

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

SOFTLINES

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## MANDATORY CARE LABEL REQUIREMENTS FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA

The mandatory care label requirements, which have undergone revision, were first introduced in Australia in 1980. The latest revision of the mandatory requirements became effective on 1 September 2010.

These requirements are primarily based on AS/NZS 1957:1998, *Textile – Care Labelling*, with minor modifications. This standard requires that a permanent label be placed on the garment which must include appropriate care instructions written in English.<sup>1,2</sup> This revision makes no material change to the 2003 version but clarifies some points and simplifies others. It also gives examples of suggested additional text for labeling. This mandatory standard applies to anyone in the business of supplying clothing and textile products that fall within the scope of product (Table 1, on the next page), including manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers and hirers.



### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Product Safety Australia, [Mandatory Standard - Care Labelling for Clothing and Textile](#)
- <sup>2</sup> Australian Governments ComLaw, [Trade Practices Act 1974 - Consumer Protection Notice No. 25 of 2010 - Consumer Product Information Standard: Care Labelling for Clothing and Textile Products](#), access date 26 January 2011

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Items within the scope of the standard	Items exempt from the standard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clothing</li> <li>• Household textiles</li> <li>• Apparel (including articles such as wedding dresses, christening gowns, and promotional, sample and flawed articles),</li> <li>• Furnishings,</li> <li>• Upholstered furniture,</li> <li>• Bedding, (including sleeping bags),</li> <li>• Mattresses,</li> <li>• Bed bases,</li> <li>• Piece goods and</li> <li>• Yarns made from textiles</li> <li>• Plastics, plastic coated fabrics, suede, skins, hides, grain leathers and/ or furs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second hand goods</li> <li>• Men's, Women's, Children's and Infant's Wear: Unsupported coats (including overcoats, jackets and the like) made of PVC film, handkerchiefs, braces, garter suspenders, arm bands, belts, headwear.</li> <li>• Footwear</li> <li>• Drapery</li> <li>• Haberdashery: Ornaments, artificial flowers, sewing and embroidery threads etc</li> <li>• Furnishings: Oil baize, window blinds, shade blinds, sun blinds, awnings, floor coverings, light fittings, lampshades, tapestries, wall hangings, ornaments, handicraft items, draught excluders, non-upholstered furniture, cushions and cushion covers manufactured from remnants and labelled by the manufacturer with the following disclaimer "cushion cover manufactured from remnant/s, care treatment unknown".</li> <li>• Jute Products</li> <li>• Medical and Surgical Goods</li> <li>• Canvas Goods: Beach and garden umbrella covering</li> <li>• Miscellaneous Goods: Cords, twines, lashings, garden hose, toys, umbrellas and parasols, shoelaces, woven labels, flex coverings, sporting and gardening gloves, articles designed to be disposed of after one use (except where specifically included) or intended for one use only (including disposable plastic rain ponchos and interment garments for the deceased), mops, basket hangers, shoe holders, remnants, industrial gloves, polypropylene webbing furniture, all bags and cases (including handbags, purses, wallets, travel bags, school bags, sports bags, briefcases and wash bags).</li> </ul>

Table 1: Applicable Products and Exemptions<sup>2</sup>

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