
International Standard



6938

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Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

Textiles — Fibres naturelles — Noms génériques et définitions

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Foreword

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 6938 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, and was circulated to the member bodies in December 1982.

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Iran	Romania
Belgium	Iraq	Spain
Bulgaria	Israel	South Africa, Rep. of
Canada	Italy	Sweden
Czechoslovakia	Jamaica	Tanzania
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Finland	Mexico	United Kingdom
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Hungary	Poland	Venezuela
India	Portugal	Yugoslavia

The member body of the following country expressed disapproval of the document on technical grounds :

Germany, F. R.

Textiles — Natural fibres — Generic names and definitions

1 Scope and field of application

This International Standard gives the generic names and the definitions of the most important natural fibres according to their specific constitution or origin.

An alphabetical list of names in common use is provided, together with the corresponding standardized denominations.

2 Types of fibres

2.1 Natural fibres

Natural fibres are fibres which occur in nature; they can be categorized according to their origin into animal, vegetable and mineral fibres.

2.2 Animal fibres

These include in particular :

- fibres from silk glands, secreted by some insects, particularly by larvae of the lepidopter order, in the form of two filaments of fibroin cemented together by sericin;
- fibres secreted by some molluscs;

- fibres from hair follicles, with multicellular structure, composed of keratin, forming the fleece, the coat, the mane or the tail of certain animals.

2.3 Vegetable fibres

These include in particular :

- fibres from seeds : single-cell structure, generated by the epidermal cells of the seed, almost entirely constituted of cellulose;
- fibres from bast : composite fibres obtained from the bast of certain plants, mainly constituted of cellulose and accompanied with incrusting and intercellular materials (pectin bodies, hemicellulose, lignin);
- fibres from leaf : composite fibres obtained from leaves, constituted chiefly of cellulose plus incrusting and intercellular materials, consisting of lignin and hemicelluloses;
- fibres from fruit : composite fibres obtained from fruit, constituted chiefly of cellulose plus incrusting and intercellular materials, consisting of lignin and hemicelluloses.

2.4 Mineral fibres

Mineral fibres are obtained from rocks of fibrous structure, constituted principally of silicates.

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3 Fibre generic names

3.1 Animal fibres

3.1.1 Fibres from silk glands

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.1.1.1	SILK (Soie)	Fibre extruded by the silkworm <i>Bombyx mori</i> .
3.1.1.2 ²⁾	TASAR (Tasar)	Fibre extruded by silkworm <i>Antheraea mylitta</i> , <i>Antheraea pernyi</i> , <i>Antheraea yama-may</i> , <i>Antheraea roylei</i> , <i>Antheraea proylei</i> .
3.1.1.3 ²⁾	MUGA (Muga)	Fibre extruded by silkworm <i>Antheraea assamensis</i> .
3.1.1.4 ²⁾	ERI (Éri)	Fibre extruded by silkworm <i>Phylosamia ricini</i> .
3.1.1.5 ²⁾	ANAPHE (Anaphe)	Fibre extruded by silkworm <i>Anaphe</i> .
3.1.1.6	BYSSUS (Byssus)	Fibre extruded from some molluscs <i>Pinna nobilis</i> .

1) Names in brackets are equivalent French language names.

2) The names relative to numbers 3.1.1.2 to 3.1.1.5 may be followed by the term "silk".

3.1.2 Fibres from hair follicles

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.1.2.1	WOOL (Laine)	Fibre from sheep or lamb of the genus <i>Ovis aries</i> .
3.1.2.2 ²⁾	ALPACA (Alpaga)	Fibre from alpaca <i>Lama pacos</i> .
3.1.2.3 ²⁾	ANGORA (Angora)	Fibre from angora rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> .
3.1.2.4 ²⁾	CASHMERE (Cachemire)	Fibre from cashmere goat <i>Capra hircus laniger</i> .
3.1.2.5 ²⁾	CAMEL (Chameau)	Fibre from camel <i>Camelus bactrianus</i> .
3.1.2.6 ²⁾	GUANACO (Guanaco)	Fibre from guanaco <i>Lama huanaco</i> .
3.1.2.7 ²⁾	LLAMA (Lama)	Fibre from llama <i>Lama glama</i> .
3.1.2.8 ²⁾	MOHAIR (Mohair)	Fibre from angora goat <i>Capra hircus aegagrus</i> .
3.1.2.9 ²⁾	VICUNA (Vigogne)	Fibre from vicuna <i>Lama vicugna</i> .
3.1.2.10 ²⁾	YAK (Yack)	Fibre from yak <i>Bos (Poëphagus) grunniens</i> .
3.1.2.11 ³⁾	COW (Bœuf)	Fibre from common ox <i>Bos taurus</i> .
3.1.2.12 ³⁾	BEAVER (Castor)	Fibre from beaver <i>Castor canadensis</i> .

