

Fourth edition
2023-12

Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

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



Reference number
ISO 3758:2023(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Cleansing, finishing and water resistance tests*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 248, *Textiles and textile products*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This fourth edition cancels and replaces the third edition (ISO 3758:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- some exemptions have been introduced into the Scope (see [Clause 1](#));
- a new symbol has been introduced for wash by hand at ambient temperature in [Table 1](#);
- a new symbol has been introduced for ironing without steam in [Table 5](#);
- new solvents have been introduced in [Table 6](#);
- graphical changes have been introduced in symbols of wash by hand, do not wash (in [Table 1](#)), do not bleach (in [Table 2](#)) and do not iron (in [Table 5](#)), in order to align them to the GINETEX ones;
- three alternative examples of use of symbols have been introduced in [5.3](#);
- a new [Annex D](#), “Adaptation of registered graphical symbols for use in practice”, has been added.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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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 International Association for Textile Care Labelling (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 five main symbols specified in this document.

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, second and third editions of this document published in 1991, 2005 and 2012, respectively, 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 document 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 and to introduce new alternative solvents for dry cleaning. 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 document 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](#). [Annex D](#) has been introduced to highlight the graphical difference between some symbols in this document and the ones registered in ISO 7000 for use in practice.

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Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

1 Scope

This document establishes a system of graphic symbols, intended for use in the marking of textile articles, and for providing information on the most severe treatments that do not cause irreversible damage to the article during the textile care process, and specifies the use of these symbols in care labelling.

This document is applicable to all textile articles, except:

- non-removable covers of upholstered furniture;
- non-removable covers of mattresses;
- carpets and rugs which require professional carpet cleaning.

These products are excluded due to specific cleaning processes not specified in this document.

The graphical symbols described in this document are intended to give care information to the end user.

The following domestic treatments are covered: washing, bleaching, drying and ironing. Professional textile care treatments in dry and wet cleaning, but excluding industrial laundering and professional carpet cleaning, are also covered. However, it is recognized that information imparted by the domestic symbols will also be of assistance to the professional cleaner and launderer.

NOTE Symbols for industrial laundering can be found in ISO 30023.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

textile article

yarns, piece goods and made-up articles containing at least 80 % by mass textile material

3.2

washing

process designed to clean *textile articles* (3.1) in an aqueous bath

Note 1 to entry: Washing includes all or some of the following operations in relevant combinations:

- soaking, pre-washing and main washing — carried out usually with heating, mechanical action and in the presence of detergents or other products — and rinsing;