as travel goods. Personal computer cases and covers for media players and other portable devices are, in general, understood as items referenced to in item 17 of Annex V.

3. FIBRE NAMES AND COMPOSITION

3.1 Different breeds of sheep provide different qualities of wool. For example, generic wool differs from selected wool such as ‘merino’. Consumers, as well as breeders and mills, would appreciate seeing the composition of knitted fibres described more precisely. Would additional labelling be possible? Could terms such as ‘Merino’, ‘Blue faced Leicester’ or ‘Wensleydale’ be used in the labelling of woollen products?

Textile products marketed in the EU need to have a fibre composition label or marking which shows the composition using the fibre names listed in Annex I. In the case of woollen products, the word ‘wool’ has to appear on the product (Annex I, point 1). Terms such as ‘Merino’ or ‘Blue faced Leicester’ are not listed in Annex I, so it is not enough to use breed names alone, without the word ‘wool’. However, the Textile Regulation allows additional labelling, so a company can, if it wants, provide further information on the label, as long as that information is not misleading or deceptive for the consumer. If the manufacturer wants to give additional information, this information must be displayed separately (Article 16.2), e.g. 100% wool - merino.

3.2 Article 20(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 states: that ‘a manufacturing tolerance of 3 % shall be permitted between the stated fibre composition and the percentages obtained from analysis’. How should this tolerance be interpreted?

Labelling or marking must correctly state the name and percentage by weight of all constituent fibres in descending order (Article 9). A manufacturing tolerance of 3 % refers to the percentage difference between the actual weight, as measured during market surveillance checks, and the weight shown on the label or marking (Article 20(3)). It is understood to be current practice of EU laboratories that the deviation registered is within the range of 30 ± 3 for ‘fibre x’ and 70 ± 3 for ‘fibre y’ for an item labelled 30 % ‘fibre x’ and 70 % ‘fibre y’.

3.3 When applying for a new textile name, what steps are involved, and how long is the process likely to take?

When applying for a generic name for a new fibre, the steps are as follows:

- a) A business submits a written application. This application must include a technical file in accordance with Annex II, but there is no specific format or template (Article 6).
- b) The European Commission begins its technical work on the proposed identification (generic name) and quantification methods.

- c) If this process reaches a satisfactory conclusion, the European Commission will add the new textile fibre name to the list in Annex I.

The timetable depends on the application in question. If you are considering applying for a new fibre name, you can find useful additional information at: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/textiles/single-market/reg-1007-1011/fibre-names/index_en.htm

3.4 Two products may have the same fibre composition but with different percentages. For example, product A is composed of 40 % cotton and 60 % polyester, while product B is 60 % cotton and 40 % polyester. Could the same label be used for both?

No. All textile products must be labelled or marked with the name and percentage by weight of the fibres they are made of, in decreasing order (Article 9.1). So you cannot use a single label for products with different proportions of two different fibres.

3.5 With regard to labelling of textile products with two or more textile parts, is it necessary to name the different textile parts on the label/mark? Should it be made clear what percentages apply to what parts? What about labelling for two textile parts with the same composition?

The Textile Regulation neither defines textile “parts” of the textile products nor makes any reference to them. Textile parts are usually understood as a set of two or more garments, for example a suit composed of a jacket and trousers. These are however two separate textile products in the meaning of the Textile Regulation and the information on fibre composition has to be disclosed on each garment. When the textile product is composed of two or more textile components with different textile fibre content, for example a dress where the sleeves and the main body have different fibre composition, you must indicate the fibre composition of the different components if they represent 30% or more of the total weight of the textile product and are not the main lining (Article 11.1). When two or more textile products have the same fibre composition and normally form a single unit, for example gloves, they may bear only one label or marking (Article 11.3). You may choose where to place the label or marking (inside or outside the product), bearing in mind that labelling and marking has to be durable, easily legible, visible and accessible.

3.6 About Article 11 of the Textile Regulation (multi-component textile products), how should a seamless brief, classified as underwear (not corsetry) be labelled? Can the gusset be ignored, because it is less than 30 % of total weight? Does the gusset have to be calculated into the composition of the whole product?

