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Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

Textiles — Code d'étiquetage d'entretien au moyen de symboles

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 3758 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, Subcommittee SC 11, *Care labelling of textiles and apparel*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 3758:1991), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

The variety of fibres, materials and finishes used in the production of textile articles together with the development of cleansing and care procedures makes it difficult and often impossible to decide on the appropriate cleansing and care 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 was established for use in the permanent marking of textile articles with information on their care in use as an International Standard in 1991.

In order to make this code “easily understandable and recognizable” for the consumer world-wide, symbols have been limited as to types and numbers as far as practicable.

The first edition of this International Standard published in 1991 was a result of a compromise between two requirements: being simple enough to be understood by users in all countries — irrespective of the language they speak — yet providing as much information as possible to prevent irreversible damage being caused during care treatments. This International Standard has been made sufficiently flexible to accommodate the needs of practically all who wish to use it. This has been achieved by providing a sufficiently large selection of care treatments, from which the user may select the most suitable for any particular need.

The revision was necessary to reflect current cleansing practices including technical developments, new bleach systems, and the alternative to conventional dry cleaning using aqueous systems. Furthermore, modifications in the description of care processes have been introduced in order to avoid hindering process development.

The ISO international care label gives care instructions using a sequence of symbols in the order washing, bleaching, drying, ironing, and professional textile care. Certain basic symbol outlines in the order washing, bleaching, ironing, dry cleaning, and tumble drying (5-symbol label) are used as a regional label and are subject to international trademark No. 492423 registered at WIPO. See Annex B.

Annex A has been developed to give a description of characteristics and available test methods to ensure the correct selection of care symbols.

Annex B and Annex C have been added dealing with the symbolization of washing temperatures by means of added dots and the symbolization of natural drying processes.

When deemed necessary, words may be used as well as the symbols. Examples are included in Annex D.

The Annexes are not an integral part of this International Standard.

Textiles — Care labelling code using symbols

1 Scope

This International Standard

- establishes a system of graphic symbols, intended for use in the marking of textile articles (see also 4.1), providing information to prevent irreversible damage to the article during the textile care process;
- specifies the use of these symbols in care labelling.

The following domestic treatments are covered: washing, bleaching, ironing, and drying after washing. Professional textile care treatments in dry and wet cleaning, but excluding industrial laundering, are also covered. However, it is recognized that information imparted by the four domestic symbols will also be of assistance to the professional cleaner and launderer.

This International Standard applies to all textile articles in the form in which they are supplied to the end user.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

textile articles

yarns, piece goods and made-up articles containing at least 80 % by mass textile material

2.2

washing

process designed to clean textile articles in an aqueous bath

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

- soaking, pre-washing and main 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

bleaching

process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during, or after washing, requiring the use of an oxidizing agent including either chlorine or oxygen/non-chlorine products, for the purpose of improving soil and stain removal and/or improving whiteness

2.3.1

chlorine bleach

agent that releases hypochlorite ions in solution, e.g. sodium hypochlorite

2.3.2

oxygen/non-chlorine bleach

agent that releases a peroxygen species in solution

NOTE Oxygen bleach products encompass a wide range of different activated and non-activated bleaching species which vary in their activity.

2.3.3

bleach activator

agent that allows bleaching to occur at lower wash temperatures

2.4

drying

process carried out on textile articles after washing to remove excess water (or moisture)

2.4.1

tumble drying after washing

process carried out on textile articles after washing, with the intention of removing residual water by treatment with hot air in a rotating drum

2.4.2

natural drying

process carried out on a textile article after washing, with the intention of removing residual water by line drying, or drip drying, or drying flat in the sun or in the shade

2.5

ironing and pressing

process carried out on a textile article to restore its shape and appearance by means of an appropriate appliance using heat, pressure and possibly steam

2.6

professional textile care

professional dry cleaning and professional wet cleaning, excluding commercial laundering

2.6.1

professional dry cleaning

process for cleaning textile articles by means of treatment in any solvent (excluding water) normally used for dry cleaning by professionals

NOTE This process consists of cleaning, rinsing and spinning. It is followed by appropriate drying and restorative finishing procedures.

2.6.2

professional wet cleaning

process for cleaning textile articles in water carried out by professionals using special technology (cleaning, rinsing and spinning), detergents, and additives to minimize adverse effects

NOTE It is followed by appropriate drying and restorative finishing procedures.

3 Description and definition of symbols

3.1 Basic symbols and additional symbols

Five basic symbols and four additional symbols are provided.

