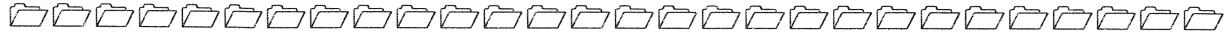


## TEXTILE FIBER PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION ACT (TFPIC) 1960

Some type of classification system has always been used to categorize fibers. However, the technological explosion in the fiber field during the 1950s made it necessary to develop a new system. A method to help consumers and students identify and understand the properties of the many fibers was needed. As a result, the Textile Fiber Product Identification Act became law in 1960. This legislation and several amendments provide that all man-made and synthetic fibers be grouped in generic (family) groups. Each group is composed of one or more fibers that have a similar chemical composition.

The major purpose of the Textile Fiber Product Identification Act is to protect producers and consumers against mislabeling or false advertising about the fiber content of textile fiber products. This law requires that:

1. Each fabric or textile product have an attached label, tag, stamp, or other identification that states the fiber, blend of fibers, or combinations of fibers present. These labels do not have to be permanently affixed but must be attached to the item at the time of sale.
2. Natural fibers must be listed by their common names. Man-made and synthetic fibers must be identified by their generic or family names. The generic or family name and trade names must be designated with equal predominance. Manufacturers may list their fiber trade names after the generic names. You can tell which is the trade name because it is capitalized and the generic name is not, except when the generic name is given entirely in capitals.
3. Each fiber in the fabric must be listed. The highest percentage fiber is listed first, the next highest second, and so on to the fiber with the least amount in the fabric. If there is less than 5 percent of a fiber present, it can be listed as "other fiber," unless its presence has a definite significance.
4. The garment manufacturer's name or registered identification number must be written on the tag or label. Very often the name on a garment tag is a "brand" name rather than the manufacturer's name. The number is preceded by a RN (Registered Number) or a WPL (Wool Products Labeling) number. Each letter-number combination indicates that a manufacturer is registered with the United States Federal Government. Consumers can find the manufacturer's name and address in a book titled RN and WPL Directory, copies of which can be found in many public libraries. If the manufacturer's registered identification number is sent to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the name and address of the manufacturer will be provided.



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5. If the item is imported, the name of the country that processed it or the country where the product was made must be listed. In 1984, the TFPIA and other fiber-product labeling laws were amended to require that items made in the United States must state "Made in U.S.A."

The FTC is responsible for enforcing the Textile Fiber Product Identification Act. Consumers who have reason to believe textile products are improperly labeled, not labeled at all, or falsely advertised should contact the nearest FTC office.

**ITEMS COVERED BY THE TEXTILE FIBER PRODUCTS IDENTIFICATION ACT**

The act applies to the following textile products:

- wearing apparel
- accessories such as scarves, handkerchiefs, umbrellas, and parasols
- household linens, including tablecloths, napkins, doilies, dresser and furniture scarves, towels, washcloths, dishcloths, and ironing board covers
- home furnishings, including curtains, draperies, slip covers and coverlets for furniture, afghans and throws, floor coverings, stuffings in upholstered products, mattresses, and cushions
- miscellaneous items, including sleeping bags, hammocks, and flags
- narrow fabrics except packaged ribbons