The Textile Regulation does not require to label or mark separately those textile components that represent less than 30 % of the total weight of the textile product and are not main linings. All components have to be considered for calculating the fibre composition of the whole product. In the case of the products listed in Annex IV (e.g. brassieres, corsets, and other articles of corsetry), special rules apply for the marking and labelling depending on specific categories of the listed products.

3.7 To determine the fibre composition of socks: can the heel and toe parts be excluded, and labelling refer to the body part only? Or can labelling exclude only the yarns/materials that are added to the heel and toe for reinforcement?

No, the heel and toe parts shall not be excluded for determining the fibre composition. Annex VII e) (and f)) of the Textile Regulation lists items in socks (and tights) that are excluded for the determination of fibre composition. These are understood to include the stiffening and reinforcement yarns/materials of the toe and the heel. As regards the labelling or marking stating the fibre composition of such textile products, the provisions of Article 11 (multi-component textile products), in combination with Article 9 (multi-fibre textile products), apply to the products mentioned above as examples.

3.8 In which textile products can the term “mixed fibres” or the term “unspecified fibre composition” be used on the label or marking? Is it allowed to label for instance 30% of fibre x, 20% of fibre y and 50% of mixed fibres? Is the use of the term “mixed fibres” allowed in case of known recycled fibres which percentage varies a lot from one batch to another (much more than the manufacture tolerance of 3%)?

As stated in Article 9.4, the use of these terms may be considered when it is hard to establish the composition of the products at the time of their manufacture. This applies to multi-fibre textile products. No percentage threshold has been set; this has to be assessed on a case by case basis.

3.9 The fibre description of item 48 (Annex I) “fibres obtained from miscellaneous or new materials not listed above” is ambiguous. How should metallised polyester or polyamide be labelled? The name “metallised yarn” is often used, in practice.

The term metallised is often used for fibres/yarns which are composed of metal, metal-coated textile fibre, textile fibre-coated metal, or textile fibre completely covered by metal (aluminium, copper, iron, silver, etc.). It is understood that the labelling of textile products containing metallised fibres (or yarns) is linked to how the fibres are produced: example A – X% cotton, Y% polyester, and Z% metallised fibre; example B – X% cotton, Y% polyester, and Z% polyester – metallised (or Z% metal-coated polyester); example C – X% cotton, Y% polyester, and Z% polyester-coated metal.

4. LANGUAGES

4.1 Does textile labelling need to be in the national language or languages of the EU country where the textile product is sold? Is a label in only one of the official languages of the EU acceptable?

The labelling or marking must be in the official language or languages of the EU Member State on whose territory the product is made available to the consumer, unless the national legislation of that country states otherwise (Article 16.3). Please contact the authorities in the country where you plan to market your textile products, to find out whether they accept labels in the official language (or languages) of another Member State.

4.2 Would it be a problem to create one label including all EU official languages? Is there any sample label available?

No problem: you can use multi-lingual labels. However, there is no sample label illustrating this.

4.3 According to Article 16.3, when bobbins, reels, skeins, balls or other small quantities of sewing, mending and embroidery yarns are individually sold, they may be labelled or marked in any of the official languages of the European Union, provided they are also ‘inclusively’ labelled. Is it enough to offer the consumer such ‘inclusive labelling’ in advertisements (e.g. on the internet, in advertising brochures, etc.)?

No, it is not enough. Information in the required official language(s) has to be affixed to the products individually sold in addition to “inclusive labelling”, which may be done on the internet in the case of sales made by electronic means.

5. NON-TEXTILE PARTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

5.1 Article 12 of the Textile Regulation requires manufacturers to state whether their textile products contain non-textile parts of animal origin. Are the uppers of footwear covered by this Article, or are they exempt under Annex V, item 23?

Under Annex V item 23, manufacturers are not obliged to label or mark the textile parts of footwear, but they may do so if they wish — provided this is not misleading for the consumer. However, under the Footwear Directive (94/11/EC), pictograms or written indications must be placed on the three main parts of footwear (the upper, the lining and sock and the outer sole), showing their main components. Article 12 of the Textile Regulation does not apply to footwear, since the Footwear Directive already provides for indications of non-textile parts of animal origin (leather and coated leather).