1) Names in brackets are equivalent French language names.

2) The names relative to numbers 3.1.2.2 to 3.1.2.10 may be followed by the term "wool" and/or "hair".

3) The names relative to numbers 3.1.2.11 to 3.1.2.12 should be followed by the term "hair".

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.1.2.13 ²⁾	DEER (Daim)	Fibre from deer <i>Genus cervus</i> .
3.1.2.14 ²⁾	GOAT (Chèvre)	Fibre from common goat <i>Genus capra</i> .
3.1.2.15 ²⁾	HORSE ³⁾ (Cheval)	Fibre from horse <i>Equus caballus</i> .
3.1.2.16 ²⁾	RABBIT (Lapin)	Fibre from common rabbit <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> .
3.1.2.17 ²⁾	HARE (Lièvre)	Fibre from hare <i>Lepus europaeus</i> and <i>Lepus timidus</i> .
3.1.2.18 ²⁾	OTTER (Loutre)	Fibre from otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> .
3.1.2.19 ²⁾	NUTRIA (Myocastor)	Fibre from coypu <i>Myocastor coypus</i> .
3.1.2.20 ²⁾	SEAL (Phoque)	Fibre from seal <i>Family pinnipedia</i> .
3.1.2.21 ²⁾	MUSKRAT (Rat musqué)	Fibre from musk rat <i>Fiber zibathicus</i> .
3.1.2.22 ²⁾	REINDEER (Renne)	Fibre from reindeer <i>Genus rangifer</i> .
3.1.2.23 ²⁾	MINK (Vison)	Fibre from mink <i>Mustela (Lutreola) vison</i> .
3.1.2.24 ²⁾	MARTEN (Martre)	Fibre from marten <i>Mustela martes</i> .
3.1.2.25 ²⁾	SABLE (Zibeline)	Fibre from sable <i>Mustela zibellina</i> .
3.1.2.26 ²⁾	WEASEL (Belette)	Fibre from weasel <i>Mustela misalis</i> .
3.1.2.27 ²⁾	BEAR (Ours)	Fibre from bear <i>Ursus arctos</i> .
3.1.2.28 ²⁾	ERMINE (Hermine)	Fibre from ermine <i>Mustela erminea</i> .
3.1.2.29 ²⁾	ARTIC FOX (Renard arctique)	Fibre from artic fox <i>Vulpus lagopus</i> , <i>Canis isatis</i> .

1) Names in brackets are equivalent French language names.

2) The names relative to numbers 3.1.2.13 to 3.1.2.29 should be followed by the term "hair".

3) Horse-hair fibre coming from the mane or the tail of the horse; horse-coat fibre coming from the coat of the horse.

3.2 Vegetable fibres

3.2.1 Fibres from seeds

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.2.1.1	COTTON (Coton)	Single-cell fibre from the seed of plants of the <i>Gossypium</i> .
3.2.1.2	AKUND (Akund)	Fibre from the seeds of <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> and <i>Calotropis procera</i> .
3.2.1.3	KAPOK (Kapok)	Single-cell fibre from the seed pods of the kapok tree <i>Ceiba pentandra</i> .

1) Names in brackets are the equivalent French language names.

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3.2.2 Bast fibres

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.2.2.1	HEMP (Chanvre)	Fibre from the stems of hemp <i>Cannabis sativa</i> .
3.2.2.2	BROOM (Genêt)	Fibre from the stems of broom <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> and <i>Spartium junceum</i> .
3.2.2.3	JUTE ²⁾ (Jute)	Fibre from the stems of jute <i>Corchorus capsularis</i> and <i>Corchorus olitorius</i> .
3.2.2.4	KENAF ²⁾ (Kénaf)	Fibre from the stems of kenaf <i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> .
3.2.2.5	FLAX (Lin)	Fibre from the stems of flax <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> .
3.2.2.6	RAMIE (Ramie)	Fibre from the stems of ramie <i>Boehmeria nivea</i> , <i>Boehmeria tenacissima</i> .
3.2.2.7	ROSELLE ²⁾ (Roselle)	Fibre from the stems of roselle <i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> .
3.2.2.8	SUNN (Sunn)	Fibre from the stems of sunn <i>Crotalaria juncea</i> .
3.2.2.9	URENA ²⁾ (Urèna)	Fibre from the stems of urena <i>Urena lobata</i> and <i>Urena sinuata</i> .
3.2.2.10	ABUTILON ²⁾ (Abutilon)	Fibre from the stems of <i>Abutilon angulatum</i> , <i>Abutilon avicennae</i> and <i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> .
3.2.2.11	PUNGA ²⁾ (Punga)	Fibre from the stems of <i>Clappertonia ficifolia</i> , <i>Triumfetta cordifolia</i> and <i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i> .
3.2.2.12	BLUIISH DOGBANE (Bluish dogbane)	Fibre from the stems of <i>Apocynum androsae mifolium</i> , <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> .

