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British Standard Specification for
**Textile labels requiring to be
washed and/or dry cleaned**

Spécification des étiquettes des textiles devant être lavées et/ou nettoyées à sec

Spezifikation für Textiletiketten, die gewaschen und/oder chemischgereinigt werden

17 NOV 1989

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Foreword

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This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee. It is a revision of BS 5742 : 1979, which is withdrawn.

The principal change introduced by this revision is the inclusion of an additional grade of labels for heavy-duty use, based on the Ministry of Defence Specification number UK/SC 4528 'Requirements for the labelling of garments'. The care labelling symbols have been revised to agree with BS 2747 : 1986.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

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Specification

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1 Scope

This British Standard specifies the materials, design and method of application of labels and name tapes for garments and other made-up textile articles. It also specifies the colour-fastness requirements of the markings on garment labels and name tapes when subjected to methods for washing, rubbing, dry cleaning, washing in the presence of sodium hypochlorite, and perspiration. Requirements are given for both general-purpose and heavy-duty products.

NOTE 1. The term 'labels' hereafter in this standard covers both labels and name tapes.

NOTE 2. The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

2 General-purpose labels

2.1 Materials and design

The materials shall be composed of fibres and colours that will withstand the washing and ironing temperatures given in the care instructions on the article.

For coloured labels, the colour fastness of the ground fabric of the label shall be not less than that of the markings.

NOTE 1. The degree of dimensional stability in relation to washing and dry cleaning is not specified, but should be subject to agreement between the vendor and the purchaser.

For labels that are overprinted, e.g. with reference numbers, sizes, etc. applied as a separate operation, the overprinted parts of the design shall be colour fast to the washing and dry-cleaning tests described in appendices A, B, C, D and E.

NOTE 2. The following types of labels are available:

- (a) printed fabric labels comprising printed legends on various woven or suitable nonwoven base fabrics, e.g. cotton, viscose, cellulose acetate, polyamide and polyester, which can be of either selvedge or slit fabric construction and may additionally be coated or impregnated; and
- (b) woven labels in which the legend is woven into the base fabric and similarly comprising cotton, viscose, cellulose acetate, polyamide and polyester.

2.2 Method of application

The label shall be sewn to the article. The edges of the label shall be turned in unless it is made from a material that will not fray or has a fused edge.

NOTE. It is recommended that labels are pre-shrunk, if labels are not pre-shrunk, it is recommended that they should not be sewn all round.

2.3 Colour fastness

The colour fastness of the markings (and of the ground fabric of the label, if it is coloured) shall comply with the minimum requirements of table 1.

All original details of the markings shall be legible after the treatments specified in appendices A, B, C, D and E.

3 Labels for heavy-duty use

NOTE. These labels are intended for Ministry of Defence use.

3.1 Materials and design

The materials used shall comply with 2.1 and shall contain no filling that would be removed by washing or dry cleaning.

3.2 Method of application

Labels shall be either sewn to the article or self-adhesive.

If self-adhesive labels are used they shall be of the heat-activatable type and the adhesion between label and garment fabric shall be such that no bubbling or delamination occurs when subjected to the washing and adhesion tests in appendix F. Self-adhesive labels shall be attached to the garment by ironing or using a heated press.

3.3 Method of marking

Information shall be marked on the label (or, where specified as an option, directly on to the garment) by one of the following methods.

- (a) Printing directly on to the label or garment.
- (b) Weaving the details integrally into the label.

Table 1. Colour-fastness requirements for general-purpose labels

Agency	Numerical ratings (minima)		Method of test
	Change in colour	Staining	
Washing	3	3	Appendix A
Dry cleaning	3	—	Appendix B
Rubbing (dry)	—	4	Appendix C
Rubbing (wet)	—	3	
Washing in the presence of sodium hypochlorite	3	3	Appendix D
Perspiration	3	3	Appendix E

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(c) Combination of (a) and (b).

(d) Transfer printing, i.e. where the details are printed initially on to a removable release-coated paper and are transferred by heat and pressure to the label or (where specified) directly on to the garment.

NOTE. The information to be given by the marking will normally be given in the garment specification or purchase description and/or the contract.

The colour fastness of the markings, and of the ground fabric of the label, if it is coloured, shall comply with the minimum requirements given in table 2.

All original details of the markings shall be legible after testing in accordance with appendices A, B, C and D.

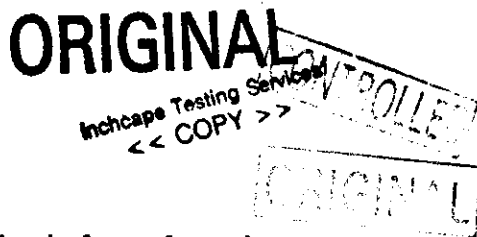
4 Sampling

Samples shall be taken according to BS 6001 : Part 2 at an acceptable quality level (AQL) of 0.5 % The batch size shall be 2000 m.