5.2 Some textile products, such as outdoor garments, jackets and mittens, contain down or feathers. Are down and feathers considered as ‘non-textile parts of animal origin’? If so, do such products have to be labelled ‘Contains non-textile parts of animal origin’ (Article 12 of the Textile Regulation)? Is there any exception in the case of products that contain only small parts of animal origin?

‘Non-textile parts of animal origin’ means any parts made of materials such as down, feather, bone, leather, pearl or horn. Textile products containing such materials — even in small quantities — must be labelled or marked with the phrase ‘*Contains non-textile parts of animal origin*’ (Article 12) whenever such products are made available on the market.

5.3 Article 12 refers to the presence of non-textile parts of animal origin ‘in’ textile products. Does this refer only to cases where non-textile parts of animal origin are literally ‘in’ the textile products, e.g. fixed with a seam (such as when fur is sewn onto the textile parts)?

In Article 12 of the Textile Regulation, the word ‘in’ must be understood in the widest sense. Anything which forms part of a textile product, regardless of how it is attached, falls within the scope of Article 12.

5.4 What products and materials does Article 12 apply to?

It is understood that Article 12 is applicable to products that fall within the scope of the Textile Regulation (Article 2), that is notably those consisting of at least 80% by weight of textile fibres. In this case, a labelling requirement to textile products containing “non-textile parts of animal origin” is obligatory and covers all types of materials which fulfil the condition of being non-textile parts of animal origin (e.g. leather).

6. LABELS AND MARKINGS

6.1 If a supplier issues explanatory documentation to accompany their textile products, do those products still have to be labelled or marked?

The answer is usually ‘yes’. The only circumstances, under which accompanying commercial documents can replace or supplement labels or marking, is when the products are being supplied to businesses within the supply chain, or are delivered as part of a public procurement procedure (Article 14.2).

6.2 Does the label have to be directly attached to the product, e.g. sewn on? Is it possible to replace labels by paper-based information? Is it acceptable to attach a label made of (for example) cardboard or plastic, using a tagging device and/or nylon thread?

All labels must be firmly attached (Article 14.1). The only circumstance under which paper-based information can replace or supplement labels or marking is if the products are being supplied to businesses within the supply chain or if they have been ordered by a contracting authority under Directive 2004/18/EC. The labelling or marking of textile products has to be durable, easily legible, visible and accessible.

6.3 According to Article 14.1 the labelling and marking must be ‘easily legible’, ‘visible’ and ‘securely attached’. Is there a stipulation as to the minimum size of the characters? Must the label always be attached to the product or could it be attached to the product’s package?

No. The information must be clearly visible to the consumer before purchase. As there are no harmonised international standards, businesses may choose which size, style and font to use. The fibre composition must be indicated on labels and markings, on packaging and in catalogues and trade literature (Article 16.1). However, it is understood that “securely attached” allows the label to be attached on the package, and not necessarily on the product itself, whenever this would inevitably ruin or damage it.

6.4 Can a label on a mattress be put inside the packaging or does it have to be stitched on to the mattress? Is there a specific place on the mattress where the label should be put or stitched? Are labels needed for the mattress itself or just for mattress covers?

The textile components of mattress coverings made of at least 80% textile fibres by weight have to be treated as textile products (Article 2.2.(c).(ii)). Businesses may choose where to place the label on the mattress coverings, bearing in mind that labelling and marking has to be durable, easily legible, visible and accessible, and, in the case of a label, securely attached (Article 14).

- 6.5 Article 14, paragraph 2 says that labels or markings may be replaced or supplemented by accompanying commercial documents when the products are supplied to businesses within the supply chain. Does this mean that in business to business (B2B), labels or markings can be replaced or supplemented by accompanying commercial documents?**

Yes, B2B transactions within the supply chain in the meaning of Regulation (EC) 765/2008 are covered by Article 14.2.

- 6.6 What is the difference between a label and a mark? What does this wording mean: ‘bringing the information directly on the product’? If e.g. a label is stitched with the necessary information (as in most clothes, for instance) onto the product, is this defined as a label or a mark?**

The definitions of ‘labelling’ and ‘marking’ are provided in Article 3 of the Textile Regulation. As explained in the definition of marking, there are different ways of putting the information directly on textile products, usually by sewing, embroidering, printing, etc. You may choose between labelling and marking; both have to be ‘durable, easily legible and accessible and, in case of a label, securely attached’ (Article 14.1). A piece of textile or other material used to state the fibre composition and attached to the textile product would qualify as a label.

