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Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

Textiles — Fibres naturelles — Noms génériques et définitions

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Foreword

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ISO 6938 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 6938:1984), which has been technically revised.

Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

1 Scope

This International Standard gives the generic names and the definitions of the most important natural fibres according to their specific constitution or origin.

An alphabetical list of names in common use is provided, together with the corresponding standardized denominations.

2 Types of fibres

2.1 Natural fibres

Natural fibres are fibres which occur in nature; they can be categorized according to their origin into animal, vegetable and mineral fibres.

2.2 Animal fibres

These include in particular:

— fibres from silk glands, secreted by some insects, particularly by larvae of the lepidopter order, in the form of two filaments of fibroin cemented together by sericin;

— fibres secreted by some molluscs;

— fibres from hair follicles, with a multicellular structure, composed of keratin, forming the fleece, the coat, the mane or the tail of certain animals.

2.3 Vegetable fibres

These include in particular:

— fibres from seeds: single-cell structure, generated by the epidermal cells of the seed, almost entirely constituted of cellulose;

— fibres from bast: composite fibres obtained from the bast of certain plants, mainly constituted of cellulose and accompanied with incrusting and intercellular materials (pectin bodies, hemicellulose, lignin);

— fibres from leaf: composite fibres obtained from leaves, constituted chiefly of cellulose plus incrusting and intercellular materials, consisting of lignin and hemicelluloses;

— fibres from fruit: composite fibres obtained from fruit, constituted chiefly of cellulose plus incrusting and intercellular materials, consisting of lignin and hemicelluloses.

2.4 Mineral fibres

Mineral fibres are obtained from rocks of fibrous structure, constituted principally of silicates.

3 Fibre generic names

3.1 Animal fibres

3.1.1 Fibres from silk glands

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.1.1.1	SILK (Soie)	Fibre extruded by the silkworm *Bombyx mori.*
3.1.1.2 [b]	TASAR (Tasar)	Fibre extruded by the silkworm *Antheraea mylitta, Antheraea pernyi, Antheraea yama-may, Antheraea roylei, Antheraea proylei.*
3.1.1.3 [b]	MUGA (Muga)	Fibre extruded by the silkworm *Anteraea assamensis.*
3.1.1.4 [b]	ERI (Éri)	Fibre extruded by the silkworm *Phylosamia ricini.*
3.1.1.5 [b]	ANAPHE (Anaphe)	Fibre extruded by the silkworm *Anaphe.*

[a] Names in brackets are equivalent French-language names.

[b] The names relative to numbers 3.1.1.2 to 3.1.1.5 may be followed by the term “silk”.

3.1.2 Fibres secreted by some molluscs

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.1.2.1	BYSSUS (Byssus)	Fibre extruded from some molluscs *Pinna nobilis*.

[a] Names in brackets are equivalent French-language names.

3.1.3 Fibres from hair follicles

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.1.3.1	WOOL (Laine)	Fibre from sheep or lamb of the genus *Ovis aries.*
3.1.3.2 [b]	ALPACA (Alpaga)	Fibre from alpaca *Lama pacos.*
3.1.3.3 [b]	ANGORA (Angora)	Fibre from angora rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus.*
3.1.3.4 [b]	CASHMERE (Cachemire)	Fibre from cashmere goat *Capra hircus laniger.*
3.1.3.5 [b]	CAMEL (Chameau)	Fibre from camel *Camelus bactianus.*
3.1.3.6 [b]	GUANACO (Guanaco)	Fibre from guanaco *Lama huanaco.*
3.1.3.7 [b]	LLAMA (Lama)	Fibre from llama *Lama glama.*
3.1.3.8 [b]	MOHAIR (Mohair)	Fibre from angora goat *Capra hircus aegagrus.*
3.1.3.9 [b]	VICUNA (Vigogne)	Fibre from vicuna *Lama vicugna.*

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.1.3.10 [b]	YAK (Yack)	Fibre from yak *Bos (Poëphagus) grunniens.*
3.1.3.11 [c]	COW (Boeuf)	Fibre from common ox *Bos taurus.*
3.1.3.12 [b]	BEAVER (Castor)	Fibre from beaver *Castor canadensis.*
3.1.3.13 [c]	DEER (Daim)	Fibre from deer *Genus cervus.*
3.1.3.14 [c]	GOAT (Chèvre)	Fibre from common goat *Genus capra.*
3.1.3.15 [c]	HORSE [d] (Cheval)	Fibre from horse *Equus caballus.*
3.1.3.16 [c]	RABBIT (Lapin)	Fibre from common rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus.*
3.1.3.17 [c]	HARE (Lièvre)	Fibre from hare *Lepus europaeus* and *Lepus timidus.*
3.1.3.18 [b]	OTTER (Loutre)	Fibre from otter *Lutra lutra.*
3.1.3.19 [c]	NUTRIA (Myocastor)	Fibre from coypu *Myocastor coypus.*
3.1.3.20 [c]	SEAL (Phoque)	Fibre from seal *Family pinnipedia.*
3.1.3.21 [c]	MUSKRAT (Rat musqué)	Fibre from muskrat *Fiber zibathicus.*
3.1.3.22 [c]	REINDEER (Renne)	Fibre from reindeer *Genus rangifer.*
3.1.3.23 [c]	MINK (Vison)	Fibre from mink *Mustela (Lutreola) vison.*
3.1.3.24 [c]	MARTEN (Martre)	Fibre from marten *Mustela martes.*
3.1.3.25 [c]	SABLE (Zibeline)	Fibre from sable *Mustela zibellina.*
3.1.3.26 [c]	WEASEL (Belette)	Fibre from weasel *Mustela misalis.*
3.1.3.27 [c]	BEAR (Ours)	Fibre from bear *Ursus arctos.*
3.1.3.28 [c]	ERMINE (Hermine)	Fibre from ermine *Mustela eminea.*
3.1.3.29 [c]	ARTIC FOX (Renard arctique)	Fibre from artic fox *Vulpus lagopus, Canis isatis.*

[a] Names in brackets are equivalent French-language names.