3.1.1 Washing

For the washing processes, a washtub as shown in Figure 1.

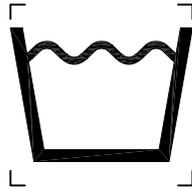


Figure 1

3.1.2 Bleaching

For the bleaching processes, a triangle as shown in Figure 2.

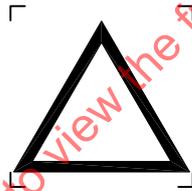


Figure 2

3.1.3 Drying

For the drying processes, a square as shown in Figure 3.

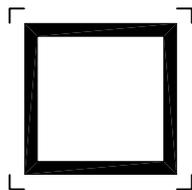


Figure 3

3.1.3.1 For drying in a tumble dryer after a washing process, a square with a circle inscribed as shown in Figure 4.

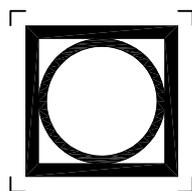


Figure 4

3.1.3.2 For further information on symbols for natural drying, see Annex C.

3.1.4 Ironing and pressing

For the ironing and pressing processes, a hand iron shape as shown in Figure 5.

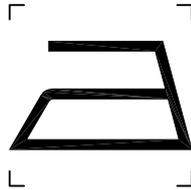


Figure 5

3.1.5 Professional textile care

For the professional dry cleaning and professional wet cleaning processes (excluding commercial laundering), a circle as shown in Figure 6.

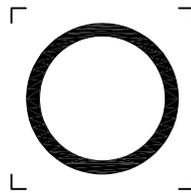


Figure 6

3.1.6 Treatment not permitted

In addition to the six symbols described in 3.1.1 to 3.1.5, an additional symbol, the St. Andrew's cross, superimposed on any of them means that the treatment represented by that symbol shall not be used.

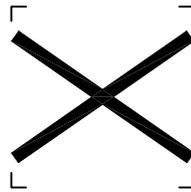


Figure 7

3.1.7 Mild treatment

In addition to the basic symbols, a bar under the symbol means that the treatment should be more mild than indicated by the same symbol without a bar, e.g. reduced agitation.

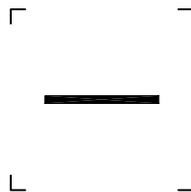


Figure 8

3.1.8 Very mild treatment

In addition to the basic symbols, a double bar under the symbol describes a very mild process, e.g. much reduced agitation.

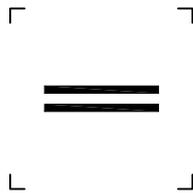


Figure 9

3.1.9 Temperature of treatment

The temperature in connection with the symbol in 3.1.1 is given as a figure representing degrees Celsius (30, 40, 50, 60, 70 or 95) without the designation “°C”.

In addition to the three symbols 3.1.1 (washing), 3.1.3 (drying) and 3.1.4 (ironing and pressing), dots may be used to define the temperature impact of a treatment. The definition of the temperature is given with the basic treatments.

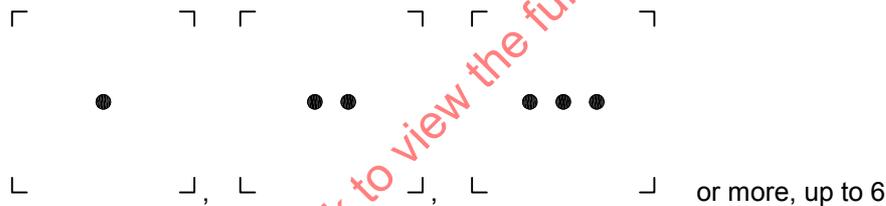


Figure 10

3.2 Washing

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

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Table 1 — Symbols for washing processes

| Symbol | Washing process |
|---|--|
|  | — maximum washing temperature 95 °C — normal process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 95 °C — mild process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 70 °C — normal process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 60 °C — normal process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 60 °C — mild process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 50 °C — normal process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 50 °C — mild process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 40 °C — normal process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 40 °C — mild process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 40 °C — very mild process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 30 °C — normal process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 30 °C — mild process |
|  | — maximum washing temperature 30 °C — very mild process |
|  | — hand wash — maximum temperature 40 °C |
|  | — do not wash |

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3.3 Bleaching

The triangle symbolizes the bleaching process (see Figure 2 and Table 2).

Table 2 — Symbols for bleaching

| Symbol | Bleaching process |
|---|---|
|  | — any oxidizing bleaching agent allowed |
|  | — only oxygen/non-chlorine bleach allowed |
|  | — do not bleach/no bleach |

3.4 Drying

3.4.1 Natural drying

Described in Annex C.

