

The People's Republic of China - PRC - has approved a standard on antibacterial knitwear FZ/T 73023-2006

As antimicrobial textile products with fresh-smelling, skin-friendly and high-performance textiles have extensively increased recently, the demand for proper test systems to evaluate the effectiveness as well as the safety of antimicrobial textiles is definitely growing in the industry.

Joint Chinese knitting industry associations have published an antibacterial textiles standard - "**Antibacterial knitwear**" -- **FZ/T73023-2006** - required for merchandise sold in China claiming to be antibacterial. This standard references the US and Japanese standards on the basis of relevant criteria, and takes full account of the present market and trading situation in this product sector, to make the standard with stronger scientific support and higher practical feasibility. This State Policy has been officially implemented on August 1, 2006.



The 4 main criteria stated in FZ/T73023-2006 for anti-bacterial knitwear:

- ◆ Intrinsic Quality
- ◆ Appearance Quality
- ◆ Antibacterial Efficacy
- ◆ Product Safety

* Intrinsic and Appearance Quality Assessment

According to the standard **FZ/T73023-2006**, the intrinsic quality and appearance quality of the anti-bacterial knitwear products should meet the basic requirements stated in the national standards (GB) and current industry standards.

* Antibacterial Efficacy Assessment

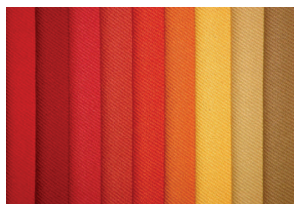
The evaluation of antibacterial efficacy of knitwear is divided into 3 ranking groups including A, AA and AAA, in which the sample is assessed against different washing treatment and test bacterial strains.

Antibacterial Efficacy Assessment	Test Method	Washing Durability	Micro-organisms*		
			<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (ATCC 6538)	<i>Escherichia Coli</i> (ATCC 29522) or <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (ATCC 4352)	<i>Candida albicans</i> (ATCC 10231)
A	With reference to JIS L 1902 / AATCC 100	10 cycles	√	X	X
AA	With reference to ASTM E 2149	20 cycles	√	√	√
AAA	With reference to ASTM E 2149	50 cycles	√	√	√

√= Required, X= Not required,

*Test against additional bacterial strains in case of special circumstances

* Product Safety Assessment



The safety of diffusible antimicrobial agents impregnated in the knitwear products and the types of antimicrobial materials used have to be considered to ensure safety to both the consumers and environment.

Product Certificate

In addition to the present test standards for evaluating the intrinsic and appearance qualities of knitwear products, for those knitwear conforming to **FZ/T73023-2006**, a product label named as "*Antibacterial Knitwear*" valid for a time period of two years will be awarded by Chinese Knitting Industry Association.

Below are the references to Chinese National Standards:

Code	Name of Standards
GB/T 4856 -1993	Packaging of cotton goods and knitwear
GB 5296.4 - 1998	Instruction for use of products of consumer interest and Instruction for use of textiles and apparel
GB 7919 - 1987	Procedures and methods of safety evaluation for cosmetics
GB/T 8629 - 2001	Textiles—Domestic washing and drying procedures for textile testing
GB 18401 - 2003	National general safety technical code for textile products

Throughout their global network of more than 30 textile laboratories around the world, SGS can provide diagnostic support service and professional advice in choosing appropriate test methods for your antibacterial knitwear.

For information about EU and US tests standards, please refer to our SafeGuards 033/06-revised dated June 2006 on Antibacterial Textile Testing Services.

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