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**CODE FOR CARE LABELLING OF
TEXTILES USING SYMBOLS
(FIRST REVISION)**

SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

Gr.7

Sri Lanka Standard
CODE FOR CARE LABELLING OF TEXTILES USING SYMBOLS
(First Revision)

FOREWORD

This Standard was approved by the Sectoral Committee on Textiles, Clothing and Leather and was authorized for adoption and publication as a Sri Lanka Standard by the Council of the Sri Lanka Standards Institution on 1995-10-26.

The variety of fibres, materials and finishes used in the production of textile articles together with the development of cleansing procedures makes it difficult and often impossible to decide on the appropriate cleansing treatment for each article simply by inspecting it. To help those who have to make such a decision (principally the consumer but also launderers and dry-cleaners), this code of graphic symbols has been established for use in the permanent marking of textile articles with information on their care in use.

This code has been established after considering the two essential requirements; being simple enough to be understood by a wide range of textile users and providing as much information as possible to effect optimum cleansing without damage.

In the preparation of this standard, the assistance derived from the following publications is gratefully acknowledged:

- (i) ISO 3758 : 1991 Textile - Care labelling code using symbols.
- (ii) BS 2747 : 1986 Code of practice for textile care labelling.

1 SCOPE

This standard establishes a system of graphical symbols and phrases to explain and augment the symbols, intended for use in the permanent marking of textile articles, providing information essential for their care. It includes the ability of articles to undergo the appropriate treatments like washing, bleaching, ironing, dry cleaning and tumble drying after washing. The standard is applicable to all textile articles including accessories and trims in the form in which they are supplied to the consumer.

2 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard code the following definitions shall apply:

2.1 textile articles: Yarns, piece goods and made-up articles consisting mainly of textile materials.

2.2 washing : A process designed to clean textile articles in an aqueous bath.

Washing includes all or some of the following operations in relevant combinations:

- soaking, pre-washing and proper washing (carried out usually with heating, mechanical action and in the presence of detergents or other products) and rinsing;
- water extraction, i.e. spinning or wringing performed during and/or at the end of the operations mentioned above.

These operations may be carried out by machine or by hand.

2.3 chlorine-based bleaching : A process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during or after the washing processes, requiring the use of a chlorine-based bleaching agent for the purpose of removal of stains and/or improving whiteness.

2.4 ironing and pressing : A process carried out on a textile article to restore its shape and appearance, by means of an appropriate appliance using heat and pressure.

2.5 dry-cleaning : A process for cleaning textile articles by means of immersion in organic solvents. This process consists of cleaning, rinsing, spinning and drying.

2.6 tumble drying : A process carried out on a textile article after washing, with the intention of removing residual water by treatment with hot air in a rotating drum.

3 DEFINITIONS OF SYMBOLS

3.1 Basic symbols.

3.1.1 *Washing process*

For the washing process, a washtub as shown in Figure 1 (See 4.1).



Figure 1

3.1.2 Chlorine - based bleaching process

For the chlorine-based bleaching process, a triangle as shown in Figure 2 (See 4.2).



Figure 2

3.1.3 Ironing process

For the ironing process, a hand iron shape as shown in Figure 3. (See 4.3).



Figure 3

3.1.4 Dry-cleaning process

For the dry-cleaning process, a circle as shown in Figure 4 (See 4.4).

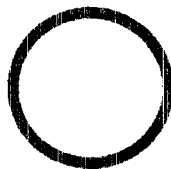


Figure 4

3.1.5 *Tumble drying*

For drying in a tumbler after a washing process, a square with a circle inscribed as shown in Figure 5 (See 4.5).

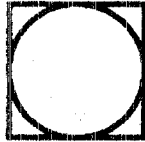


Figure 5

3.2 Additional symbols

3.2.1 *Treatment not permitted*

In addition to the five symbols 3.1.1 to 3.1.5, a cross as shown in Figure 6 superimposed on any of the symbols means that the treatment represented by that symbol should not be used.



