

# **Directive 96/74/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 on Textile names**



## Objectives:

**1. Harmonize** textile fibres labelling at EU, to achieve **better information and transparency for the consumer** and to ensure that the internal market functions harmoniously without trade barriers;

- **Harmonize** the particulars appearing on labels, markings and documents which accompany textile products at various stages of production process and distribution;
- **Use** of unique generic fibre names at EU level.

**2. Inform** producers at any production stage and consumers on the fibre composition of textile products

The Directive establishes **only those requirements which are necessary for the free movement of the products** to which it applies



# Article 1

All textile products marketed within the EU, either before or during their industrial processing at any stage of distribution have to comply with the directive

## Article 2 (*Definitions*)

**Textile product** is any raw, semi-worked, worked semi-manufactured, semi-made-up, or made-up products which are exclusively composed of textile fibres, regardless of the mixing or assembly process employed

**Textile fibre** is a unit of matter characterised by flexibility fitness and high ratio of length to maximum transverse dimension, which render it suitable for textile applications



## Article 3

Refers to the fibre names agreed to be used  
(exhaustive list in annexe I of the directive)

## Articles 4 to 5

Precisions on the way of labelling different situations (e.g.  
"pure", tolerance levels for wool products)

## Articles 6 and 7

Provisions for labelling

- products composed of two or more different fibre of which one at least 85% (weight)
- products composed of two different fibre of which none > 85% (weight)
- tolerance levels

## Article 8

The labelling or marking could be replaced or supplemented by  
accompanying commercial documents when products are  
not being offered for sale to the end consumer or  
addressed to the public authorities

The names and descriptions have to be clear, legible and  
uniform print when products are addressed to the end  
consumer (including catalogues, trade literature,  
packaging). Other indications could be provided  
separately.

The M-S could request that labelling use national language.



## Article 9

Products composed by different components with different fibre content shall bear a label stating the percentage of fibre content for each component (not necessary for components less than 30% of total weight of the product)

Only for part of some corsetry articles such as brassieres, corsets, corselets the composition of the whole article is required and not for each part.

For floor coverings and carpets of which backing and use – surface are composed by different fibres the composition may be stated separately for the use-surface alone

## Article 10

### Derogations:

- **Annex III list of products not requiring labelling e.g artificial flowers, labels, badges, painted canvas etc.)**
- **Annex IV products for which only inclusive labelling required (passementerie, braces etc)**
- **Products sol by the metre (labelling only the length offered for sale)**



# Article 13

## Provisions related to checks of National Market Surveillance Bodies

- Reference to **Annex II** with agreed allowances for mass calculation of all fibres
- **Directives 96/73/EC and 73/44/EC** on specific quantitative analysis of binary and ternary mixtures
- Procedures for amending the Directive



# Article 14 and 15

Exceptions of the application of the Directive:

Products:

- Intended for export to third countries;
- Entering under customs control for transit purposes;
- Imported for inward processing
- Are contracted out to persons working in their own homes or to companies working as sub-contractors.



## Article 16

1. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts and main provisions of national laws to comply with this Directive
  
2. When Member States adopt these measures, they shall contain **a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such reference** on the occasion of their official publication. The methods of making such a reference shall be laid down by the Member States.





## **ANNEX I**

### **List of textile fibres covered by the Directive**

- **45 generic names of fibres listed**
- **fibres accompanied by fibre description**

## **ANNEX II**

- **Allowance for mass calculation of fibres in annex I**

## **-ANNEX III**

- **List of products not subject to mandatory labelling:  
(e.g. watch straps, bagdes, artificial flowers, toys etc;**

## **Annex IV**

- **Products for only inclusive labelling  
(e.g. cleaning cloths, passementerie, belts etc.)**

