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US FTC APPROVES FINAL CHANGES TO THE WOOL PRODUCTS LABELLING RULES

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has recently approved its final changes to the Wool Products Labelling Rules¹, which now incorporate the Wool Act's new definitions for cashmere and fine wools and provide more flexibility to the industry in advertising certain fibres on their hangtags. The amended Rules are effective on 7 July 2014.

The Commission announced amendments to its rules and regulations under the Wool Products Labelling Act of 1939, by revising the labelling requirements for cashmere and certain other wool products, and harmonized the rules and regulations with the amended rules and regulations under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act.

Changes made by the Commission and adopted as below:

1. Fiber Content Disclosures:
 - Incorporating the Wool Act's new definitions for cashmere and very fine wools
 - Clarifying existing descriptions of products containing virgin or new wool
 - Allowing certain hang-tags disclosing fiber trademarks and performance even if they do not disclose the product's full fiber content
2. Additional Proposed Amendments to Align Wool and Textile Rules:
 - Stating that an imported product's country of origin as determined under the laws and regulations enforced by U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall be the country where the product was processed or manufactured
 - Removing outdated reference to the Treasury Department and instead referencing relevant Tariff Acts and regulations
 - Amend the provisions relating to documents, such as invoices and guaranties, to better address e-commerce

However, the Commission notes that it is not adopting a proposed requirement for continuing guaranties to be renewed annually due to insufficient evidence to conclude that it would increase the reliability or that the benefits of imposing would exceed the costs. For more detailed information, access the Final Rule at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/06/04/2014-12736/rules-and-regulations-under-the-wool-products-labeling-act-of-1939#h-9>.



¹ [FTC News Release, Final Rules](#)

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