3.4.2 Tumble drying

The circle in a square symbolizes tumble drying after a washing process (see Figure 4), the maximum temperature setting being indicated by one or two dots placed within the symbol, as shown in Table 3.

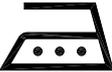
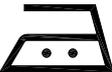
Table 3 — Symbols for tumble drying

| Symbol | Tumble drying process |
|---|---|
|  | — tumble drying possible — normal temperature |
|  | — tumble drying possible — drying at lower temperature |
|  | — do not tumble dry |

3.5 Ironing and pressing

The iron symbolizes the domestic ironing and pressing process, with or without steam (see Figure 5), maximum temperature levels being indicated by one, two or three dots placed within the symbol as shown in Table 4.

Table 4 — Symbols for ironing

| Symbol | Ironing process |
|---|---|
|  | — iron at maximum sole plate temperature of 200 °C |
|  | — iron at maximum sole plate temperature of 150 °C |
|  | — iron at maximum sole plate temperature of 110 °C — steam ironing may cause irreversible damage |
|  | — do not iron |

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3.6 Professional textile care

The circle (see Figure 6) symbolizes the dry cleaning and wet cleaning process for textile articles (excluding genuine leather and furs) carried out by professionals. It provides information relative to different cleaning processes described in Table 5. Use of the wet cleaning symbol shall be optional.

Table 5 — Symbols for professional textile care

| Symbol | Textile care process |
|---|---|
|  | — professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F — normal process |
|  | — professional dry cleaning in tetrachloroethene and all solvents listed for the symbol F — mild process |
|  | — professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150 °C and 210 °C, flash point between 38 °C and 70 °C) — normal process |
|  | — professional dry cleaning in hydrocarbons (distillation temperature between 150 °C and 210 °C, flash point between 38 °C and 70 °C) — mild process |
|  | — do not dry clean |
|  | — professional wet cleaning — normal process |
|  | — professional wet cleaning — mild process |
|  | — professional wet cleaning — very mild process |

4 Application and use of symbols

4.1 Application of symbols

The symbols defined in Clause 3 shall, when possible, be placed either directly on the article or directly on the label. Where this is not possible, it is sufficient to indicate the care instructions on the packaging only.

Labels shall 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 shall be large enough for the symbols to be easy to read.

It is very important that the labels and symbols are designed in such a way that they can easily be read by the consumer. They shall 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, e.g. the bar in a stitched seam.

4.2 Characteristics and test methods for the selection of appropriate symbols

The relevant characteristics and the respective test procedures are laid down in Annex A (informative).

4.3 Use of symbols

The symbols shall appear in the order washing, bleaching, drying, ironing and professional textile care, except in countries where the symbols are subject to statutory regulations or trademarks, where they shall appear in the order prescribed by the regulations or trademarks.

The treatments represented by the symbols apply to the whole of the textile article.

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Annex A (informative)

Characteristics and available test methods for the correct selection of care symbols

A.1 Definitions

A.1.1 Characteristics

Characteristics that are important for the usability of textile articles and which may be influenced in a negative way by care treatments.

It is recommended that information on the performance of textile articles and their components with respect to cleaning treatments be obtained before selecting care labels.

A.1.2 Test methods

A.1.2.1 Laboratory methods

Test methods using laboratory devices which simulate procedures in practice.

A.1.2.2 Machine (full-scale) methods

Test methods applying standardized procedures similar to those used in practice.

A.1.2.3 Sensory assessment

Evaluation method which uses human senses only.

A.2 Characteristics

A.2.1 Characteristics tested by laboratory methods

— Colour fastness. The general principles of testing are laid down in ISO 105-A01. The scales for assessing the change in colour and staining are specified in ISO 105-A02 and ISO 105-A03, respectively.

A.2.2 Characteristics tested by full-scale methods

— Performance when washing, tumble drying and dry cleaning. The relevant attributes may be determined by standardized test methods or sensory assessment.

The relevant characteristics are listed in Table A.1, column 1.

A.3 Test methods

A summary overview of the respective test methods is given in Table A.1, column 3. Details of the laboratory and machine methods are given in the Tables A.2 to A.6 for the standardized care symbols.

Other characteristics may be taken into account according to the materials, structure and application of the articles.

