
 S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

1973 No. 2124

TRADE DESCRIPTIONS
The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content)
Regulations 1973

<i>Made - - - -</i>	<i>14th December 1973</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>21st December 1973</i>
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	<i>12th January 1974</i>

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 2 of the European Communities Act 1972(a) and by the European Communities (Designation) Order 1972(b), hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1973 and shall come into operation on 12th January 1974; so however that nothing in these Regulations shall require or prohibit the giving of any information in relation to textile products before 1st July 1975.

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the Act of 1968” means the Trade Descriptions Act 1968(c);

“advertisement” includes a catalogue, a circular, a price list and other trade literature;

“textile products” means—

- (a) raw, semi-worked, worked, semi-manufactured, manufactured, semi-made up or made up products which are exclusively composed of textile fibres, regardless of the mixing or assembly process employed;
- (b) products containing not less than 80 per cent. by weight of textile fibres;
- (c) furniture, umbrella and sunshade coverings containing not less than 80 per cent. by weight of textile parts;
- (d) the textile parts of multi-layer floor coverings, of mattresses and of camping goods, and the warm linings of footwear, gloves, mittens and mitts if such parts and linings constitute not less than 80 per cent. by weight of the complete article;

“textile fibre” means a unit of matter characterised by its flexibility, fineness and high ratio of length to thickness which render it suitable for textile applications.

(2) Where an article (not falling within the previous provisions of these Regulations) incorporates parts consisting of textile fibres and the parts form an integral part of the article, any such parts shall if any indication of the fibre content of the article is given in the course of a trade or business in relation to the

(a) 1972 c. 68.
 (c) 1968 c. 29.

(b) S.I. 1972/1811 (1972 III, p. 5216).

supply of or offer to supply the article or in an advertisement (to which Regulation 4(1) applies) relating to the article, be treated for the purposes of these Regulations as a textile product.

(3) For the purpose of these Regulations a person exposing textile products for supply or having textile products in his possession for supply shall be deemed to offer to supply those products.

(4) The Interpretation Act 1889(a), shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, any person who in the course of a trade or business supplies or offers to supply in the United Kingdom textile products without complying in relation to that supply or offer with the relevant requirements of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) In the case of any supply of, or any offer to supply, textile products by retail, otherwise than where the supply or offer is made to a government department or local authority, or to any other person who is established by a public general Act of Parliament, an indication of the fibre content of the textile products shall be given by any one or more of the following methods, that is to say, by marking or labelling the products or where the products are supplied or offered for supply in packing by marking or labelling the packing.

In a case where the textile product being supplied is a length of cloth cut from a roll of cloth it shall be sufficient compliance with this paragraph, both in relation to the offer to supply lengths from that roll and the supply of such lengths, if the indication of fibre content is given only in relation to the roll and that indication is easily accessible to the person to whom the supply is being made.

(3) In the case of any supply of, or any offer to supply, textile products other than one to which the requirements contained in paragraph (2) above apply an indication of the fibre content of the textile products shall be given by any one or more of the following methods, that is to say, by marking or labelling the products or where the products are supplied or offered for supply in packing, by marking or labelling the packing or in commercial documents accompanying the products.

(4) Where a textile product consists of two or more components which have different fibre contents the fibre content of each component shall be indicated:

Provided that this paragraph shall not apply in relation to components which are less than 30 per cent. of the weight of the product, unless such components are main linings.

(5) Where there are two or more textile products which have the same fibre content and normally form a single unit the indication of fibre content required by this Regulation may be given by a single indication of fibre content.

(6) In relation to textile products offered for supply together specified in Schedule 5, the indication of fibre content required by this Regulation may relate to a number of such products if they are of the same type and composition.

4.—(1) In any advertisement intended for retail customers describing textile products with sufficient particularity as to enable the products to be ordered by reference only to the description in the advertisement there shall be included an indication of the fibre content of the products.

(2) Any person, who in the course of a trade or business, publishes in the United Kingdom any advertisement to which paragraph (1) applies without complying with the provisions of that paragraph shall be guilty of an offence.

5. An indication of fibre content shall comply with the provisions of Schedule 1 hereto.

6. Nothing in Regulation 3 or 4 shall apply in relation to any textile product specified in Schedule 4 unless such a product bears a label or marking giving, or any advertisement relating to such a product includes, any part of the indication of fibre content which would be required to be given or included but for this Regulation, or any trade mark or name of an undertaking which contains on its own, or as an adjective or as a root either a name specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 or a name which is likely to be taken for a name so specified.

7. Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to textile products—

- (a) which are intended for export from the United Kingdom;
- (b) which are imported into the United Kingdom for transit through the United Kingdom under the control of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise;
- (c) which are imported into the United Kingdom for the purposes of re-export after processing;
- (d) in respect of a supply to or from outworkers or other persons who are to carry out or who have carried out work on the products on commission.

8. An indication of the fibre content of any textile products which complies with these Regulations shall be deemed not to be a trade description for the purposes of the Act of 1968.

9.—(1) The following provisions of the Act of 1968 shall (with necessary modifications) apply in relation to an offence under these Regulations as they apply in relation to an offence under that Act (modified where appropriate in relation to Northern Ireland by section 40(1) of that Act), that is to say sections 18, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 25.

(2) The following provisions of the Act of 1968 shall (with necessary modifications) apply in relation to the enforcement of these Regulations as they apply in relation to the enforcement of that Act (modified where appropriate in relation to Northern Ireland as aforesaid), that is to say sections 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30(1).

(3) Section 33 (modified in relation to Northern Ireland as aforesaid) of the Act of 1968 shall apply in relation to compensation for goods seized and detained under these Regulations as it applies in relation to compensation for goods seized and detained under that Act.

14th December 1973.

Anthony Grant,
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Industrial Development,
Department of Trade
and Industry.

Regulation 5

SCHEDULE 1

1. The indication of the fibre content of a textile product required by Regulation 3 or 4 shall comply with the following provisions of this Schedule.

2.—(1) A name set out in Column 1 of Part I of Schedule 2 shall be used in relation to fibre of the description set out in Column 2 of that Part in relation to that name interpreted where appropriate in accordance with the provisions of Part II of that Schedule.

(2) A name so set out shall not be used in relation to any other fibre even as part of a word or phrase or adjectivally. In particular, "silk" shall not be used to indicate the form or particular presentation in continuous yarn of other textile fibres.

3.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the expressions "100 per cent.", "pure" and "all" shall only be used in relation to a product if the product is completely composed of one fibre and, similar expressions shall not be used whether or not the product is completely composed of one fibre.

(2) The expressions specified in sub-paragraph (1) may be used in a case where other fibres are present if their presence is due to inadvertent impurities during manufacture of the product and not to a systematic addition thereto, and the weight of the fibres due to such reasons does not exceed 2 per cent. or, in the case of a product which has been produced by a manufacturing process in which the final formation of fibres before spinning is determined by a carding process, 5 per cent., of the weight of the product.

The said expressions may also be used when in addition to any fibres mentioned in the preceding provisions of this subparagraph there are other fibres present being fibres which are intended purely for decorative effect which are visible and distinct and the weight of which does not exceed 7 per cent. of the weight of the product.

4.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the expressions "fleece wool" and "virgin wool", may only be used in relation to a product if the product is composed exclusively of wool fibre which has never been incorporated in a finished product nor been through any spinning or felting or spinning and felting operations other than those required by the manufacture of the product, nor any process or use which has damaged the fibre other than a process or use required by the manufacture of the product.

(2) The expressions "fleece wool" and "virgin wool" maybe used to describe wool in a fibre mixture where—

- (a) all the wool contained in the mixture is composed exclusively of fibre described in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph; and
- (b) the weight of the wool in the mixture is not less than 25 per cent. of the weight of the mixture; and
- (c) in the case of a scribbled mixture, the mixture consists only of wool and one other fibre.

(3) In the case of a mixture referred to in sub-paragraph (2) the percentage weight of each fibre in the mixture shall be given.

(4) For the purposes of the preceding provisions of this paragraph there shall be ignored—

- (a) fibrous impurities in the wool not exceeding 0.3 per cent. of the weight of the product; and
- (b) fibres which are intended for purely decorative effect, which are visible and distinct and the weight of which does not exceed 7 per cent. of the weight of the product.

5.—(1) The fibre content of any textile product composed of two or more fibres one of which accounts for not less than 85 per cent. of the weight of the product shall be indicated either—

- (a) by the name of the latter fibre immediately preceded or followed by its per-

centage of the weight of the product; or

- (b) by the name of the latter fibre immediately preceded or followed by "85 per cent. minimum"; or
- (c) by the names of all the fibres in declining order of their proportion by weight, immediately preceded or followed by their percentages by weight of the product.

