



Designation: D 3938 – 96

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

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1. Scope

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

1.2 This guide encompasses the following care procedures: home laundering, commercial laundering, professional drycleaning, and coin-operated drycleaning.

1.3 This guide includes provision for evaluating the complete consumer 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 to the consumer.

1.5 This guide is appropriate for the evaluation of all garments and household textiles that are sold with permanently attached 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 problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²

D 3136 Terminology for Consumer Textile and Leather Products Other Than Carpets and Upholstery²

2.2 Other Standards:

Federal Trade Commission Trade Regulation Rule. *Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel and Certain Piece Goods*. Effective July 3, 1972, As Amended January 2, 1984³

The National Standard of Canada—Care Labelling of Textiles (CAN/CSGB-86.1-M87)⁴

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.62 on Textile Care Labeling.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

³ Available from Federal Trade Commission, 6th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

⁴ Available from Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Publication Section, Hull (Quebec) K1A 0S9.

2.3 AATCC Methods:

*Technical Manual of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists*⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *care instructions, n—in textiles*, a series of directions describing which care practices should refurbish a product without adverse effects and warnings for those care practices expected to have a harmful effect.

3.1.2 *care label, n—a label* that gives directions for refurbishing a product.

3.1.3 *care procedure, n—for consumer textile products*, a process by which products or specimens may be treated for soil removal and aesthetic improvement.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—The process employs appropriate equipment, materials and processes, and may include but need not be limited to the following: water or drycleaning solvent, detergent or soap, foam, absorption (powder) type compounds, bleach, agitation, drying, pressing or ironing.

3.1.4 *commercial laundering, n—a process* by which textile products or specimens may be washed, bleached, dried, and pressed by non-home type equipment, typically at higher temperatures, higher pH, and longer times than used for home laundering.

3.1.5 *consumer care, n—of consumer textile products*, cleaning and maintenance procedures as customarily undertaken by the ultimate consumer.

3.1.6 *consumer textile product, n—a textile product* intended to satisfy human wants and needs.

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—Textile consumer products include such products as yarns, piece goods, clothing, zippers and trim, table linens, draperies, curtains, towels, bedsheets, and slipcovers. The component parts of consumer textile products may include such other materials as suede, leather and fur.

3.1.7 *drycleaning, n—a commercial process* by which soil may be removed from textile products or parts thereof in a machine which uses petroleum, perchloroethylene, or fluorocarbon solvents.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—The process may include moisture addition to solvent up to 75 % relative humidity, hot tumble

⁵ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.