Table A.1 — Characteristics, testing and test methods

| Characteristics | Method of test | Method of assessment | |
|---|--------------------|---|---|
| Colour fastness (see Tables A.2, A.3, A.4, A.5) | Laboratory methods | ISO 105-A02 and ISO 105-A03, visual assessment against standard scales | |
| Dimensional change | Full-scale methods | ISO 3759, ISO 5077, physical measurements | |
| Appearance of seams | | ISO 7770, visual assessment against standard scales ISO 15487, visual assessment | |
| Retention of permanent creases | | ISO 7769 ISO 15487, visual assessment | |
| Creasing of durable press articles | | ISO 7768, visual assessment against standard scales ISO 15487, visual assessment | |
| Surface | | ISO 12947-4, visual assessment ISO 15487, visual assessment | |
| Pilling and fuzzing | | Washing, tumble drying: ISO 6330 Dry cleaning: ISO 3175-2 to ISO 3175-4 | Visual assessment in accordance with ISO 12945-1 or ISO 12945-2 against standard scales |
| Flock loss | | | — |
| Fuzziness of velvets and synthetic furs | | | — |
| Hardening of coated fabrics | | | — |
| Delamination of coated and laminated fabrics | | | ISO 2411, visual assessment |
| Separation of fusible interlining | | | — |
| Hand modifications | | | — |
| Unravelling, fraying of seams | | | ISO 13936-1, ISO 13936-2, physical measurement |
| Yarn slippage | | — | |

Table A.2 — Washing

| Symbol | Full-scale method ^a | | Colour fastness ^b laboratory method |
|---|--|--|--|
| | Type A machine Front-loading horizontal-drum type | Type B machine Top-loading agitator type | |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 1A | — | ISO 105-C06:1994, E2S and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 9A | — | ISO 105-C06:1994, E2S and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | — | ISO 6330:2000, 1B | ISO 105-C06:1994, D2S or D1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 2A | ISO 6330:2000, 2B | ISO 105-C06:1994, C2S or C1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 3A | ISO 6330:2000, 3B | ISO 105-C06:1994, C2S or C1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | — | ISO 6330:2000, 4B | ISO 105-C06:1994, B2S or B1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 4A | ISO 6330:2000, 5B | ISO 105-C06:1994, B2S or B1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 5A | ISO 6330:2000, 6B | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 6A | ISO 6330:2000, 7B | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 7A | ISO 6330:2000, 8B | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M and/or ISO 105-C08 |
|  | — | ISO 6330:2000, 9B | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M |
|  | — | ISO 6330:2000, 10B | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 8A | ISO 6330:2000, 11B | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, simulated hand wash | — | ISO 105-C06:1994, A2S or A1M |

^a Drying: Method E, or other appropriate drying procedure.

^b The test fabrics to be used for testing for dye transfer are multifibre fabric type DW and type TV for 40 °C and 50 °C and 60 °C, type TV for 70 °C, and single-fibre cotton and polyester for 95 °C, using a realistic interpretation of staining results in accordance with normal practice in households. Other tests that might be useful to evaluate possible dye transfer or Colour fastness problems are ISO 105-E01 (fastness to water), especially in the case of acid dyes on wool, polyamides and silk, as well as ISO 105-X12 (fastness to rubbing — wet), especially in the case of pigment dyes and prints, and also in the case of insufficient penetration of dyes into fabrics giving washing problems

Table A.3 — Bleaching

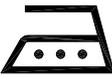
| Symbol | Full-scale method | | Colour fastness laboratory method |
|---|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| | Type A machine Front-loading horizontal-drum type | Type B machine Top-loading agitator type | |
|  | — | — | ISO 105-N01 ^a |
|  | ISO 6330 | ISO 6330 | ISO 105-C09 |

^a The scorch test (AATCC TM 92) is an additional test for resin-treated fabrics (cellulosic and its blends). No appreciable yellowing should occur and the loss of tensile strength should be less than 25 %.

Table A.4 — Tumble drying

| Symbol | Full-scale method |
|---|--|
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 8.5, exhaust temperature max. 70 °C |
|  | ISO 6330:2000, 8.5, exhaust temperature max. 50 °C |

Table A.5 — Ironing

| Symbol | Test method | Colour fastness method | Staining/change in colour | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------|-----|
| | | | dry | damp | wet |
|  | — | ISO 105-X11 (200 °C) | + | — | + |
|  | — | ISO 105-X11 (150 °C) | — | + | + |
|  | — | ISO 105-X11 (110 °C) | — | — | + |

+ shall be tested.
— no test needed.