1) Names in brackets are the equivalent French language names.

2) Called also "jute and allied fibres"

3.2.3 Leaf fibres

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.2.3.1	ABACA (Abaca)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Musa textilis</i> .
3.2.3.2	ALFA (Alfa)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Stipa tenacissima</i> and <i>Lygeum spartum</i> .
3.2.3.3	ALOE (Aloé)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Furcraea gigantea</i> .
3.2.3.4	FIQUE (Fique)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Furcraea macrophylla</i> .
3.2.3.5	HENEQUEN (Henequen)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Agave fourcroydes</i> .
3.2.3.6	MAGUEY (Maguey)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Agave cantala</i> .
3.2.3.7	PHORMIUM (Phormium)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Phormium tenax</i> .
3.2.3.8	SISAL (Sisal)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Agave sisalana</i> .
3.2.3.9	TAMPICO (Tampico)	Fibre from the leaves of <i>Agave funkiana</i> .

1) Names in brackets are equivalent French language names.

3.2.4 Fruit fibres

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.2.4.1	COIR (Coco)	Fibre from the husk of the coconut <i>Cocos nucifera</i> .

1) The name in brackets is the equivalent French language name.

3.3 Mineral fibres

Number	Standard name ¹⁾	Definition
3.3.1	ASBESTOS (Amiante)	Fibrous natural silicate.

1) The name in brackets is the equivalent French language name.

4 List of common names, equivalent standard names and corresponding index number¹⁾

Common name	Equivalent standard name	Corresponding index number	Common name	Equivalent standard name	Corresponding index number
ABACA	ABACA	3.2.3.1	Congo jute ²⁾	URENA	3.2.2.9
ABUTILON	ABUTILON	3.2.2.10	COTTON	COTTON	3.2.1.1
Ake-ire	URENA	3.2.2.9	Cousin rouge	URENA	3.2.2.9
AKUND	AKUND	3.2.1.2	COW	COW	3.1.2.11
ALFA	ALFA	3.2.3.2	Cuban jute ²⁾	URENA	3.2.2.9
ALOE	ALOE	3.2.3.3	Cuban sisal ²⁾	HENEQUEN	3.2.3.5
ALPACA	ALPACA	3.1.2.2	Culotan	URENA	3.2.2.9
Ambari	KENAF	3.2.2.4	Culut	URENA	3.2.2.9
ANAPHE	ANAPHE	3.1.1.5	Da, dha, dah	KENAF	3.2.2.4
ANGORA	ANGORA	3.1.2.3	Deccan hemp ²⁾	KENAF	3.2.2.4
Aramina	URENA	3.2.2.9	DEER	DEER	3.1.2.13
ARTIC FOX	ARTIC FOX	3.1.2.29	ERI	ERI	3.1.1.4
ASBESTOS	ASBESTOS	3.3.1	ERMINE	ERMINE	3.1.2.28
Awaste hemp ²⁾	KENAF	3.2.2.4	Esparto	ALFA	3.2.3.2
Bamia	URENA	3.2.2.9	FIQUE	FIQUE	3.2.3.4
Ban ochra	URENA	3.2.2.9	Formio	PHORMIUM	3.2.3.7
BEAR	BEAR	3.1.2.27	FLAX	FLAX	3.2.2.5
BEAVER	BEAVER	3.1.2.12	Gem	ERI	3.1.1.4
Benaris hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8	Gambo hemp ²⁾	KENAF	3.2.2.4
Bimbli	KENAF	3.2.2.4	GOAT	GOAT	3.1.2.14
BLUISH DOGBANE	BLUISH DOGBANE	3.2.2.12	Gogu	ROSELLE	3.2.2.7
Bolo-Bolo	URENA	3.2.2.9	Gonama	URENA	3.2.2.9
Bombay hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8	Grand cousin	URENA	3.2.2.9
Brazilian jute ²⁾	KENAF	3.2.2.4	GUANACO	GUANACO	3.1.2.6
BROOM	URENA	3.2.2.9	Guaxima	URENA	3.2.2.9
Brown hemp ²⁾	BROOM	3.2.2.2	Guiazo	URENA	3.2.2.9
BYSSUS	SUNN	3.2.2.8	Guinea hemp ²⁾	KENAF	3.2.2.4
Caesar weed	BYSSUS	3.1.1.6	HARE	HARE	3.1.2.17
CAMEL	URENA	3.2.2.9	HEMP	HEMP	3.2.2.1
Candillo-a	CAMEL	3.1.2.5	HENEQUEN	HENEQUEN	3.2.3.5
Canhamo	URENA	3.2.2.9	HORSE	HORSE	3.1.2.15
Cantala	URENA	3.2.2.9	Indian hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8
Carrapicho	MAGUEY	3.2.3.6	Itarsi hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8
CASHMERE	URENA	3.2.2.9	Java jute ²⁾	ROSELLE	3.2.2.7
China grass	CASHMERE	3.1.2.4	Jubblepore hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8
Chinese jute ²⁾	RAMIE	3.2.2.6	JUTE	JUTE	3.2.2.3
Chingma	ABUTILON	3.2.2.10	KAPOK	KAPOK	3.2.1.3
Coconada hemp ²⁾	ABUTILON	3.2.2.10	KENAF	KENAF	3.2.2.4
Coconut fibre	SUNN	3.2.2.8	LLAMA	LLAMA	3.1.2.7
COIR	COIR	3.2.4.1	Madras hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8
COIR	COIR	3.2.4.1	Malva	URENA	3.2.2.9

