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Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

Textiles — Code d'étiquetage d'entretien au moyen de symboles



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ISO copyright office
Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
Tel. + 41 22 749 01 11
Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
Web www.iso.org

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3758 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Cleansing, finishing and water resistance tests*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 3758:2005), of which definition 2.4.2 **natural drying** was revised. Symbols for natural drying processes were added in the new Table 4 and Annex C of the 2005 edition was deleted. Subclause 4.3 **Use of symbols** was revised as in this edition. The symbols for bleaching in Table 2 have been technically revised and one symbol concerning bleaching has been changed. In Table 6, **Symbols for professional textile care**, a symbol for “do not professional wet clean” was added in this edition. Some editorial changes have also been made.

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Introduction

The variety of fibres, materials and finishes used in the production of textile articles, together with the development of cleansing and care procedures, makes it difficult and often impossible to decide on the appropriate cleansing and care treatment for each article simply by inspecting it. To help those who have to make such a decision (principally the consumer but also launderers and dry cleaners), this code of graphic symbols was established, based on the GINETEX care labelling system, for use in the permanent marking of textile articles with information on their care in use as an International Standard in 1991. In certain countries GINETEX has the intellectual property right of the 5 main symbols specified in this International Standard.

In order to make this code “easily understandable and recognizable” for the consumer world-wide, symbols have been limited as to types and numbers as far as practicable.

The first and second editions of this International Standard published in 1991 and 2005 were a result of a compromise between two requirements: being simple enough to be understood by users in all countries, irrespective of the language they speak, yet providing as much information as possible to prevent irreversible damage being caused during care treatments. This International Standard has been made sufficiently flexible to accommodate the needs of practically all who wish to use it. This has been achieved by providing a sufficiently large selection of care treatments, from which the user may select the most suitable for any particular need.

The revision was necessary to reflect current cleansing practices including technical developments, new bleach systems, and the alternative to conventional dry cleaning using aqueous systems. Furthermore, modifications in the description of care processes have been introduced in order to avoid hindering process development.

The international care label used in this International Standard gives care instructions using a sequence of symbols in the order of five main treatments: washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and professional textile care.

Annex A has been developed to give a description of characteristics and available test methods to ensure the correct selection of care symbols.

Annex B deals with regional and national requirements in care labelling.

When deemed necessary, words may be used as well as the symbols. Examples are included in Annex C.