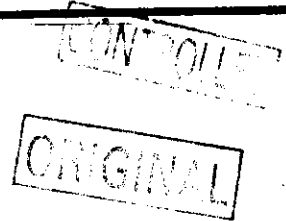


British Standard

Recommendations for informative labelling of textile floor coverings



Recommandations pour l'étiquetage informatif des revêtements de sol textiles

Empfehlungen für die informatorische Kennzeichnung von textilen Fußbodenbelägen

Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textile Products Standards Committee. It is the second revision of the standard first published in 1963 and revised in 1974.

The variety in appearance, fibre type, quality and price ranges that is now available has meant that consumers often have considerable difficulty in choosing a textile floor covering, and the information to be given as recommended in this standard should help them to distinguish between products that may appear identical. In order that the consumer may be given the information required, it is essential that the correct particulars should be furnished initially by manufacturers and subsequently conveyed in full at all succeeding stages of distribution. All concerns intending to comply with this standard will therefore be obliged to ensure that the information is provided as recommended by the standard when goods are received or despatched.

The indication of pile or use-surface fibre content has to comply with Statutory Instrument 2124, The Textile

Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1973. All the information given on this subject in this standard is compatible with the Statutory Instrument.

New recommendations in this edition of the standard are those for indicating performance when subjected to a small source of ignition and for indicating the manufacturer's recommended end use.

An equivalent ISO standard on consumer information labelling has not yet been published due to lack of agreement in the important areas of flammability testing and the use of grading schemes.

This standard does not apply to textile floor-covering tile because of their specialized dimensional requirements.

The committee responsible for this British Standard recognizes that some definition of quality, including appearance retention and behaviour in wear, and more specific recommendations concerning end-use suitability would greatly enhance its value to consumers. The ISO sub-committee responsible for standards for textile floor coverings is actively considering these aspects.

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1. Scope

This British Standard provides recommendations for the labelling of textile floor coverings having an area of one square metre or more. It recommends the information to be provided, and indicates the terms in which this should be expressed and the means by which it should be conveyed. It is applicable to all types of textile floor covering except for textile floor-covering tiles.

2. References

The titles of the standards publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

3. General labelling recommendations

3.1 Textile floor coverings labelled in accordance with this British Standard should bear a label indicating:

- (a) the dimensions of the product, in accordance with 4.1,
- (b) the nature of the construction, in accordance with 4.2,
- (c) the fibre content of the pile or use surface, in accordance with 4.3,
- (d) performance when subjected to a small source of ignition, in accordance with 4.4,
- (e) instructions for laying, in accordance with 4.5,
- (f) instructions for cleaning, in accordance with 4.6,
- (g) manufacturer's recommended end use, or instructions on how to obtain this information, in accordance with 4.7.

3.2 These particulars should be followed by the statement 'This information fulfils the recommendations of BS 3655'.

3.3 The information on the label should be contained in a clearly delineated area, and should be presented in lettering of adequate size and colour-fastness in the order given in 3.1. The label should be firmly attached to each unit of the product sold; in the case of textile floor covering cut to length by the retailer, the information should be given on the bill of sale supplied to the purchaser.

3.4 If any information other than that recommended by this British Standard is provided on the same label, this should be given well outside the prescribed area and the wording given in 3.2 should be suitably modified to show that the statement relates only to the information recommended by 3.1.

4. Details of recommendations

4.1 Dimensions

4.1.1 *Textile floor coverings sold as squares and rugs.* The length and width of the product, together with the tolerance of $\pm 1.25\%$, should be stated in metric units. This applies also to carpet pieces or textile floor coverings with bound and/or fringed ends not specifically bought as a close-fitted carpet, where the dimensions stated should not include the length of the fringe.

NOTE. Failure to qualify a statement of length or width with a tolerance could result in an offence of short measure if the textile floor covering is less than the stated dimensions.

4.1.2 *Textile floor coverings sold as piece.* The width only, together with the tolerance of $\pm 1.25\%$, should be stated in metric units. See note to 4.1.1.

4.1.3 *Test method.* Length and width should be determined in accordance with the method given in BS 4805.

4.2 *Nature of the construction.* The type of construction should be described in accordance with the terms given in BS 5557. Typical examples are:

Axminster
Wilton
tufted
fibre-bonded
knitted
hand-knotted
machine-knotted

4.3 Fibre content

4.3.1 Statement of fibre content

4.3.1.1 The statement of fibre content of the pile or use-surface shall be in accordance with Statutory Instrument 2124, The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1973. All information given in 4.3.1 complies with these Regulations.

4.3.1.2 Information concerning percentage fibre content should be clearly related to pile yarn or use-surface material only, by the terms of the description, and should be in letters and numerals of approximately equal size and prominence.

4.3.1.3 When the mixture is unknown, and when difficulty is experienced with the determination of fibre content, the expressions 'mixed fibres' or 'unspecified composition' may be used.

4.3.1.4 The content of the pile yarn or use-surface should be described by naming the textile fibre from which it is made. If more than one kind of textile fibre is present they should all be named in order of their predominance by mass, and the amount of each fibre present should be indicated as a percentage of the total fibre content of the pile yarn or use-surface material.

4.3.1.5 Man-made fibres should be described by their generic names according to BS 4815 and additionally they may be described by the brand name under which they are sold by their respective producers. When a brand name is used, care should be taken to respect the rights of the owner.