- 6.7 If the product is delivered to the end-consumer in a sealed polybag with a sticker stating size, fibre composition and care instructions, is it still necessary to attach a label to the product with at least fibre composition?**

Yes, information about the fibre composition is still required (Article 16.1) unless the products are listed in Annex V. However, for textile products that are only subject to the requirements of inclusive labelling and those that are sold by the meter or in cut lengths, affixing the information to the overall packaging or the roll is enough. Care instructions and size labelling requirements of textile products are not covered by the Textile Regulation. Some EU Member States make care labelling compulsory, while respecting the principle of free movement of goods.

- 6.8 Manufacturers of cleaning machines use textile parts, e.g. pads or brushes made of textiles which are incorporated into cleaning machines and are necessary for the correct operation of the machine. Are these spare parts subject to labelling requirements?**

No. Labelling or marking is not mandatory for textile products that are listed in Item 37 of Annex V, such as pads and brushes made of textile, that are normally intended for use as equipment components or for incorporation as parts, notably in machines, appliances, etc. For these textile products, you may, however, state the fibre composition, provided that the information is not deceptive or misleading for the consumer.

- 6.9 Do paper-based or electronic promotional materials, e.g. catalogues or folders, TV commercials and advertising leaflets, need to indicate the textile fibre composition?**

The information about the fibre composition must be made available to the consumer before the purchase (Article 16 § 1). It is understood that the fibre composition needs to be present together with other product-related information, notably price, whenever this

information enables performing a sales transaction, including online purchases. This is not necessarily the case of e.g. TV commercials or advertising campaigns.

7. STANDARDS

7.1 Are there specific ‘Pull Test’ standards for the strength of children’s clothing?

For up-to-date information on test standards, please contact the European Committee for Standardisation CEN: <http://www.cen.eu/cen/Pages/contactus.aspx> CEN/TC 248 — Textiles and textile products — is the committee for textiles. Further information on EN standards, CEN or its national members is available at: <http://esearch.cen.eu/esearch/> and <http://www.cen.eu/cen/Sectors/TechnicalCommitteesWorkshops/CENTechnicalCommittees/Pages/default.aspx>

7.2 Where can I buy a copy of European Women’s Standard Body Measurements?

To buy these standards from National Standards Bodies, please contact: <http://www.cen.eu/cen/Members/Pages/default.aspx>

7.3 Are there any standard methods for pH tests on textile and leather products in the EU? Are standards EN ISO 3071 (textiles) and EN ISO 4045 (leather) applicable?

A specimen has to be immersed in an aqueous medium and the pH of the medium measured. Standards EN ISO 3071 and EN ISO 4045 are used for determining the pH of aqueous extracts of textiles and leather respectively.

8. OTHER

8.1 Is there any EU legislation about labelling leather garments and accessories such as leather jackets, leather bags, leather belts, etc. sold on the European market?

No. Apart from the Textile Regulation and the Footwear Directive (94/11/EC), there is no specific EU legislation on labelling leather goods. The Textile Regulation applies to products containing leather if the products are made of at least 80% textile fibres (Article 2). If a textile product contains non-textile parts of animal origin, such as leather, the phrase ‘*Contains non-textile parts of animal origin*’ must appear on the label or marking whenever that product is made available on the market.

8.2 Since toys are exempt from mandatory labelling under Annex V of the Textile Regulation, does this mean that the term ‘toys’ includes toys for animals as well as for humans?

No. ‘Toys’ are defined in the Toy Safety Directive (2009/48/EC) as ‘*products designed or intended, whether or not exclusively, for use in play by children under 14 years of age*’. For guidance on how to apply this definition, go to: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/toys/documents/guidance/index_en.htm

8.3 Should camera straps made of textile materials bear a fibre composition label according to the requirements of the Textile Regulation?

Yes: textile camera straps made of at least 80% textile fibres by weight must be treated in the same way as other textile products (Article 2.2.(a)) and must be labelled in compliance with the Textile Regulation.

