

CARE LABELING LAWS

The General Trade Commission Trade Regulation, entitled Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel, has been in effect since July, 1972. This rule requires that most apparel items have care labels permanently attached. These labels must remain legible for the reasonable life of the garment.

The care label, or an overwrap on packaged garments, or a securely affixed hang tag must be readily accessible to the consumer at the point of sale. If an overwrap or hang tag is used, it can include more complete information, but should not conflict with the permanently affixed care label.

There are a few articles that may be exempted from these regulations, they are:

1. Articles whose utility or appearance would be substantially impaired by attachment of a permanent label.
Example, a very sheer blouse.
2. Articles sold at retail for \$3 or less and which are completely washable under normal and foreseeable circumstances.
Example, white cotton underpants.

Retailers who sell fabrics over the counter for home sewing must supply care labels to consumers. It is hoped that consumers will accept the responsibility of attaching these labels to the garments they sew.

The Federal Trade Commission has proposed a new rule to extend the Care Labeling to require manufacturers to provide retailers with care instructions for consumers who purchase carpets and rugs, or yarn for home knitting.

This same proposed Care Labeling Rule would require that care labels be attached permanently to the following items:

suede and leather wearing apparel	
upholstered furniture	tablecloths
draperies	towels
sheets and bedspreads	slipcovers