



Designation: D5489 – 18 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Guide for Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Textile Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5489; 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 provides a uniform system of symbols for the disclosure of care instructions on textile products such as apparel, piece goods, and household and institutional articles, hereinafter referred to as “textile,” or “textile product.”

1.2 This guide provides a comprehensive system of symbols to represent care instructions reducing language-dependent care instructions.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *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.*

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D3136 Terminology Relating to Care Labeling for Apparel, Textile, Home Furnishing, and Leather Products (Withdrawn 2023)³

D3938 Guide for Determining or Confirming Care Instructions for Apparel and Other Textile Products

2.2 *ASTM Adjunct:*⁴

Care Symbol Chart

2.3 *AATCC Standard:*

A Glossary of AATCC Standard Terminology, Current Edition⁵

2.4 *Other Standards:*

Federal Trade Commission Amendment to Trade Regulation Rule Concerning Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, and Certain Piece Goods, Federal Register, Vol 48, No. 99, May 20, 1983 (cited as 16 CFR 423).⁶

The National Standard of Canada—Care Labelling of Textiles (CAN/CGSB-86.1-M91)⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms related to care labeling, refer to Terminology **D3136**. For definitions of other textile terms used in this guide, refer to Terminology **D123**.

3.1.1 *care instructions, n—in textiles*, a series of directions that describe practices which should refurbish a product without adverse effects, and that warn against any part of the directions which one could reasonably be expected to use that may harm the item. **D3136**

3.1.2 *care label, n—in textiles*, a label or other affixed instruction set that reports how a product should be refurbished.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The Federal Trade Commission, in Rule 16 CFR 423, requires care instructions on most apparel and certain other textile items. In relation to these products, the FTC definition states: “Care Label means a permanent label or tag, containing regular care information and instructions, that is attached or affixed in some manner that will not become separated from the product and will remain legible during the useful life of the product.” **D3136**

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 ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. **ADJD5489-E-PDF**. Original adjunct produced in 1994.

⁵ *Annual AATCC Technical Manual*, available from the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2215, <http://www.aatcc.org>.

⁶ Available from U.S. Government Publishing Office, 732 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.gpo.gov>.

⁷ Available from Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), 11 Laurier St., Phase III, Place du Portage, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0S5, Canada, <http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb>.