

AS/NZS 1957:1998

Australian/New Zealand Standard®

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**Textiles—Care labelling**

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This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 30 September 1997 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 11 November 1997. It was published on 5 January 1998.

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The following interests are represented on Committee CS/4:

Apparel & Textile Federation of New Zealand  
Apparel Importers Association of Australia  
Australian Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
Australian Retailers Association  
Australian Wool Processors Council  
Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation  
AWTA Textile Testing (Australia)  
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia  
Department of Fair Trading N.S.W., Consumer Protection Agency  
Drycleaning Institute of Australia  
Federal Bureau of Consumer Affairs (Commonwealth of Australia)  
Furnishing Industry Association of Australia  
Melbourne Institute of Textiles  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs (New Zealand)  
New South Wales Guild of Furniture Manufacturers  
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Originated in Australia as AS L38—1966.  
Final Australian edition AS 1957—1987.  
Originated in New Zealand as NZS 8721:1988  
(being endorsement of AS 1957—1987)  
AS 1957—1987 and NZS 8721:1988 jointly  
revised and designated AS/NZS 1957:1998.

PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY:

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA  
1 The Crescent,  
Homebush NSW 2140 Australia

STANDARDS NEW ZEALAND  
Level 10, Radio New Zealand House,  
155 The Terrace,  
Wellington 6001 New Zealand

ISBN 0 7337 1554 0

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CS/4, Care Labelling of Textiles, to supersede AS 1957—1987, *Care labelling of clothing, household textiles, furnishings, upholstered furniture, bedding, piece goods and yarns*.

It was first published in 1966, revised in 1971 as AS L38 and again in 1976 at the request of the State Ministers for Consumer Affairs.

The Ministers had requested that the 1976 revision include performance tests and criteria which could be used either as a guide in the choice of appropriate phrases or to determine if care instructions are appropriate. It was therefore decided to develop as a separate document a guide entitled AS 2621, *Care labelling—Guide to the selection of correct-care labelling instructions from AS 1957*, which was published in 1983 and has been superseded by AS/NZS 2621:1998, *Textiles—Guide to the selection of correct care labelling instructions from AS/NZS 1957*, a companion document to this. Reference should be made to AS/NZS 2621 for performance tests and criteria for colourfastness and shrinkage because it provides a procedure to assist manufacturers in choosing washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and drycleaning instructions.

Other revisions of AS 1957 occurred in 1977, 1982 and 1987 and during this time drycleaning symbols were picked up from ISO 3758. Changes in these editions relate to which textile products require labelling and what the label should include.

In this new edition the decision was made to ensure that individual pieces of a suite of furniture be care labelled due to problems arising when one piece is taken to be drycleaned with no care instructions and to expand the care instructions for leather and upholstery. The Standard has also been reformatted into Sections.

The international symbols for care treatments other than drycleaning (drycleaning symbols are required as they were in the 1977, 1982 and 1987 editions) can be included as options, although the requirement of this Standard is that written instructions are to be supplied. Current textile labelling legislation should be referred to in addition to this Standard in order to ensure correct labelling of textile articles. Legislation may list items excluded from care labelling requirements but does not prevent care labelling.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

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## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>	
FOREWORD . . . . .	4	
SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL		
1.1 SCOPE . . . . .	6	
1.2 OBJECTIVE . . . . .	6	
1.3 APPLICATION . . . . .	6	
1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS . . . . .	6	
1.5 DEFINITIONS . . . . .	6	
SECTION 2 LABELLING		
2.1 INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED ON THE PERMANENT CARE LABEL . . . . .	8	
2.2 PERMANENT LABEL REQUIREMENTS . . . . .	9	
2.3 COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS IN LIEU OF OR SUPPLEMENTING LABELS . . . . .	9	
SECTION 3 CLASSIFICATION OF ARTICLES		
3.1 PROCEDURE . . . . .	10	
3.2 MADE-UP ARTICLES, APPAREL AND HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES . . . . .	10	
3.3 PIECE GOODS, YARNS AND OTHER MATERIALS . . . . .	10	
3.4 UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE (INCLUDING LEATHER), BEDDING AND OTHER FURNISHINGS . . . . .	10	
3.5 LEATHER AND FUR APPAREL (INCLUDING SHEEPSKINS) . . . . .	11	
3.6 CARE LABELLING PHRASES AND SYMBOLS . . . . .	11	
TABLES		
1 CARE INSTRUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO LAUNDERING AND DRYCLEANING OF MADE UP ARTICLES, APPAREL AND HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES, PIECE GOODS AND YARNS . . . . .	12	
2 CARE INSTRUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE (INCLUDING LEATHER), BEDDING AND OTHER FURNISHINGS . . . . .	17	
3 CARE INSTRUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO LEATHER AND FUR APPAREL (INCLUDING SHEEPSKINS) . . . . .	23	
APPENDIX A MODEL LABELS WHICH SHOW EXAMPLES OF CARE LABELS FOR LEATHER, PRODUCED AFTER JOINING THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM TABLES 2 AND 3 . . . . .		27

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