1) In some countries, the generic names which are to be used may be governed by national regulations.

2) In these common names, the terms "hemp", "jute", "flax" and "sisal" are used improperly.

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Common name	Equivalent standard name	Corresponding index number	Common name	Equivalent standard name	Corresponding index number
Manila hemp ²⁾	ABACA	3.2.3.1	Rhea	RAMIE	3.2.2.6
MAGUEY	MAGUEY	3.2.3.6	ROSELLE	ROSELLE	3.2.2.7
MARTEN	MARTEN	3.1.2.24	SABLE	SABLE	3.1.2.25
Mauritius hemp ²⁾	ALOE	3.2.3.3	SEAL	SEAL	3.1.2.20
Mesta	KENAF	3.2.2.4	SIAM jute ²⁾	KENAF	3.2.2.4
Mexican sisal ²⁾	HENEQUEN	3.2.3.5	SILK	ROSELLE	3.2.2.7
MINK	MINK	3.1.2.23	SISAL	SILK	3.1.1.1
MOHAIR	MOHAIR	3.1.2.8	SISAL	SISAL	3.2.3.8
MUGA	MUGA	3.1.1.3	Seonie hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8
Mulberry silk	SILK	3.1.1.1	Sireta	HEMP	3.2.2.1
MUSKRAT	MUSKRAT	3.1.2.21	St. Helena hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8
Nanas sabrong	MAGUEY	3.2.3.6	Stockroos	KENAF	3.2.2.4
New Zealand flax ²⁾	PHORMIUM	3.2.3.7	SUNN	SUNN	3.2.2.8
New Zealand hemp ²⁾	PHORMIUM	3.2.3.7	TAMPICO	TAMPICO	3.2.3.9
	TASAR	3.1.1.2	TASAR	TASAR	3.1.1.2
Non-mulberry silk	MUGA	3.1.1.3	Teal	KENAF	3.2.2.4
	ERI	3.1.1.4	Toja	URENA	3.2.2.9
	ANAPHE	3.1.1.5	Tussah	TASAR	3.1.1.2
NUTRIA	NUTRIA	3.1.2.19	URENA	URENA	3.2.2.9
Ototo	URENA	3.2.2.9	VICUNA	VICUNA	3.1.2.9
OTTER	OTTER	3.1.2.18	Vocima	URENA	3.2.2.9
Paka	URENA	3.2.2.9	WEASEL	WEASEL	3.1.2.26
Phillibit black hemp ²⁾	SUNN	3.2.2.8	WOOL	WOOL	3.1.2.1
PHORMIUM	PHORMIUM	3.2.3.7	YAK	YAK	3.1.2.10
Poepoes	MAGUEY	3.2.3.6		TASAR	3.1.1.2
PUNGA	PUNGA	3.2.2.11	Wild silk	MUGA	3.1.1.3
RABBIT	RABBIT	3.1.2.16		ERI	3.1.1.4
RAMIE	RAMIE	3.2.2.6		ANAPHE	3.1.1.5
REINDEER	REINDEER	3.1.2.22			

1) In some countries, the generic names which are to be used may be governed by national regulations.

2) In these common names, the terms "hemp", "jute", "flax" and "sisal" are used improperly.