
**Textiles — Qualification symbols for
labelling workwear to be industrially
laundered**

*Textiles — Symboles de qualification pour l'étiquetage des vêtements
de travail destinés à être lavés de manière industrielle*

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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 30023 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Cleansing, finishing and water resistance tests*.

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Introduction

ISO 15797 was developed to assist manufacturers, suppliers and launderers to assess and specify workwear garments for use in the textile rental industry. ISO 15797 also had an application in the emerging personal protective equipment (PPE) clothing market.

While ISO 15797 made a significant beneficial impact on the industry, there was still a requirement to supply information in a clear but uncomplicated way down an often extended chain to the launderer. A labelling code using symbols (ISO 3758) has been successfully used for this purpose by the retail textile industry for many years and has, by and large, proved to be a success for textile producers, retailers, detergent suppliers, professional dry and wet cleaners and, of course, the customer who launders the products at home.

No such labelling code existed for the professional laundry sector. This International Standard provides an equivalent, but visually distinctly different, code of symbols for the professional industrial laundering of workwear and protective clothing.

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Textiles — Qualification symbols for labelling workwear to be industrially laundered

1 Scope

This International Standard

- establishes a system of graphical symbols, intended for use in the marking of workwear articles and protective clothing providing information on the suitability for professional industrial laundering using ISO 15797, and
- specifies the use of these symbols in qualifying garments as potentially suitable for industrial laundering .

The following professional industrial laundering treatments are covered: washing, bleaching, tunnel finishing and tumble drying after washing. Textile-care treatments in dry and wet cleaning are covered in ISO 3175.

This International Standard applies to articles of workwear and protective clothing in the form in which they are supplied to the professional launderer.

It is a requirement of this International Standard that information on the performance of workwear and protective-clothing articles and their components with respect to cleaning treatments (ISO 15797) be obtained to allow selection of the appropriate labels.

Only garments that can be successfully tested according to ISO 15797 need be labelled.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15797:2002, *Textiles — Industrial washing and finishing procedures for testing of workwear*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1

drying and finishing

process carried out on workwear and protective-clothing articles after washing and extraction in order to remove excess water, remove creases and restore the shape

3.1.1

tumble drying

process carried out on an article of workwear and protective clothing after washing and extracting, with the intention of removing residual water by treatment with hot air in a rotating drum

3.1.2

**tunnel finishing
cabinet finishing**

process carried out on an article of workwear and protective clothing after washing and extracting, with the intention of removing residual water and restoring its shape and appearance

NOTE An appropriate appliance consists of a conveyor system that transports garments on hangers through a cabinet or tunnel equipped with suitable steam and air jets for providing moisture, heat and turbulence.

3.2

professional industrial laundering

professional laundering of workwear in greater quantities than domestic laundering

3.3

washing

process designed to clean textile articles in an aqueous bath

NOTE 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;
- water extraction, i.e. spinning or squeezing performed during and/or at the end of the operations mentioned above.

3.4

bleaching

process carried out in an aqueous medium usually during washing or rinsing, requiring the use of an oxidizing agent, e.g. chlorine or oxygen products, for the purpose of improving soil and stain removal and/or improving whiteness

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3.4.1

chlorine bleach

agent that releases active chlorine

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EXAMPLE Sodium hypochlorite

3.4.2

oxygen bleach

agent that releases active oxygen species in solution

NOTE Oxygen bleach products encompass a wide range of different activated and non-activated bleaching species which vary in their activity.

3.5

protective clothing

clothing which covers or replaces personal clothing, and which is designed to provide protection against one or more hazards

3.6

workwear

garment specifically designed to be worn in the workplace

NOTE The attributes of workwear are determined by the reason for its use, the activity in the workplace and the requirement to restore it for re-use.

4 Description and definition of symbols

4.1 Professional industrial laundering

A rectangular box with the word PRO in capitals in reverse text (white text on a black background) shall be used to indicate professional industrial laundering as shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 — Professional industrial laundering

4.2 Washing

The selected washing procedure(s) is shown in reverse text, as illustrated in Figure 2. The number in each square corresponds to one of the washing procedures described in ISO 15797 (see Table 1).



Table 1 — Washing and drying procedures in ISO 15797:2002

Classification	Fabric type ^a	Procedure number
White workwear and/or sensitive coloured trimmings — peracetic acid bleach	Cotton	1
	Polyester/cotton	2
White workwear — chlorine bleach	Cotton	3
	Polyester/cotton	4
White workwear and/or sensitive coloured trimmings — hydrogen peroxide	Cotton	5
	Polyester/cotton	6
Coloured workwear	Cotton	7
	Polyester/cotton	8
	Drying — procedure A — tumble drying	
	Drying — procedure B — tunnel/cabinet finishing	

^a Polyester/cotton refers to any blend combination including reverse blends and also 100 % synthetic fibres.