Figure 6

3.2.2 *Mild treatment*

A bar under the washtub (3.1.1) or circle (3.1.4) means that the treatment should be milder than that indicated by the same symbol without a bar.



Figure 7

3.2.3 Very mild treatment

A broken bar under the washtub (3.1.1) describes a very mild washing process at 40°C.




Figure 8






4 DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS

4.1 Washing symbols

The washtub symbolizes the domestic washing treatment (by hand or machine). It should be used to convey information regarding the maximum washing temperature and the maximum washing process severity, as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1 - Washing symbols and examples of application



SI No (1)	Symbol (2)	Description of process (3)	Examples of application (4)
i)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum temperature of wash : 95°C - Mechanical action normal - Rinsing normal - Spinning normal 	White cotton and linen articles without special finishes
ii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum temperature of wash : 60°C - Mechanical action normal - Rinsing normal - Spinning normal 	Cotton, linen or viscose articles without special finishes where colours are fast at 60°C
iii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum temperature of wash 50°C - Mechanical action reduced - Rinsing with gradual cooling before spinning - Spinning reduced 	Nylon, polyester/cotton mixtures, polyester, cotton and viscose articles with special finishes, cotton/acrylic mixtures

iv)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maximum temperature of wash: 40°C- Mechanical action normal- Rinsing normal- Spinning normal	Cotton, linen or viscose articles where colours are fast at 40°C, but not at 60°C
v)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maximum temperature wash : 40°C- Mechanical action reduced- Rinsing with gradual cooling before spinning- Spinning reduced	Acrylics, acetate and triacetate, including mixtures with wool, polyester/wool blends
vi)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maximum temperature of wash : 40°C- Mechanical action much reduced- Rinsing normal- Spinning normal- Do not wring by hand	Wool, including blankets and wool mixtures with cotton or viscose, silk
vii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hand wash- Do not machine wash- Maximum temperature of wash: 40°C- Wash time : short- Wash, rinse and gently squeeze by hand- Do not wring	Articles which are not to be machine washed
viii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Do not wash- Be cautious when treating in wet stage	

4.2 Chlorine - based bleaching symbols

Chlorine - based bleaching symbols are given in Table 2. They are not applicable to other types of bleach.


TABLE 2 - Chlorine - based bleaching symbols




SI No (1)	Symbol (2)	Description of process (3)
i)		- Chlorine based bleaching allowed - Only cold and dilute solution
ii)		- Do not use chlorine - based bleach

4.3 Ironing symbols

The ironing symbols given in Table 3 should be used to together with examples of recommended applications to various fibre types. The sole-plate temperatures are indicated by the dots in the iron symbol. The 'do not iron' symbol should be used in cases where ironing would be detrimental to the fabric and not on easy care fabrics to indicate that ironing is not necessary

TABLE 3 - Ironing symbols and examples of application



SI No (1)	Symbol (2)	Description of process (3)	Examples of application (4)
i)		- Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 200°C (Hot iron)	Cotton, linen, viscose or modified viscose





ii)		- Iron at a maximum sole - plate temperature of 150°C	Polyester mixtures, wool
iii)		- Iron at a maximum sole - plate temperature of 110°C (Cool iron) - Steam-ironing may be risky	Acrylic, nylon, acetate triacetate, polyester
iv)		- Do not iron - Steaming and steam treatments are not allowed	-

4.4 Dry - cleaning symbols

The dry-cleaning symbols given in Table 4 should be used to provide information relative to different cleaning processes.