[b] The names relative to numbers 3.1.3.2 to 3.1.3.10, 3.1.3.12, and 3.1.3.18 may be followed by the term “wool” and/or “hair”.

[c] The names relative to numbers 3.1.3.11 to 3.1.3.29, except 3.1.3.12 and 3.1.3.18 may be followed by the term “hair”.

[d] Horse-hair fibre coming from the mane or the tail of the horse; horse-coat fibre coming from the coat of the horse.

3.2 Vegetable fibres

3.2.1 Fibres from seeds

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.2.1.1	COTTON (Coton)	Single-cell fibre from the seed of plants of the *Gossypium.*
3.2.1.2	AKUND (Akund)	Fibre from the seeds of *Calotropis gigantea* and *Calotropis procera.*
3.2.1.3	KAPOK (Kapok)	Single-cell fibre from the seed pods of the kapok tree *Ceiba pentandra.*

[a] Names in brackets are equivalent French language names.

3.2.2 Bast fibres

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.2.2.1	HEMP (Chanvre)	Fibre from the basts of *Cannabis sativa.*
3.2.2.2	BROOM (Genêt)	Fibre from the basts of broom *Cytisus scoparius* and *Spartium junceum.*
3.2.2.3	JUTE [b] (Jute)	Fibre from the basts of jute *Corchorus capsularis* and *Corchorus olitorius.*
3.2.2.4	KENAF [b] (Kénaf)	Fibre from the basts of kenaf *Hibiscus cannabinus.*
3.2.2.5	FLAX (Lin)	Fibre from the basts of flax *Linum usitatissimum.*
3.2.2.6	RAMIE (Ramie)	Fibre from the basts of ramie *Boehmeria nivea, Boehmeria tenacissima.*
3.2.2.7	ROSELLE [b] (Roselle)	Fibre from the basts of roselle *Hibiscus sabdariffa.*
3.2.2.8	SUNN (Sunn)	Fibre from the basts of sunn *Crotalaria juncea.*
3.2.2.9	URENA [b] (Urène)	Fibre from the basts of urena *Urena lobata* and *Urena sinuata.*
3.2.2.10	ABUTILON [b] (Abutilon)	Fibre from the basts of *Abutilon angulatum, Abutilon avicennae* and *Abutilon theophrasti.*
3.2.2.11	PUNGA [b] (Punga)	Fibre from the basts of *Clappertonia ficifolia,Triumfetta cordifolia* and *Triumfetta rhomboidea.*
3.2.2.12	BLUISH DOGBANE (Bluish dogbane)	Fibre from the basts of *Apocynum androsae mifolium, Apocynum cannabinum.*
3.2.2.13	NETTLE (Ortie)	Fibre from the basts of *Urica dioica.*
3.2.2.14	BAMBOO (Bambou)	Fibre from the basts of bamboo *bambusa textilis.*
3.2.2.15	CASTOR (Ricin)	Fibre from the basts of *Ricinus communis.*

[a] Names in brackets are equivalent French-language names.

[b] Called also “jute and allied fibres”.

3.2.3 Leaf fibres

Number	Standard name [a]	Definition
3.2.3.1	ABACA (Abaca)	Fibre from the leaves of *Musa textilis.*
3.2.3.2	ALFA (Alfa)	Fibre from the leaves of *Stipa tenacissima* and *Lygeum spartum.*
3.2.3.3	ALOE (Aloès)	Fibre from the leaves of *Furcraea gigantea*.
3.2.3.4	FIQUE (Fique)	Fibre from the leaves of *Furcraea macrophylla.*
3.2.3.5	HENEQUEN (Henequen)	Fibre from the leaves of *Ageva fourcroydes.*
3.2.3.6	MAGUEY (Maguey)	Fibre from the leaves of *Ageva cantala.*
3.2.3.7	PHORMIUM (Phormium)	Fibre from the leaves of *Phormium tenax.*
3.2.3.8	SISAL (Sisal)	Fibre from the leaves of *Agave sisalana.*
3.2.3.9	TAMPICO (Tampico)	Fibre from the leaves of *Agave lechuguilla Torr.*
3.2.3.10	PALMA IXTLE (Ixtle de Palma)	Fibre from the leaves of *Yucca carnerosana.*
3.2.3.11	PINEAPPLE LEAF (Feuille d'ananas)	Fibre from the leaves of *Anannas comosus Merr.*
3.2.3.12	PITA (Pita)	Fibre from the leaves of *Aechmea magdalenae.*
3.2.3.13	PEAT FIBRE (Fibre de tourbe)	Fibre from the leaf sheath of the plant *Eriophorum vaginatum.*
[a] Names in brackets are equivalent French-language names.		

3.2.4 Fruit fibres

Number	Standard name [a]	Definition
3.2.4.1	COIR (Coco)	Fibre from the husk of the coconut *Cocos nucifera.*
[a] Name in brackets is equivalent French-language name.		

3.3 Mineral fibres

Number	Generic name [a]	Definition
3.3.1	ASBESTOS (Amiante)	Fibrous natural silicate.
[a] Name in brackets is equivalent French-language name.		