

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

SOFTLINES

NO. 075/10 APRIL 2010

## GINETEX UPDATES THE DO NOT BLEACH SYMBOL

In 2005, a new international standard was published by ISO which was taken up by the CEN committee. The individual national organisations responsible for publishing EN standards were instructed to publish EN versions of this standard. This 2005 standard has been technically revised and has a number of new symbols and some other changes from the older version. Recently, a new symbol for oxygen bleaching has also been included.

### RECENT HISTORY

With respect to Europe and the EEA any old versions of the EN had to be replaced by October 2005; these countries are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

### GINETEX

GINETEX is the international organisation that created, developed and updates the system of care symbols world-wide.


GINETEX, the International Association for Textile Care Labelling, was first founded in Paris in 1963 following several International Sym-posia for Textile Care Labelling at the end of the 1950s.

GINETEX has devised an internationally applicable care labelling system for textiles based on symbols. The pictograms used are registered trademarks and are the property of GINETEX. The care labelling system gives consumers and textile companies the correct information on the care treatment of textile products. The processes indicated by the symbols will avoid any irreversible damage to the product.

GINETEX defines and promotes the system of care labelling symbols and coordinates its technical background on an international level. The essential technical elements for its implementation and the definition of the care labelling

code are contained in technical regulations. The care labelling system is maintained to ensure that any new technical and ecological developments together with changes in consumer practices are taken into account.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The current standard is published under the references "ISO 3758" and "EN ISO 3758" and gives the care symbols and guidance for their meaning and use on garments and other textile articles. This 2005 standard has been technically revised and has a number of new symbols and some other changes from the older version. The old and seldom used symbol for "any dry cleaning solvent"  for example has gone and new symbols for (professional) wet cleaning have been included. A new symbol for oxygen bleaching

The logo for SGS, consisting of the letters 'SGS' in a bold, sans-serif font, with a vertical line to the right and a horizontal line below.

has also been included. The “blacked-out” symbol for Do Not Bleach which appears in the 2005 version of the ISO and EN ISO standards has caused some concern and Ginetex has decided to return to the original symbol, so we draw your attention to the following:

**The latest change has been a return to the “open” symbol used in the “Do not bleach” symbol; as a result of public demand, the previously blacked-out symbol has been replaced. Registered users of the symbols had until November 2012 to adopt this symbol on their labels.**

#### A SUMMARY OF THE ISO & GINETEX SYMBOLS

The underlining bar used for the milder processes has also changed so that it is a double bar now instead of a broken bar as it was previously.



#### WASHING

- Normal wash
- Mild action
- Normal action
- Mild action
- Normal action
- Mild action
- Very mild action
- Normal action
- Mild action
- Very mild action
- Hand wash
- Do not wash

#### BLEACHING

- Any bleach
- Oxygen bleach only
- Do not bleach

#### MACHINE DRYING

- Normal tumble drying
- Mild tumble drying
- Do not tumble dry

#### IRONING

- Hot iron (max 200C)
- Moderate iron (max 150C)
- Cool iron (max 110C)
- Do not iron

#### PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEANING

- Dry clean in chlorinated or non-chlorinated hydrocarbon solvent
- As above with limits on drying temperature and additions of water
- Dry clean in hydrocarbon solvent
- As with limits on drying temperature and addition of water
- Do not dry clean

#### PROFESSIONAL WET CLEANING

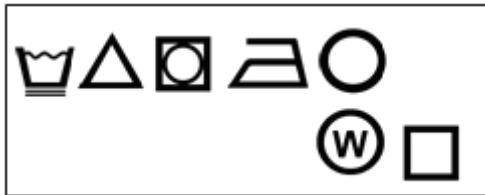
- Professional wet clean
- As above with mild action
- As above with mildest action
- Do not wet clean

#### NATURAL DRYING

- Line dry
- Line dry in the shade
- Dry flat
- Dry flat in the shade
- Drip dry
- Drip dry in the shade

In the European Union, the symbols should be used in a specific order and **all 5** standard symbols<sup>1</sup> must be used on the label:

According to ISO 3758, if dry cleaning and wet cleaning are to be specified, then the wet clean symbol should appear separately, directly under the dry clean symbol. The natural drying symbol is an optional symbol but if used, should again be separate from the main 5 and under the other symbols as shown. Ginetex stipulates that the wet clean and natural drying symbols are 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively after the original 5 symbols. In order to comply with both regimes, the following design could be used.



**ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS**

The ISO standard allows for the use of a series of dots in the wash tub symbol indicating the maximum wash temperature as an alternative to the temperature value. This system is used in the USA predominantly.

(Maximum)	(200F)	(160F)	(140F)	(120F)	(105F)	(65F-85F)
Symbol(s)	95C ●●● ●●●	70C ●●● ●●	60C ●● ●●	50C ●●●●	40C ●●	30C ●

**SYMBOLS USED IN THE USA <sup>2</sup>**

In the USA Care Labelling is mandatory and the Ginetex symbols are not permitted. Whilst many of the US symbols are similar (though not identical), some are different and are listed below.

	Do not use steam when ironing		Dry clean with any solvent <sup>3</sup>
	Tumble dry – hot <sup>4</sup>		Short cycle dry clean
	Tumble dry – no heat		Reduced moisture in dry cleaning process
	Do not wring		Low heat in dry cleaning
			No steam finishing

<sup>1</sup> Standard 5 symbols as shown on the top row of label pictogram above.  
<sup>2</sup> [A complete list of symbols for use in the USA](#)  
<sup>3</sup> The Any solvent symbol (still used in the US) is no longer used in the ISO or Ginetex systems.  
<sup>4</sup> In the US system, 3 dots indicate "hot" and 2 dots indicate "medium" setting. In the Ginetex and ISO systems, 2 dots are "Normal" and there is no 3 dot setting.

## SYMBOLS USED IN JAPAN

The Japanese care symbols are also mandatory and a little different. The following symbols show some of these differences:



The wash tub indicates hand-wash and



The washing machine symbol indicates machine wash.



The iron is familiar but the wavy line indicates the need for a cloth over the work whilst pressing.



The flask indicates chlorine bleach is permissible.



The hanging garment indicates line drying and the diagonal shading indicates drying in the shade.



Garment symbols without hangers indicate flat dry (The character on the garment means "flat")



Dry cleaning is indicated by a circle with a wavy line (the text indicates "dry").

The symbols on the labels intended for the Japanese market shall be in the order shown below. See JIS L0217 for more detail.



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## FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)  
 UK – Rob Croskell or +44 1379 668625 or [Rob.Croskell@sgs.com](mailto:Rob.Croskell@sgs.com)  
 HK – Ruth Hon +852 2774 7148 or [Ruth.Hon@sgs.com](mailto:Ruth.Hon@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)  
 Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 [au.cts@sgs.com](mailto:au.cts@sgs.com)  
 Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 [gb.cts.sales@sgs.com](mailto:gb.cts.sales@sgs.com)  
 Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 [sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)  
 Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 [uscts.inquiries@sgs.com](mailto:uscts.inquiries@sgs.com)

[www.sgs.com/cts](http://www.sgs.com/cts) Global Competences Support Centre: [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)  
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