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Standard Guide to International Test Methods Associated with Textile Care Procedures¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide lists general home laundering and commercial drycleaning textile care procedures and the associated ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials), AATCC (American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists), CGSB (Canadian General Standards Board), and ISO (International Organization for Standardization) standards available for the testing and evaluation of textile products.

1.2 This guide identifies the national and international textile and apparel test methods available to manufacturers, retailers, importers, testing organizations and other related parties.

1.3 This guide provides a list of test methods that can be used by the reader to evaluate the properties of textiles and apparel during refurbishing, textile and apparel care instructions; and, textile and apparel care labels.

1.4 This guide is not intended to be used in the establishment of performance criteria, but as a guide for product development and purchasing contracts. The country of Canada, however, has some performance criteria cited in The National Standard of Canada—Care Labelling of Textiles in CAN/CGSB-86.1-2003 (see [Appendix X1](#)).

1.5 This guide is applicable to textile and apparel articles; excluding upholstery fabrics, mattresses, carpet, leather, fur, and yarns.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.62 on Labeling.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles
- D3136 Terminology Relating to Care Labeling for Apparel, Textile, Home Furnishing, and Leather Products
- D3786 Test Method for Bursting Strength of Textile Fabrics—Diaphragm Bursting Strength Tester Method
- D3787 Test Method for Bursting Strength of Textiles—Constant-Rate-of-Traverse (CRT) Ball Burst Test
- D3938 Guide for Determining or Confirming Care Instructions for Apparel and Other Textile Products
- D4720 Performance Specification for Soft Window Covering Fabrics for Household Use
- D4721 Practice for Evaluation of the Performance of Machine Washable and Drycleanable Bedcoverings and Accessories
- D5489 Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products

2.2 AATCC Standards:³

- AATCC Evaluation Procedure 1 Gray Scale for Color Change
- AATCC Evaluation Procedure 2 Gray Scale for Staining
- AATCC Evaluation Procedure 7 Instrumental Assessment of the Change in Color of a Test Specimen
- AATCC Evaluation Procedure 8 AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale
- AATCC Glossary Glossary of AATCC Standard Terminology
- AATCC Monograph Nomenclature for Subjective Rating Process

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ *Annual AATCC Technical Manual*, available from the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, <http://www.aatcc.org>.