Table A.6 — Professional textile care

The basic principles of evaluation and the characteristics to be checked are listed in ISO 3175-1. Information on fibre content is also needed to select and interpret bars used with professional textile care symbols.

| Symbol | Full-scale method | Colour fastness laboratory method ^a |
|---|----------------------|---|
|  | ISO 3175-2:1998, 8.1 | ISO 105-D01 |
|  | ISO 3175-2:1998, 8.2 | ISO 105-D01 |
|  | ISO 3175-3 | ISO 105-D01, method to be modified to use appropriate solvent |
|  | ISO 3175-3 | ISO 105-D01, method to be modified to use appropriate solvent |
|  | ISO 3175-4 | ISO 105-C06:1994, A1S |
|  | ISO 3175-4 | ISO 105-C06:1994, A1S |
|  | ISO 3175-4 | ISO 105-C06:1994, A1S |

^a Other tests that might be useful to evaluate possible dye transfer or fastness problems are ISO 105-D02 (fastness to rubbing — organic solvents) for dry cleaning and ISO 105-X12 (fastness to rubbing — wet) for wet cleaning.

Annex B (informative)

Regional and national practices in care labelling

B.1 General

In certain countries or regions of the world, there are regulations or specific requirements related to certain care symbols or the order of symbols on the care label. The following is information related to these requirements. Contact the nation or regional group for further information.

B.2 Regional requirements in the GINETEX countries

B.2.1 GINETEX (International Association for Textile Care Labelling), created in 1963, headquartered in Paris, has developed the system of language-independent symbols. The symbols are covered by international trademarks registered at WIPO in Geneva (notably under No. 2R211 247, No. 461 470 and No. 492 423 — non-exhaustive list). GINETEX, while safeguarding their property rights as such, agreed that ISO take over the system and embody it in an International Standard.

B.2.2 GINETEX members require the use of the trademarked 5-symbol label.

B.2.3 The dry cleaning instructions are required to be always positioned within the 5-symbol label. If information on both dry and wet cleanability is to be given, the dry cleaning symbol is required to be positioned within the 5-symbol label, with the wet cleaning symbol positioned directly under the dry cleaning symbol.

B.2.4 Natural drying symbols do not need to be used.

B.2.5 Membership of GINETEX includes Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom. For further information, see the web site <www.ginetex.org>.

B.3 National requirements in the United States

B.3.1 A care label carrying 4-symbol washing instructions or dry cleaning instructions is required. However, both sets of instructions may be given. If a washing instruction (washing, bleaching, drying or ironing) is not given, the most severe treatment may be used.

B.3.2 Washing temperatures in degrees Celsius and dots are required by law on the care labels on textile articles sold in the USA when care instructions in writing (English) are absent.

B.3.3 Descriptions and definitions of dot symbols for defining temperature in connection with the washing symbol are as follows:

B.3.3.1 Very hot temperature, maximum 95 °C.

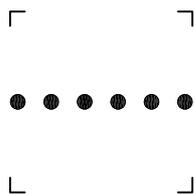


Figure B.1

B.3.3.2 Very hot temperature, maximum 70 °C.

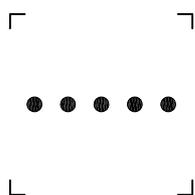


Figure B.2

B.3.3.2 Hot temperature, maximum 60 °C.

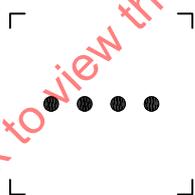


Figure B.3

B.3.3.4 Hot temperature, maximum 50 °C.

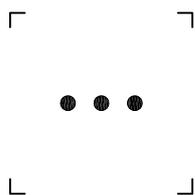


Figure B.4

B.3.3.5 Warm temperature, maximum 40 °C.

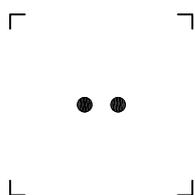


Figure B.5

B.3.3.6 Cool or cold temperature, maximum 30 °C, minimum 20 °C.

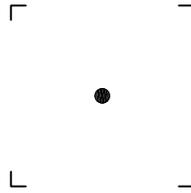


Figure B.6

Table B.1 — Symbols with dots for washing processes

| Symbol | Washing process |
|--------|--|
| | — maximum washing temperature 95 °C — normal process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 70 °C — normal process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 60 °C — normal process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 60 °C — mild process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 50 °C — normal process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 50 °C — mild process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 40 °C — normal process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 40 °C — mild process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 40 °C — very mild process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 30 °C — normal process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 30 °C — mild process |
| | — maximum washing temperature 30 °C — very mild process |

B.3.3.7 For further information, see the web site <www.ftc.gov>.