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Superfine woven wool fabric labelling — Requirements for Super S code definition

Étiquetage des étoffes tissées de laine superfine — Exigences de définition de la codification Super S

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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.

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: Foreword - Supplementary information

ISO 18103 was prepared by European Committee for Standardization (CEN) in collaboration with ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

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Introduction

This International Standard has been developed from a CEN Workshop Agreement, CWA 16336 published in September 2011,[3] which was itself based on the International Wool Textile Organization Fabric Labelling Code of Practice: Quality Definitions Relating to “Super S”.[7]

The “Super S” classification for the fineness of wool in woven fabrics and garments goes back to the traditional English wool grading system as used by the trade in Bradford, England. The foundations of this system can be described as follows: a yarn, to be even and strong enough for weaving, must contain a certain minimum number of fibres in its cross section. Therefore, with coarse wool fibres it is possible to obtain only coarse yarns, while with the fine ones very thin yarns can be spun. This criterion is the basis of the wool fineness classification. If wool is classified as ‘‘Super 120s”, for example, it means that 1 pound of fibre will produce 120 hanks of yarn, each of which is 560 yards long. With a coarser wool the yarn would be thicker and the number of hanks lower (for instance 80), with a still finer wool on the contrary the hanks would be more numerous (for instance 150). At the beginning of this century, the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) officially and precisely codified the fineness classes by fixing for each one of them a maximum limit in microns of mean fibre diameter.

As wool is processed, the diameter of the original fibre used in producing a woven fabric may change due to structural modification of the fibre and the possible effects of chemicals used during processing, etc. Consequently, the mean fibre diameter of the fibre extracted from the fabric can be different from the mean fibre diameter of the fibre used to spin the yarn used in the fabric.

Wool weavers supply their clients with statements concerning the fineness and, on request, with “Super S” label to be sewn inside garments made with the “Super S” cloth. This is a voluntary label, but it has to correspond with the code of practice. The fine wool is very expensive, but with it light, soft fabrics of high wearability and elegance can be produced. A false classification is an act of unfair competition towards the honest producers and an unfair and deceptive practice to consumers. The whole chain of production for wool textiles from the grower through to the garment manufacturer will benefit from a proper understanding and application of the “Super S” code. In addition, retailers and consumers will be protected from fraud or misunderstandings which originate from ignorance of the classification system.

NOTE 1 pound is equivalent to 0,453 kg; 1 yard is equivalent to 0,914 m.

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Superfine woven wool fabric labelling — Requirements for Super S code definition

1 Scope

This International Standard defines the requirements of the "Super S" labelling code for finished woven fabric made from pure virgin wool and the test method to determine this.

2 Normative references

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

ISO 137, *Wool — Determination of fibre diameter — Projection microscope method*

3 Terms and definitions

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

3.1
wool
fibre from sheep's or lambs' fleeces (*Ovis aries*)

Note 1 to entry: Although legislation in the European Union and in some other countries provides that the term "wool" may be used to indicate a mixture of fibres from sheep's or lambs' fleeces and the hairs of other animals such as alpaca, llama, camel, kashmir goat, angora goat, angora rabbit, vicuna, yak, guanaco, cashgora goat, beaver, and otter, the use of the term "wool" in the context of "Super S" labelling is restricted to fibres from sheep's or lambs' fleeces only.

3.2
pure virgin wool fabric
woven fabric produced wholly from shorn wool which has not previously been spun into yarn or felted nor previously incorporated into a finished product

4 "Super S" labelling code requirements

In the labelling of fabrics, the word Super (as in Super 100s for example) can only be used to describe woven fabrics made from pure virgin wool, and the "Super S" value is determined by, and shall not exceed the mean wool fibre diameter values indicated in Table 1.

For an explanation of the origin of the "Super S" classification, see Introduction (2nd paragraph).

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