- AATCC Monograph 1993 Standard Reference Detergent and Laundry Detergents in General
- AATCC Test Method 8 Colorfastness to Crocking: AATCC Crockmeter Method
- AATCC Test Method 61 Colorfastness to Laundering, Home and Commercial: Accelerated
- AATCC Test Method 86 Dry-Cleaning: Durability of Applied Designs and Finishes
- AATCC Test Method 88B Appearance of Seams in Durable Press Items After Repeated Home Laundering
- AATCC Test Method 88C Retention of Creases in Fabrics after Repeated Home Laundering
- AATCC Test Method 96 Dimensional Changes in Commercial Laundering of Woven and Knitted Fabrics Except Wool
- AATCC Test Method 99 Dimensional Changes of Woven and Knitted Wool Textiles: Relaxation, Consolidation and Felting
- AATCC Test Method 114 Chlorine Retained Tensile Loss: Multiple Sample Method
- AATCC Test Method 116 Colorfastness to Crocking: Rotary Vertical Crockmeter Method
- AATCC Test Method 124 Appearance of Fabrics After Repeated Home Laundering
- AATCC Test Method 128 Wrinkle Recovery of Fabrics: Appearance Method
- AATCC Test Method 132 Colorfastness to Drycleaning
- AATCC Test Method 133 Colorfastness to Heat: Hot Pressing
- AATCC Test Method 135 Dimensional Change in Automatic Home Laundering of Woven and Knit Fabrics
- AATCC Test Method 142 Appearance of Flocked Fabrics After Repeated Home Laundering and/or Coin-op Drycleaning
- AATCC Test Method 150 Dimensional Changes in Automatic Home Laundering of Garments
- AATCC Test Method 157 Colorfastness to Solvent Spotting: Perchloroethylene
- AATCC Test Method 158 Dimensional Changes on Drycleaning in Perchloroethylene: Machine Method
- AATCC Test Method 160 Dimensional Restoration of Knitted and Woven Fabrics After Laundering
- AATCC Test Method 172 Colorfastness to Non-chlorine Bleach in Home Laundering
- AATCC Test Method 179 Skewness Change in Fabric and Garment Twist Resulting from Automatic Home Laundering
- 2.3 *CGSB Standards:*⁴
- CAN/CGSB-2-M Conditioning Textile Materials for Testing
- CAN/CGSB-4.2 Textile Test Methods
- CAN/CGSB-9.1-M Breaking Strength of Fabrics - Strip Method - Constant-Time-to-Break Principle
- CAN/CGSB-11.2-M Bursting Strength - Ball Burst Test
- CAN/CGSB-18.3/ISO 105-B02: 1994 Textiles—Tests for Colourfastness Part B02: Colourfastness to Artificial Light: Xenon Arc Fading Lamp Test
- CAN/CGSB-19.1-M Colour Fastness to Washing - Accelerated Test - Launderometer
- CAN/CGSB-20 Colour Fastness to Water
- CAN/CGSB-24 Colourfastness and Dimensional Change in Commercial Laundering
- CAN/CGSB-25.1 Dimensional Change in Wetting
- CAN/CGSB-29.1 Colour Fastness to Dry Cleaning Solvent
- CAN/CGSB-31/ISO 105-X11: 1987 Textiles—Tests for Colourfastness Part X11: Colourfastness to Hot Pressing
- CAN/CGSB-33.1-M Method of Pressing - Ironing
- CAN/CGSB-33.2-M Method of Pressing - Steam Pressing
- CAN/CGSB-33.3-M Method of Pressing - Steaming
- CAN/CGSB-33.4-M Method of Pressing - Tension Pressing
- CAN/CGSB-46-M/ISO 105-A02: 1987 Textiles—Tests for Colour Fastness - Part A02: Gray Scale for Assessing Change in Colour
- CAN/CGSB-47-M/ISO 105-A03: 1987 Textiles—Tests for Colour Fastness - Part A03: Gray Scale for Assessing Staining
- CAN/CGSB-55-M Loss in Strength and Colour Change of Fabrics Due to Retained Chlorine
- CAN/CGSB-57-M Determination of Maximum Safe Ironing Temperature
- CAN/CGSB-58 Dimensional Change in Domestic Laundering of Textiles
- CAN/CGSB-59.1 Appearance After Repeated Domestic Launderings—Smoothness
- CAN/CGSB-59.2 Appearance After Repeated Domestic Launderings—Seams
- CAN/CGSB-59.3 Appearance After Repeated Domestic Launderings—Pressed-in Creases
- CAN/CGSB-65 Determination of Strength of Bonds of Bonded, Laminated and Fused Fabrics
- CAN/CGSB-66 Dimensional Change and Appearance After Dry-Cleaning of Coated, Bonded, Laminated and Fused Fabrics
- CAN/CGSB-67 Dimensional Change and Appearance After Laundering of Coated, Bonded, Laminated and Fused Fabrics
- CAN/CGSB-86.1-2003 The National Standard of Canada—Care Labelling of Textiles
- CGSB 1-GP-12 Standard Paint Colours
- 2.4 *ISO Standards:*⁵
- ISO 105-A01 Textiles—General Principles of Testing
- ISO 105-A02 Gray Scale for Assessing Change in Colour
- ISO 105-A03 Gray Scale for Assessing Staining
- ISO 105-A05 Instrumental Assessment of Change In Colour for Determination of Grey Scale Rating
- ISO 105-C06 Colour Fastness to Domestic and Commercial Laundering
- ISO 105-C09:2001 Textiles—Tests for Colourfastness-Part C09: Colourfastness to Domestic and Commercial Laundering—Oxidative Bleach Response Using a Non-phosphate Reference Detergent Incorporating a Low Temperature Bleach Activator

⁴ Available from Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), Place du Portage III, 6B1 11 Laurier Street Gatineau, Quebec, Canada K1A 1G6.