(2) The fibre content of any textile product composed of two or more fibres none of which accounts for 85 per cent. of the weight of the product, shall be indicated by the name of each main fibre immediately preceded or followed by its percentage of the weight of the product and the names of the other fibres in declining order of their proportion by weight with or without the percentage by weight of those other fibres.

In this sub-paragraph "main fibre" means the fibre whose weight is greater than that of any other fibre in the product or, where there are two or more fibres of the same weight but each is of a greater weight than that of any other fibre in the product having a different weight, means each such fibre.

(3) In relation to any product to which sub-paragraph (2) applies, fibres separately accounting for less than 10 per cent. of the weight of the product may be indicated as "other fibres" if the total percentage by weight of those fibres is given.

(4) In relation to any product to which sub-paragraph (2) applies, where the name of a fibre is given which accounts for less than 10 per cent. of the weight of the product the name of, and percentage by weight of, every fibre in the product shall be given.

(5) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, where a product has a pure cotton warp and a pure flax weft and the weight of the flax is not less than 40 per cent. of the weight of the unsized material the product may be indicated as "cotton linen union" accompanied by "pure cotton warp—pure flax weft".

(6) There shall be allowed in giving the indication of fibre content required by the foregoing provisions of this paragraph a fibre tolerance of 3 per cent. between the indicated and actual percentages in relation to the weight of each type of fibre of the finished product.

In addition to that tolerance there shall be a tolerance of 7 per cent. due exclusively in respect of fibres which are visible and distinct and are intended for decorative effect only.

6. The expressions "mixed fibres" and "unspecified composition" may be used in relation to any product or part of any product whose fibre content is difficult to determine.

7.—(1) In determining the fibre percentage of a product there shall be left out of account—

- (a) backings, reinforcements, double linings and canvas backings, binding threads, assembly threads, selvages, labels, marks, edgings, fastenings, trimmings which are not an integral part of the product, coverings, accessories, decorations, elastic, ribbons and (except where the fibre percentages of a main lining itself is being determined) linings;
- (b) binding warps and wefts in the case of blankets, and binding and filling warps and wefts in the case of floor coverings, furnishing fabrics and hand made carpets;
- (c) backings of pile fabric and multi-layer floor coverings unless such backings have the same textile fibre content as the pile;
- (d) fatty substances, bindings, sizings, dressings, additional dyeing and printing products and other textile processing products.

(2) In determining the fibre percentages of a product there shall be applied to the anhydrous mass of each fibre the relevant conventional regain factor set out in Schedule 3.

8.—(1) Any indication of fibre content shall be clear and legible and in uniform lettering and shall be separate and distinct from all other information except that—

- (a) a trade mark or name of an undertaking may immediately precede or follow the indication of fibre content;
- (b) where a supply or offer is one to which the requirements contained in paragraph (2) of Regulation 3 apply and a trade mark or name of an undertaking is applied to the product which contains on its own, or as an adjective or as a root one of the names specified in Schedule 2 or a name which is likely to be taken for a name so specified the trade mark or name must be immediately preceded or followed by the indication of fibre content.

(2) In the case of—

- (a) a supply or offer to which the said paragraph (2) applies, or
- (b) any advertisement to which paragraph (1) of Regulation 4 applies,

the indication of fibre content shall be given in the English language whether or not it is given in some other language.

(3) Abbreviations in giving an indication of fibre content may be used only if the use of abbreviations consists of the use of a mechanical processing code in any commercial document and then only if an explanation of the code is given in the same document.

Paragraph 2, Schedule 1.

SCHEDULE 2

PART I

TEXTILE FIBRES

<i>Column 1</i>	<i>Column 2</i>
<i>Nos. Name</i>	<i>Fibre description</i>
1 wool	fibre from sheep's or lambs' fleeces (<i>Ovis aries</i>)
2 alpaca, llama, camel, cashmere, mohair, angora, vicuna, yak, guanaco, beaver, otter, followed or not by the name 'wool' or 'hair'	hair of the following animals; alpaca, llama, camel, cashmere goat, angora goat, angora rabbit, vicuna, yak, guanaco, beaver, otter
3 animal or horsehair, with or without an indication of the kind of animal (e.g. cattle hair, common goat hair, horsehair)	hair of the various animals not mentioned under 1 or 2
4 silk	fibre obtained exclusively from silk-secreting insects
5 cotton	fibre obtained from the bolls of the cotton plant (<i>Gossypium</i>)
6 kapok	fibre obtained from the inside of the kapok fruit (<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>)
7 flax	fibre obtained from the bast of the flax plant (<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>)
8 hemp	fibre obtained from the bast of hemp (<i>Cannabis sativa</i>)
9 jute	fibre obtained from the bast of <i>Corchorus olitorius</i> and <i>Corchorus capsularis</i>
10 abaca	fibre obtained from the sheathing leaf of <i>Musa textilis</i>

