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Standard Terminology Relating to Care Labeling for Apparel, Textile, Home Furnishing, and Leather Products¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard is a compilation of terminology developed by Subcommittee D13.62 on Labeling that is related to refurbishing and labeling for apparel, textile, home furnishing, and leather products other than upholstered furniture and floor coverings.

1.2 This terminology provides a uniform language for the disclosure of care instructions on labels that are to be attached to apparel, textile, home furnishing, and leather products according to the Federal Trade Commission's regulation 16 CFR, Part 423 (See 2.3).

1.3 These terms, definitions and descriptions employ common meanings for the care instructions required to be on textile products sold in the U.S.

1.4 This terminology is unique to the care of textile and leather products as the meanings are often expressed in phrases for care processes related to home-type washers, dryers, drying techniques and those for professional care.

1.5 For definitions of other textile terms, see Terminology D123.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D5489 Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products

2.2 AATCC Standard:³

AATCC Technical Manual, Monograph M6 Standardization of Home Laundry Test Conditions, current edition

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

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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 Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), One Davis Dr., P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2215, www.aatcc.org.

2.3 Federal Document:⁴

16 CFR, Part 423 Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, and Certain Piece Goods, current amendment published

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

bleach, *n—in care of textiles*, a product for brightening and aiding the removal of soils and stains from textile materials by oxidation that is inclusive of both chlorine and non-chlorine products.

care instructions, *n—in textiles*, a series of directions that describes practices which should refurbish a product without adverse effects and warn against any part of the directions which one could reasonably be expected to use that may harm the item.

care label, *n—in textiles*, a label or other affixed instructions that report how a product should be refurbished.

DISCUSSION—The Federal Trade Commission, in Rule 16 CFR 423, requires care instructions on most apparel and certain other textile items. In relation to these products, the FTC definition states: "Care Label means a permanent label or tag, containing regular care information and instructions, that is attached or affixed in some manner that will not become separated from the product and will remain legible during the useful life of the product."

care procedure, *n—in textiles*, one or more refurbishing methods to which products may be subjected for soil and stain removal and aesthetic improvement such as appearance restoration or hand.

DISCUSSION—The process employs appropriate equipment, materials and processes, and may include but need not be limited to the following: water or drycleaning solvent, detergent or soap, foam, absorption (powder) type compounds, bleach, agitation, drying, pressing or ironing.

chlorine bleach, *n*—a bleach that releases the hypochlorite ion in solution, for example, sodium hypochlorite.

⁴ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, www.gpo.gov

cleaning agent, *n*—a chemical compound or formulation of several compounds which loosens, disperses, dissolves, or emulsifies soil to facilitate removal by mechanical action.

commercial laundering, *n*—a process by which textile products or specimens may be washed, bleached, rinsed, dried, and pressed typically at higher temperatures, higher pH, and longer times than used for home laundering.

consumer care, *n*—of consumer textile products, cleaning and maintenance procedures as customarily undertaken by the ultimate user.

consumer textile product, *n*—a textile item intended to satisfy human wants and needs.

DISCUSSION—Consumer textile products include such products as apparel, curtains, draperies, piece goods, sheets, slipcovers, table linens, towels, trims, yarns, zippers, and findings. The component parts of consumer textile products may include such other materials as suede, leather and fur.

detergent, *n*—in textile product care, a cleaning agent containing one or more surfactants as the active ingredient(s).

DISCUSSION—In popular usage, washing and cleaning agents with a composition other than soap that clean by much the same mechanism as does soap. The term detergent is used to describe both the basic surface active agents and finished products. The finished product may contain additional ingredients such as builders, antiredeposition agents, corrosion inhibitors, suds control agents, fluorescent whitening agents, etc.

drycleaning, *n*—in the care of textile products, a cleaning process using solvents such as perchloroethylene, a petroleum, or silicone.

DISCUSSION—The process may include moisture addition to solvent of up to 75 % relative humidity, a detergent, hot tumble drying up to 70°C (160°F) and restoration by steam or steam air finishing.

hand washing, *n*—the most gentle form of home laundering using hand manipulation without the use of a machine or device such as a scrubbing board.

home laundering, *n*—a process by which textile products or parts thereof may be washed, bleached, dried, and pressed by any customary method designed for use in a residence, or non-professional use. (See also **professional care**.)

ironing, *n*—a method of pressing using a heated hand iron, sometimes together with moisture or steam, and a gliding motion.

laundering, *n*—in textile product care, a process intended to remove soil or stains by treatment (washing) with an aqueous detergent solution (and possibly bleach) and normally including subsequent rinsing, extracting, and drying.

non-chlorine bleach, *n*—a bleach that does not release the hypochlorite ion in solution, for example, sodium perborate, sodium percarbonate.

permanent care label, *n*—as applied to textile products, a care label that remains legible and attached to a textile product throughout its useful life.

pressing, *n*—in the care of textiles, a process of smoothing and shaping by heat and pressure, with or without the presence of steam.

DISCUSSION—Pressing may be done with a hand iron or with a utility press such as used by commercial laundries and drycleaners.

professional care, *n*—for textile products, cleaning and maintenance procedures requiring the services of a person specially trained or skilled in their use.

refurbish, *n*—as applied to textile products, to brighten or freshen up and restore to wearability or use by cleaning such as drycleaning, laundering, or steam cleaning.

soap, *n*—a cleaning agent usually consisting of sodium or potassium salts of fatty acids.

solvent relative humidity, *n*—the humidity of air over a drycleaning bath and in equilibrium with the solvent and its small amount of water.

DISCUSSION—Every drycleaning solvent bath containing detergent can require a different absolute water content to reach the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) specified level of solvent relative humidity for a normal drycleaning. The actual solvent relative humidity in the air over a solvent must be measured by a hygrometer after equilibrium has been reached between the water content of air and the solvent.

stripper, *n*—in textiles, a product, usually a reducing agent, that changes the coloring material, dye, or soil stain to reduced color.

DISCUSSION—Stripper is sometimes referred to as a “reducing bleach” as opposed to the conventional oxidizing bleach.

spot and stain removal, *n*—a cleaning procedure for localized areas with cleaning agents and mechanical action specific to the removal of the foreign substances present.

tag, *n*—a paper item, such as a ticket or a slip, which is marked to provide information to the consumer at the time of purchase, and which is permanently affixed to the product.

3.2 *Other Definitions*—For the definitions of other textile terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology **D123**.

4. Label Terms and Detailed Instructions for Apparel, Draperies, Slipcovers, Linens, Yarn, and Piece Goods

4.1 See **Table 1** for a listing of label terms and the detailed instructions that apply to them.

5. Keywords

5.1 apparel; care label; curtains; drapery; knitted fabric; linens; sheeting; slip covers; table cloth; terminology; towel; upholstery; woven fabric; yarn