⁵ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

- ISO 105-D01 Colour Fastness to Dry Cleaning: Hydrocarbon
- ISO 105-N01 Colour Fastness to Bleaching: Hypochlorite
- ISO 105-X11 Colour Fastness to Hot Pressing
- ISO 3578 Textiles—Care Labelling Code Using Symbols
- ISO 3759 Preparation, Marking and Measuring of Fabric Specimens and Garments in Tests to Determine Dimensional Change
- ISO 5077 Textiles— Determination of Dimensional Change in Washing and Drying
- ISO 5081 Woven Fabrics - Determination of Breaking Strength and Elongation (Strip method)
- ISO 6330 Textiles—Domestic Washing and Drying Procedures for Textile Testing
- ISO 7768 Method for Assessing the Appearance of Durable Press Products After Domestic Washing and Drying
- ISO 7769 Method for Assessing the Appearance of Creases in Durable Press Products After Domestic Washing and Drying
- ISO 7770 Method for Assessing the Appearance of Seams in Durable Press Products After Domestic Washing and Drying
- ISO 9867 Evaluation of the wrinkle recovery of fabrics - Appearance Method

2.5 Other Documents:⁶

- 16 CFR Part 423 Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel and Certain Piece Goods, Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 99, May 20, 1983.
- Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel and Certain Piece Goods, Federal Register, Vol. 62, No. 25, February 6, 1997.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms related to permanent care labeling, refer to Terminology [D3136](#) and AATCC Glossary. For definitions of other textiles terms used in this guide, refer to Terminology [D3786](#), CAN/CGSB-86.1-2003, FTC 16 CFR Part 423, and ISO 3758.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide identifies U.S., Canadian and other international test methods used in the process of determining and evaluating textile and apparel care label instruction effectiveness for properties such as colorfastness, susceptibility to damage due to retained bleaching agents, dimensional stability, safe ironing temperatures and appearance retention (see [1.5](#) for exclusions).

4.2 This guide is intended for general use by those who wish to compare care label evaluation methods of the United States with those of both The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB).

4.3 The inclusion of AATCC, ASTM, CGSB, and ISO test methods provides broad reference information.

4.4 Consult specific ASTM textile fabric, apparel and home furnishing performance specifications for evaluation criteria.

4.4.1 A listing of all ASTM textile performance specifications may be found in Volumes, 07.01 and 07.02 of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*. These textile specifications are appropriate for apparel or textile products that have not been wet processed or dyed after the product was sewn into its final form.

4.5 *The National Standard of Canada*—Care Labelling of Textiles (CAN/CGSB-86 1-2003) includes performance criteria that is used in the evaluation of care claims, including written words or symbols, identified on garments or textile products that are offered for sale in Canada (see [Appendix X1](#)).

5. Summary of Guide

5.1 This guide lists test procedures that may be used in determining or evaluating care label instructions appropriate for colorfastness, susceptibility to damage due to retained bleaching agents, dimensional stability, safe ironing temperature, and appearance retention.

6. General Considerations

6.1 Wherever available AATCC, ASTM, CGSB, and ISO test methods have been listed to allow ease of comparison (see [Fig. 1](#)).

6.2 While AATCC, ASTM, CGSB, and ISO test methods may use similar conditions, it is important to note that the protocol may differ.

6.3 CGSB and ISO test procedures can not always be considered a direct comparison with, or a substitute for, test results from AATCC or ASTM test methods and vice versa.

6.4 The care procedures are listed in the order of customary consumer practice.

7. Home Laundering and Commercial Drycleaning Textile Care Procedures and the Associated Standards

7.1 This section is a list of general and specific international standards associated with the assessment of textile products for permanent care labels in the order of customary consumer practice.

7.1.1 [Appendix X1](#) summarizes the general care procedures, the related care symbols, and the related standards;

7.2 *Assessment of Textile Products for Permanent Care Labels*—General information is given in the following standards:

7.2.1 ASTM Standards:

- (1) Terminology [D123](#)
- (2) Terminology [D3136](#)
- (3) Guide [D3938](#)
- (4) Guide [D5489](#)

7.2.2 AATCC Standard:

- (1) AATCC Monograph

7.2.3 CGSB Standards:

- (1) CAN/CGSB-2-M

⁶ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.