Nos.	Column 1 Name	Column 2 Fibre description
11	alfa	fibre obtained from the leaves of <i>Stipa tenacissima</i>
12	coir	fibre obtained from the fruit of <i>Cocos nucifera</i>
13	broom	fibre obtained from the bast of <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> and/or <i>Spartium Junceum</i>
14	kenaf	fibre obtained from the bast of <i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i>
15	ramie	fibre obtained from the bast of <i>Boehmeria nivea</i> and <i>Boehmeria tenacissima</i>
16	sisal	fibre obtained from the leaves of <i>agave sisalana</i>
16a	sunn	fibre from the bast of <i>Crotalaria juncea</i>
16b	henequen	fibre from the bast of <i>Agave Fourcroydes</i>
16c	maguey	fibre from the bast of <i>Agave Cantala</i>
17	acetate	cellulose acetate fibre wherein less than 92% but at least 74% of the hydroxyl groups are acetylated
18	alginat	fibre obtained from metallic salts of alginic acid
19	cupro	regenerated cellulose fibre obtained by the cuprammonium process
20	modal	regenerated cellulose fibre obtained by processes giving a high tenacity and a high wet modulus. These fibres should be able to resist in the wet state a load of 22.5 g. per tex. Under this load the elongation in the wet state should not be greater than 15%
21	protein	fibre obtained from natural protein substances regenerated and stabilised through the action of chemical agents
22	triacetate	cellulose acetate fibre wherein at least 92% of the hydroxyl groups are acetylated
23	viscose	regenerated cellulose fibre obtained by the viscose process for filament and discontinuous fibre
24	acrylic	fibre formed of linear macromolecules comprising at least 85% (by mass) in the chain of the acrylonitrilic pattern
25	chlorofibre	fibre formed of linear macromolecules having in the chain more than 50% (by mass) of vinyl or chlorinated vinyl monomeric units
26	fluorofibre	fibre formed of linear macromolecules made from fluorocarbon aliphatic monomers.
27	modacrylic	fibre formed of linear macromolecules having in the chain more than 50% and less than 85% (by mass) of the acrylonitrilic pattern
28	nylon	fibre formed of linear macromolecules having in the chain the recurring amide functional group
29	polyester	fibre formed of linear macromolecules comprising at least 85% (by mass) in the chain of an ester of a diol and terephthalic acid
30	polyethylene	fibre formed of un-substituted aliphatic saturated hydrocarbon linear macromolecules
31	polypropylene	fibre formed of an aliphatic saturated hydrocarbon linear macromolecule where one carbon atom in two carries a methyl side chain in an isotactic disposition and without further substitution

<i>Nos.</i>	<i>Column 1 Name</i>	<i>Column 2 Fibre description</i>
32	polycarbamide	fibre formed of linear macromolecules having in the chain the recurring urea functional group
33	polyurethane	fibre formed of linear macromolecules composed of chains with the recurring urethane functional group
34	vinylal	fibre formed of linear macromolecules whose chain is constituted by polyvinyl alcohol with differing levels of acetalisation
35	trivinyll	fibre formed of acrylonitrile terpolymer, a chlorinated vinyl monomer and a third vinyl monomer, none of which represents as much as 50% of the total mass
36	elastodiene	elastofibre composed of natural or synthetic polyisoprene, or composed of one or more dienes polymerised with or without one or more vinyl monomers, and which, when stretched to three times its original length and released, recovers rapidly and substantially to its initial length
37	elastane	elastofibre composed of at least 85% (by mass) of a segmented polyurethane, and which, when stretched to three times its original length and released, recovers rapidly and substantially to its initial length
38	glass fibre	fibre made of glass
39	name corresponding to the material of which the fibres are composed, e.g. metal (metallic, metallised), asbestos, paper, followed or not by the word 'yarn' or 'fibre'	fibres obtained from miscellaneous or new materials not listed above

PART II

1. A name in column 1 of item 2 of Part I shall not be used in relation to a mixture of the fibre of sheep's and lambs' fleeces and the hair of any of the animals specified in column 2 of that item unless the indication of fibre content of the mixture complies with paragraph 5 of Schedule 1.

2. Until 16th August 1976 the fibre described in item 23 in column 2 of Part I may be also referred to as "rayon" whether or not accompanied by the word "viscose".

