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S.R. CWA 16336:2011

Superfine woven wool fabric labelling - Requirements for Super S code definition

S.R. CWA 16336:2011

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English version

Superfine woven wool fabric labelling - Requirements for Super S code definition

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties, the constitution of which is indicated in the foreword of this Workshop Agreement.

The formal process followed by the Workshop in the development of this Workshop Agreement has been endorsed by the National Members of CEN but neither the National Members of CEN nor the CEN Management Centre can be held accountable for the technical content of this CEN Workshop Agreement or possible conflicts with standards or legislation.

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Foreword

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties on 2011-07-30. the constitution of which was supported by CEN following the public call for participation made on 2010-11-30.

A list of the individuals and organizations which supported the technical consensus represented by the CEN Workshop Agreement is available to purchasers from the CEN Management Centre. These organizations were drawn from the following economic sectors:

- IWTO – International Wool Textile Organization
- Technical Department German fashion - Modeverband Deutschland e.V
- Commercio Laniero di Biella
- Institut Français du Textile-Habillement
- Union des Industries Textiles
- Ditta G.Ferrarone snc
- Unione Industriale Biellese
- HUGO BOSS AG
- BTE (Bundesverband des Deutschen Textileinzelhandels)
- SMI – Sistema Moda Italia
- LALETEx S.a.s
- BNITH - Bureau de Normalisation des Industries Textiles et de l'Habillement
- CCMI (Cashmere & Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute)

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The final review/endorsement round for this CWA was started on 2011-07-05 and was successfully closed on 2011-07-30. The final text of this CWA was submitted to CEN for publication on 2011-08-02.

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Comments or suggestions from the users of the CEN Workshop Agreement are welcome and should be addressed to the CEN Management Centre.

Introduction

The "Super S" classification for the fineness of wool in woven fabrics and garments goes back to the traditional English wool grading system. The foundations of this system can be described as follows: a yarn, to be even and strong enough for weaving, must contain a certain minimum number of fibres in its cross section. Therefore, with coarse wool fibres it is possible to obtain only coarse yarns, while with the fine ones very thin yarns can be spun. This criterion is the basis of the wool fineness classification. If wool is classified as "Super 120's", in principle it would mean that with a pound of it, one can produce 120 hanks of 560 yards each of yarn. With a coarser wool the yarn would be thicker and the number of hanks lower (for instance 80), with a still finer wool on the contrary the hanks would be more numerous (for instance 150). At the beginning of this century, the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) officially and precisely codified the fineness classes by fixing for each one of them a maximum limit in microns of mean fibre diameter.

It should be kept in mind that as wool is processed, the diameter of the original fibre used in producing a woven fabric may change during the production process due to structural modification of the fibre, the possible effects of chemicals used during processing etc. Consequently, the mean fibre diameter of the fibre extracted from the fabric may be different from the mean fibre diameter of the fibre used to spin the yarn used in the fabric.

The wool weavers supply their clients with statements concerning the fineness and, on demand also with "Super S" label to be sewn inside the suits. This is a voluntary label, but it should correspond with the code of practice. The fine wool is very expensive, but with it light, soft fabrics of high wearability and elegance can be produced. A false classification is an act of unfair competition towards the honest producers and an unfair and deceptive practice to consumers. The whole chain of production for wool textiles from the grower through to the garment manufacturer will benefit from a proper understanding and application of the "Super S" code. In addition, retailers and consumers will be protected from fraud or misunderstandings which originate from ignorance of the classification system.

NOTE 1 Pound is equivalent to 0,453 kg; 1 yard is equivalent to 0,914 m.

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