NOTE. A batch is a definite quantity of some commodity produced under conditions which are presumed uniform.

Table 2. Colour-fastness requirements for heavy-duty labels

Agency	Numerical ratings (minima)		Method of test
	Change in colour	Staining	
Washing	4	4	Appendix A
Dry cleaning	4	—	Appendix B
Rubbing (dry)	—	4	Appendix C
Rubbing (wet)	—	3	
Washing in the presence of sodium hypochlorite	4	4	Appendix D



Appendices

Appendix A. Method of test for colour fastness to washing

A.1 Preparation of specimen

Stitch the label to a cotton adjacent fabric of size 40 mm x 100 mm with the face side of the label uppermost. Cover half the label with a piece of white flat filament polyamide 6 fabric or other appropriate adjacent fabric as specified in BS 1006. Should the label exceed 40 mm x 100 mm cut it into appropriate size segments to be individually tested.*

A.2 Washing procedures

Wash the composite specimen in accordance with the appropriate method specified in table 3.

Designation shown on care label (see BS 2747 : 1986)	Method of test
	BS 1006, section C05
	BS 1006, section C04
All other symbols, including handwash	BS 1006, section C03

A.3 Assessment of colour fastness

Assess the markings and, in the case of dyed labels, the ground fabric for change in colour and assess the covering adjacent fabric for degree of staining with the grey scales given in BS 1006 : Sections A02 and A03.

Appendix B. Method of test for colour fastness to dry cleaning

B.1 Preparation of specimen

Prepare the specimen as detailed in A.1 except do not use covering fabric.

B.2 Dry-cleaning procedure

Test the specimen in accordance with the method described in BS 1006, section D01.

B.3 Assessment of colour fastness

Assess the markings and, in the case of dyed labels, the ground fabric for change in colour with the grey scale given in BS 1006 : Section A02.

Appendix C. Method of test for colour fastness to rubbing

C.1 Preparation of specimen

Stitch or fuse the label to a cotton adjacent fabric of size 50 mm x 220 mm. The specimen shall consist of one or more labels up to the length of 50 mm x 220 mm.

C.2 Test procedure

Test the specimen in accordance with the method described in BS 1006, section X12.

C.3 Assessment of colour fastness

Assess the undyed cotton fabric for staining with the grey scale (see BS 1006 : Section A03).

Appendix D. Method of test for colour fastness to washing in the presence of sodium hypochlorite

D.1 Preparation of specimen

Prepare the specimen as detailed in A.1.

D.2 Test procedure

Wash the specimen in accordance with the method described in BS 1006, section C06, test D3S.

D.3 Assessment of colour fastness

Assess the markings and, in the case of dyed labels, the ground fabric for change in colour and assess the covering adjacent fabric for degree of staining with the grey scales given in BS 1006 : Sections A02 and A03.

Appendix E. Method of test for colour fastness to perspiration

E.1 Preparation of specimen

Prepare the specimen as detailed in A.1.

E.2 Test procedure

Test the specimen in accordance with the method described in BS 1006, section E04.

E.3 Assessment of colour fastness

Assess the markings and, in the case of dyed labels, the ground fabric for change in colour and assess the covering adjacent fabric for degree of staining with the grey scales given in BS 1006 : Sections A02 and A03.

*As some labels are smaller than 40 mm X 100 mm it may be necessary to use several of them or to reduce the size of the adjacent fabrics.

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Appendix F. Adhesion after washing and dry cleaning

NOTE. This method is applicable only to self-adhesive labels.

If that part of the garment to which the label is to be fused is composed of cotton, the specimens used for the fastness to washing and dry-cleaning tests described in appendices A and B may be used for the assessment of adhesion.

In other cases, specimens of labels fused to the appropriate garment material shall be prepared and shall be subjected to the following tests:

- (a) the washing treatment described in appendix A;
- (b) the dry-cleaning treatment described in appendix B.

After the washing and dry-cleaning treatments inspect the specimens for signs of delamination or bubbling.

Publications referred to

BS 1006	Methods of test for colour fastness of textiles and leather*
BS 2747	Code of practice for textile care labelling
BS 6001	Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes Part 2 Specification for sampling plans indexed by limiting quality (LQ) for isolated lot inspection

*Including Section A02 'Grey scale for assessing change in colour' and Section A03 'Grey scale for assessing staining (including half-steps), both issued separately.