Paragraph 7(2), Schedule 1

SCHEDULE 3

CONVENTIONAL REGAIN FACTORS

<i>Fibre No. in Schedule 2</i>	<i>Fibres</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
1-2	Wool and animal hair: combed fibres carded fibres	18·25 17·00
3	Animal hair: combed fibres carded fibres Horsehair: combed fibres carded fibres	18·25 17·00 16·00 15·00
4	Silk	11·00
5	Cotton: normal fibres mercerised fibres	8·50 10·50
6	Kapok	10·90
7	Flax	12·00
8	Hemp	12·00
9	Jute	17·00
10	Abaca	14·00
11	Alfa	14·00
12	Coir	13·00
13	Broom	14·00
14	Kenaf	17·00
15	Ramie (bleached fibre)	8·50
16	Sisal	14·00
16a	Sunn	12·00
16b	Henequen	14·00
16c	Maguey	14·00
17	Acetate	9·00
18	Alginate	20·00
19	Cupro	13·00
20	Modal	13·00
21	Protein	17·00
22	Triacetate	7·00
23	Viscose	13·00
24	Acrylic	2·00
25	Chlorofibre	2·00
26	Fluorofibre	0·00
27	Modacrylic	2·00
28	Nylon (6-6): discontinuous fibre filament Nylon 6: discontinuous fibre filament Nylon 11: discontinuous fibre filament	6·25 5·75 6·25 5·75 3·50 3·50

<i>Fibre No. in Schedule 2</i>	<i>Fibres</i>	<i>Percentages</i>
29	Polyester: discontinuous fibre filament	1-50 3-00
30	Polyethylene	1-50
31	Polypropylene	2-00
32	Polycarbamide	2-00
33	Polyurethane: discontinuous fibre filament	3-50 3-00
34	Vinylal	5-00
35	Trivinyll	3-00
36	Elastodiene	1-00
37	Elastane	1-50
38	Glass fibre: filament with a diameter of over 5 microns filament with a diameter of 5 microns or less	2-00 3-00
39	Metal fibre Metallised fibre Asbestos Paper yarn	2-00 2-00 2-00 13-75

Regulation 6

SCHEDULE 4

Products which are not (except as provided in Regulation 6) subject to compulsory labelling or marking.

1. sleeve-supporting arm-bands
2. watch straps of textile materials
3. labels and badges
4. stuffed pan-holders of textile materials
5. tea cosy covers
6. coffee cosy covers
7. sleeve protectors
8. muffs other than in pile fabric
9. artificial flowers
10. pin cushions
11. painted canvas
12. woven fabrics for backing and stiffenings
13. felts
14. old made up textile products, where explicitly stated to be such
15. gaiters
16. articles for technical uses
17. packagings, not new and sold as such
18. felt hats
19. containers which are soft and without foundation, saddlery, of textile materials
20. travel goods of textile materials
21. hand embroidered tapestries
22. slide fasteners
23. buttons and buckles covered with textile materials
24. book covers of textile materials
25. toys
26. textile parts of footwear, excepting warm linings
27. table mats having several components and a surface area of not more than 500 cm²
28. oven gloves and cloths
29. egg cosies
30. make-up cases
31. tobacco pouches of textile fabric
32. spectacle, cigarette and cigar, lighter and comb cases of textile fabric
33. protective requisites for sports with the exception of gloves
34. toilet cases
35. shoe-cleaning cases.

Regulation 3(6)

SCHEDULE 5

Products in the case of which an indication of fibre content may relate to a number of similar products.

1. floorcloths
 2. cleaning cloths
 3. edgings and trimmings
 4. passementerie
 5. belts
 6. braces
 7. suspenders and garters
 8. shoe and boot laces
 9. ribbons
 10. elastic
 11. new packagings sold as such
 12. packing string
 13. table mats
 14. handkerchiefs
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations implement Council Directive No. 71/307/EEC (O.J. No. L. 185, 16.8.1971. p. 16) (O.J./S.E. 1971(II), p. 694) relating to textile names.

The Regulations require that, as from 1st July 1975, when textile products are supplied or offered for supply commercially or are described in certain advertisements and other trade literature, an indication of their fibre content shall be given except in the circumstances specified in the Regulations. The Regulations also require, when giving an indication of fibre content, the use of the names set out in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to described fibres mentioned in Column 2, and prohibit the use of such names to described other fibres. The Regulations also restrict the use of certain words, such as "pure", when giving an indication of fibre content.

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