TABLE 4 - Dry cleaning symbols



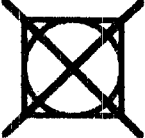
Sl. No. (1)	Symbol (2)	Description of process (3)
i)		Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in all solvents normally used for dry cleaning. This includes all solvents listed for the symbol P, plus trichloroethylene and 1,1,1- trichloroethane .
ii)		Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in tetrachloroethylene, trichlorotrifluoroethane, trichlorofluoroethane and white spirit (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C, flash point between 38°C and 60°C), using the normal dry-cleaning procedures without restrictions .

iii)		<p>Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in the solvents given in the preceding paragraph but which are sensitive to some dry cleaning procedures and for which there is a strict limitation on the addition of water during cleaning and or certain restrictions concerning mechanical action and or temperature during cleaning and/or drying. No. self-service cleaning allowed.</p>
iv)		<p>Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in trichlorotrifluoroethane and hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C; flash point 38°C to 60°C) using the normal dry cleaning procedures without restrictions.</p>
v)		<p>Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in the solvents given in the preceding paragraph, but which are sensitive to some dry cleaning procedures and for which there is a strict limitation on the addition of water during cleaning and or certain restrictions concerning mechanical action and or temperature during cleaning and/or drying. No self-service cleaning allowed.</p>
vi)		<p>Do not dry clean</p>

4.5 Tumble drying symbols

The tumble drying symbols given in Table 5 should be used. Maximum severity levels should be indicated by one or two dots placed within the symbol to describe the level of process.

TABLE 5 - Tumble drying symbols

Sl. No. (1)	Symbol (2)	Description of process (3)
i)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tumble drying possible - Normal drying cycle
ii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tumble drying possible - Drying at lower temperature setting
iii)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not tumble dry

5. APPLICATION AND USE OF SYMBOLS

5.1 Application of symbols

The symbols defined in clause 4 should be placed either directly on the article or on a label which should be affixed in a permanent manner. The symbols may be produced by weaving, printing or other processes, and they should bear and retain in a readily legible manner the stipulated care information throughout the useful life of the article.

Labels should be made of suitable material with resistance to the care treatment indicated on the label at least equal to that of the article on which they are placed.

Label and symbols should be large enough for the symbols to be easy to read.

The labels and symbols should be designed in such a way that they can easily be read by the consumer. They should be permanently affixed to the textile material in such a way that they can be easily located and read by the consumer and that no part of the symbols is hidden, for a example ; the bar in a stitched seam.

Care symbols may also be placed for example on a label attached in a non-permanent manner to the article or its wrapping, provided that identical symbols are also permanently affixed to the article, except in the case of textile material sold by length.

5.2 Use of symbols

For any given article, care information expressed by the symbols should refer to all treatments in the order washing, chlorine-based bleaching, ironing, dry-cleaning and tumble drying.

The treatments represented by the symbols apply to the whole of the textile article including trimmings, buttons, zips, linings, etc. Additional information relating to trims which are easily removable from the article may be provided on the same label or on an additional label firmly affixed to the article, for a example ; a belt sold with a garment.

5.3 Colours of symbols

A three colour system of symbols may be used in order to reinforce the meaning of symbols defined in this standard.

Following three colour system is recommended.

5.3.1 Green to indicate that no special precautions are necessary.

5.3.2 Amber to indicate that some caution is necessary.

5.3.3 Red to indicate the prohibition of an operation. A red symbol always has a red "X" superimposed on it.

5.3.4 If symbols of a single colour are used, the symbols shall be in a "neutral" colour, for a example; blue, brown.

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Further particulars of the terms and conditions of the permit may be obtained from the Sri Lanka Standards Institution, 17, Victoria Place, Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 08.



SRI LANKA STANDARDS INSTITUTION

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The principal objects of the Institution as set out in the Act are to prepare standards and promote their adoption, to provide facilities for examination and testing of products, to operate a Certification Marks Scheme, to certify the quality of products meant for local consumption or exports and to promote standardization and quality control by educational, consultancy and research activity.

The Institution is financed by Government grants, and by the income from the sale of its publications and other services offered for Industry and Business Sector. Financial and administrative control is vested in a Council appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

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All members of the Technical and Sectoral Committees render their services in an honorary capacity. In this process the Institution endeavours to ensure adequate representation of all view points.

In the International field the Institution represents Sri Lanka in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and participates in such fields of standardization as are of special interest to Sri Lanka.