4.3.1.6 All percentages given in accordance with 4.3.1.4 are subject to a tolerance of $\pm 3\%$ of the total fibre content of the pile yarn or use-surface material.

4.3.1.7 A description of pile yarn or use-surface material that refers to one fibre only, accompanied by the word 'all' or the phrase '100%', denotes that the material so described contains no textile fibre other than that named.

4.3.1.8 A description of pile yarn or use-surface material that refers to one fibre only, unaccompanied by the word 'all' or any other quantitative term, denotes that the material so described contains no textile fibre other than that named, subject to an allowance of not more than 7% of textile material to provide a decorative design or a visual effect, or to facilitate manufacturing processes, or to modify the properties of the product.

4.3.1.9 In calculating percentages in accordance with 4.3.1.4 to 4.3.1.8, any inadvertent impurities present up to a maximum of 3% of the total fibre content may be ignored, in addition to those allowances already stated.

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4.3.2 Sampling and testing

4.3.2.1 For the determination of the composition of the pile yarn or use-surface of the product, obtain a sample by removing a strip extending across the width, the strip being of such size that its total area is 1 m². Remove pile yarn or use-surface fibres by random selection to provide a composite sample of at least 5 g in mass. Obtain this sample in such a manner that any possibility of inclusion of extraneous matter from the backing or substrate compositions is avoided.

NOTE For fibre-bonded textile floor coverings, when testing products back coated with PVC or bitumen, the removal of use-surface fibres can be facilitated by stripping off the backing as a solid layer. Difficulties may be encountered with certain products treated with latexes that permeate the fibres and do not form a discrete layer. In these cases the label should be in accordance with the description in 4.3.1.3.

4.3.2.2 Select from the composite sample three test specimens, each of mass 1 g, for analysis, and determine the fibre content in accordance with BS 4407 when appropriate. Take the mean of the determinations on these three specimens as the percentage fibre composition.

4.3.2.3 All references in this standard to the percentage fibre content of the pile yarn or use-surface material mean percentage by mass, calculated from the mass of materials when in standard conditions, namely, their

oven-dry mass plus the recommended allowance as specified in BS 4784.

4.4 Performance when subjected to a small source of ignition. The performance when subjected to a small source of ignition should be reported in accordance with the requirements of BS 5287, using the test method given in BS 4790.

4.5 Instructions for laying. Where a particular method of laying is required, this should be stated on the label and, where necessary, reference should be made to any manufacturer's leaflets or instructions, and to BS 5325.

4.6 Instructions for cleaning. One of the following directions, or comparable instructions, should be given.

- (a) 'Expert cleaning recommended';
- (b) 'Use proprietary carpet cleaner as instructed by its manufacturer';
- (c) 'Use a shampoo formulated according to BS 4088'.

4.7 Manufacturer's recommended end use. A nationally or internationally recognized system, or the manufacturer's own indication, would be satisfactory. In the absence of these, instructions should be provided on the label on how to obtain such information, for example by referring to leaflets or by consultation with the retailer or supplier

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Standards publications referred to

BS 4088	Carpet shampoos
BS 4407	Methods of test. Quantitative analysis of fibre mixtures
BS 4784	Method for the determination of correct invoice mass (weight) of textiles
BS 4790	Determination of the effects of a small source of ignition on textile floor coverings (hot metal nut method)
BS 4805	Method for the determination of the dimensions of rectangular textile floor coverings
BS 4815	Glossary of generic names for man-made fibres
BS 5287	Assessment and labelling of textile floor coverings tested to BS 4790
BS 5325	Code of practice for the installation of textile floor coverings
BS 5557	Textile floor coverings: classification and terminology

For information about BSI services relating to third party certification to suitable British Standard product specification schemes for the registration of firms of assessed capability, testing and inspection facilities and Technical Help to Exporters, please contact the Director, BSI, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4SQ. Tel. Hemel Hempstead 3111.

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard: Committee reference TPT/7 Draft for comment 79/36179 DC

Cooperating organizations

The Textile Products Standards Committee, under whose direction this British Standard was prepared, consists of representatives from the following:

- Association of Jute Spinners and Manufacturers
- Blanket Manufacturers' Association
- *British Carpet Manufacturers' Association
- *British Man-made Fibres Federation
- British Railways Board
- British Textile Employers' Association
- *Consumer Standards Advisory Committee of BSI
- Consumers' Association
- *Department of the Environment (PSA)
- Department of Health and Social Security
- *Department of Industry (Chemicals and Textiles)
- Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union
- Institute of Purchasing and Supply
- Made-up Textile Association
- Mail Order Traders' Association of Great Britain
- Ministry of Defence
- *National Association of Retail Furnishers
- National Bedding Federation

- Textile Institute
- *Textile Research Council
- Warp Knitters' Association Ltd.

The organizations marked with an asterisk in the above list, together with the following, were directly represented on the Technical Committee entrusted with the preparation of this British Standard:

- British Textile Rental Association
- Contract Flooring Association
- Department of the Environment (Fire Research Station)
- Fibre Bonded Carpet Manufacturers' Association
- Greater London Council
- Home Office
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- International Wool Secretariat
- National Institute of Carpet Fitters
- Power Loom Carpet Weavers' and Textile Workers' Union
- Royal Institute of British Architects
- Society of Industrial Artists and Designers
- Wholesale Floor Covering Distributors' Association

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