8.4 Is information available about the results of Commission studies on issues such as country of origin, environmental and social labelling?

Yes. The Commission has launched parallel studies on the labelling of textiles and of leather. The reports are available from:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/leather/documents/index_en.htm (leather products) and http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/textiles/documents/index_en.htm (textile products)

8.5 Are there product safety requirements concerning the flammability of clothing sold in the EU, and are there labelling requirements concerning this?

There is no EU legislation specifically on the flammability of clothing. However, some EU Member States (e.g. the UK and Ireland) have national requirements on this. We suggest you contact the authorities of the Member State where you intend to market your textile products, to find out if there are any requirements or recommendations as regards flammability labelling. The General Product Safety Directive lays down general safety requirements that apply to all consumer products placed on the EU market. There is a specific European standard (EN 14878:2007) for children's nightwear.

8.6 Is packaging material made of 100% polyester fibre also covered by 94/62/EC? If so, what proportion of it should be recyclable?

Yes, packaging made of polyester or anything else is covered by the Packaging Directive 94/62/EC. Packaging products placed on the EU market must comply with the essential requirements (Art. 9, and Annex II of the Directive) on the composition, reusability and recoverability (including recycling) of packaging. You must be able to show your packaging complies with essential requirements. One of the ways to do so is by using harmonised standards which give automatic presumption of conformity. Polyester is subject to recycling targets of 22.5% for plastic, set out in Directive 94/62/EC. Contact the relevant national authority for more information, as each Member State has its own means and strategies to reach those targets.

8.7 Exporters of garments for babies have to comply with the REACH Regulation within the EU. Can chrome be used to fix the colour of a yarn under REACH? If so, what percentage is allowed?

As regards the dying process for textiles, 11 chromium compounds are listed in the 'candidate list' under REACH and seven of them are subject to authorisation (Annex XIV). You can get more detailed information from either the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) or the nearest national helpdesk at http://echa.europa.eu/reach/helpdesk/nationalhelp_contact_en.asp

8.8 What is the current situation concerning desiccants accompanying textile fibres? Is the use of silica gel sachets regulated and, if so, what are the rules? If silica gel sachets are used, what are the labelling requirements? Does the ‘don’t eat’ notice have to be in several languages or is there a pictogram? Does there have to be a notice stating the sachets’ content and purity?

Silica gel or Silica dioxide has been registered under REACH. Regarding its classification and labelling, Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP) applies. As there is no harmonised classification with a specific hazard involved regarding Silica gel or Silica dioxide, you have to self-classify for non-harmonised hazard classes. For more information on CLP, please contact: ENTR-CHEMICALS-INDUSTRY@ec.europa.eu.

8.9 Consumers may buy clothes without a label on fibre composition as the information is given on the packaging or lacking (e.g. for second hand clothes, because people often cut out original labels). Is this acceptable under the labelling of Textiles Regulation?

In principle no, but it can be allowed in certain cases, as Article 17 of the Textile Regulation allows for derogations to mandatory labelling and marking of textile products as laid down in Articles 11, 14, 15 and 16. For instance, cleaning cloths may be offered for sale in batches under an inclusive label, provided they are of the same type and fibre composition (Annex VI, item 2). In the case of products for which it is not possible to establish the fibre composition, e.g. clothes made of second hand or used clothes, consumers have to be explicitly informed that they are buying “old made-up textile products” (item 13 of Annex V).

8.10 Do textile products need CE marking?

No, provided they are not covered by legislation requiring the CE marking, notably the Personal Protective Equipment Directive and the Toy Safety Directive. For these categories, they have to be CE marked according to the provisions of these Directives.

8.11 Are there different national provisions regarding textile labelling in EU Member States? If not, how can we find out how Member States apply these textile labelling provisions?

Regarding the application of the Textile Regulation and to find out whether Member States have additional labelling requirements or recommendations, please contact the authorities of the Member State where the textile products will be marketed. Information is also available from a study on possible new labelling requirements of textile and clothing products carried out by the European Commission. The study analysed voluntary schemes and current practices in several Member States; the findings are available at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/textiles/files/studies/study-report-labelling-textile_en.pdf

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Last updated: 27-03-2015