



Designation: D3938 – 18 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Guide for Determining or Confirming Care Instructions for Apparel and Other Textile Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3938; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide may be used to determine and confirm the appropriate care label instructions for apparel, piece goods, and other textile products excluding textile floor coverings and upholstery.

1.2 This guide encompasses the following care procedures: home laundering, professional textile care, and other alternative cleaning methods.

1.3 This guide includes provision for evaluating the complete textile product and the product components.

1.4 This guide covers the performance characteristics as a result of refurbishing that are important in determining the acceptability of a textile product.

1.5 This guide is appropriate for the evaluation of all garments and household textiles that are sold with care labels.

1.5.1 This guide may also be used in connection with the evaluation of similar materials that do not have a care label.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D3136 Terminology Relating to Care Labeling for Apparel, Textile, Home Furnishing, and Leather Products (Withdrawn 2023)³

D5489 Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products

2.2 *AATCC Methods:*⁴

Technical Manual of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists

2.3 *Other Standards:*⁵

Federal Trade Commission Trade Regulation Rule. Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel and Certain Piece Goods. Effective July 3, 1972, most recent version (cited as 16 CFR 423)

CAN/CGSB-86.1 The National Standard of Canada – Care Labelling of Textiles (most recent version)⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology relating to D13.61, Apparel, refer to Terminology **D3136**.

3.1.1 The following terms are relevant to this standard: care instructions, main components.

3.2 For all other terms are related to textiles, refer to Terminology **D123**.

3.3 *Definitions:*

3.3.1 For definitions of other textile terms used in this guide, refer to Terminology **D123**. For definitions of terms related to care instructions, refer to Terminology **D3136**.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This is a guide to help a manufacturer distributor, or importer establish a reasonable basis for care information.

4.1.1 The manufacturer, distributor, or importer should possess, prior to sale, reliable evidence that the product was not harmed when refurbished reasonably often according to the

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D13** on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D13.62** on Labeling.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. <http://www.aatcc.org>.

⁵ Available from Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20580. <http://www.ftc.gov>.

⁶ Available from Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Publication Section, Hull (Quebec) K1A 0S9.