

SAFE GUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

SOFTLINES

NO. 091/10 MAY 2010

GB 18401-2003: CHINA NATIONAL GENERAL SAFETY STANDARD FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS

The General Administration of Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China has published a national standard GB 18401-2003 "National General Safety Technical Code for Textile Products". The new standard specifies general safety requirement for textile products manufacturing, distributing or using in China, and it has been in effect since the 1st January 2005.

I. Category Classifications

Category	Terms & Definitions (Description)	Application Example
A	Products for babies	Diapers, underwear, bibs, night clothes, gloves, socks, outerwear, hat and bedding items
B	Products with direct contact to skin	Brassieres, waist binder, vests, shorts, cotton clothing, shirts, (summer) skirts, (summer) shorts, hosiery and bed sheet
C	Products without direct contact to skin	Sweater, outerwear, skirts, trousers, curtains, bedspreads, textile wall fabric, filling, and textile fabric



For textile products not covered by the above table, the category classification should be selected base on the end uses. This safety code and corresponding category with full description should be clearly indicated on the product quality label according to GB 5296.4-1998 ¹.

¹ [GB 5296 4-1998 Labelling Requirement for Apparel Commodities in China, SafeGuards 090/10](#) May 2010, SGS Consumer Testing Services, and references therein.

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II. Mandatory Requirement

Test Item	Testing Standard	Cat A	Cat B	Cat C
Formaldehyde Content (mg/kg)	GB/T 2912.1	≤ 20	≤ 75	≤ 300
pH value^a	GB/T 7573	4.0 – 7.5	4.0 – 7.5	4.0 – 9.0
Colourfastness^b to: (colour change & staining)				
Water	GB/T 5713	3 – 4	3	3
Acidic perspiration	GB/T 3922	3 – 4	3	3
Alkaline perspiration	GB/T 3922	3 – 4	3	3
Rubbing (Dry)	GB/T 3920	4	3	3
Saliva	GB/T 18886	4	/	/
Azo dyes^c (mg/kg)	GB/T 17592	Forbidden		
Strange Odour	GB18401 6.7	None		
Remarks:				
a. For products subject to subsequent wet processing, the pH value tolerance extends to 4.5 – 10.5 b. Not applicable for products of intended color fading subject to laundering c. 23 restricted aromatic amines in the forbidden lists. The limit is defined as 20 ppm (clause 6.8)				

The current version GB18401-2003 is currently under revision. The draft version has been notified to WTO/TBT in 2010 (See [G/TBT/N/CHN/20/Rev.1](#)) but has not yet been confirmed. No effective schedule for the revisions of GB18401 has been published.

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