L.N. 65 of 1990

QUALITY CONTROL (EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND LOCAL GOODS) ACT

(CAP. 225)

Textile Care Labelling Order, 1990 (Order No. 26 of 1990)

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the Quality Control (Exports, Imports and Local Goods) Act, and in accordance with that section, the Malta Board of Standards has made the following order:—

Citation and commencement.

1.1 This order may be cited as the Textile Care Labelling Order, 1990 (Order No. 26 of 1990).

1.2 This order shall become operative on a date after the lapse of 20 days from the day on which it is laid on the Table of the House of Representatives which date shall be notified by the Board in the Gazette.

Scope.

2.1 This order establishes the use of the basic graphical symbols shown in paragraphs 5 and 6 hereof. Further qualification of these symbols as laid down in Appendix A and in Tables 1 to 5 of this order may also be used if so required.

Applicability.

3.1 The provisions of this order are applicable only to imported goods and goods manufactured for the local market for which a specific mandatory order has been issued under Chapter 225, and in which mandatory order reference is made to this order.

Interpretation.

4.1 The following treatments are covered by this order.

4.1.1 *Washing.* A process designed to clean textile articles in an aqueous bath.

4.1.2 *Chlorine based bleaching.* A process carried out in an aqueous medium before, during or after washing processes, requiring the use of a chlorine based bleach for the purpose of removal of stains and the improvement of whiteness.

4.1.3 *Ironing and pressing.* A process carried out on the article to restore its shape and appearance, by means of an appropriate appliance.

4.1.4 *Dry cleaning.* A process for cleaning textile articles by means of immersion in organic solvents. This process consists of pre-spotting if necessary, cleaning proper, rinsing, spinning, drying, spotting and restoring to shape.

4.1.5 *Drying after washing.* A process carried out on a textile article after washing, with the intention of removing residual water.

Description and definition of symbols.

5.1 All five of the following basic symbols shall be used, together with the mark of inapplicability specified in paragraph 6, as the case may be, and may be further qualified as referred to in paragraph 7 of this order.

5.1.1 For the washing process, a wash tub as shown in the figure below:



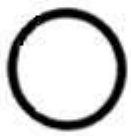
5.1.2 For the chlorine based bleaching process, a triangle as shown in the figure below:



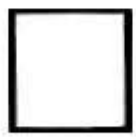
5.1.3 For the ironing process, an iron shape as shown in the figure below:



5.1.4 For the dry cleaning process, a circle as shown in the figure below:



5.1.5 For the drying after washing process, a square as shown in the figure below:



Mark of inapplicability.

6.1 In addition to the five symbols in paragraph 5, the following diagonal cross superimposed on any of the symbols means that the treatment represented by that symbol should not be used.



7.1 In all cases, the symbols in paragraph 5 may be accompanied by a written description of the process, and/or general cautionary instructions, taken from the terminology in Appendix A to this order; or

Process description.

7.2 The symbols may be further qualified as shown in Tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 attached to this order.

APPENDIX A

TERMINOLOGY OF CARE TREATMENTS

A.1 GENERAL

The terms included in this appendix may be used as care information in accordance with paragraph 7.1 of the order. These terms should only be used in connection with the symbols; the information they provide should neither alter nor contradict that given by the symbols.

The word "only" in any term limits the procedure to the stated instruction. The word "only" should not, therefore, be used with an expression that prohibits a process.

All references to washing and dry cleaning include coin operated facilities unless otherwise stated.

A.2 WASHING

A.2.1 **Do not wash.** Do not clean in an aqueous medium.

A.2.2 **Machine wash.** Wash, rinse and spin by machine using normal commercial or domestic methods.

Terms for temperatures of machine washes:

(a) *Boiling.* Water temperature 100°C.

(b) *Very hot.* Maximum water temperature 95°C.

(c) *Hot.* Maximum water temperature 60°C.

(d) *Hand hot.* Maximum water temperature 50°C.

(e) *Warm.* Maximum water temperature 40°C.

(f) *Cool.* Maximum water temperature 30°C.

(g) *Cold.* Water temperature as from the cold tap.

A.2.3 **Home launder.** Wash, rinse and spin by machine by normal domestic methods.

A.2.4 **Hand wash.** Wash by hand.

A.2.5 **Separately.** Wash alone or with similar colours.

A.2.6 **Wash dark colours separately.**

A.2.7 **Half load.** Load distinctly smaller than the normal washing load (as recommended for the machine).

A.2.8 **Wash inside out.** Turn article inside out for protection.

A.2.9 **Do not use soap.** Do not wash the article in fatty acid soaps.

A.2.10 **Do not soak.** Article not to be soaked either in pure water or in a detergent solution.

A.2.11 **Cool rinse.** Maximum water temperature 30°C.

A.2.12 **Cold rinse.** Water temperature as from cold water tap.

A.2.13 **Spinning normal.** Use normal spin setting.

A.2.14 **Spinning reduced.** Use a short spin or reduced speed.

A.2.15 **Do not spin.** Remove article before start of final spin cycle.

A.2.16 **Do not wring.** Do not use roller, wringer or mangle.

A.2.17 **Do not twist.** Do not wring by hand.

A.2.18 **Damp wipe only.** Surface clean with damp cloth or sponge.

A.3 BLEACHING

A.3.1 **Do not bleach.** Excludes all added bleaches.

A.3.2 **Chlorine bleach.** Bleach using the hypochlorite ion.

A.3.3 **Do not chlorine bleach.** Use of chlorine bleach not allowed.

A.4 DRYING AFTER WASHING AND SPINNING

A.4.1 **Tumble drying allowed.** Article may be dried in a tumble dryer.

A.4.2 **Do not tumble dry.** Do not use a tumble dryer.

A.4.3 **Tumble dry hot.** Set tumble dryer at highest temperature.

A.4.4 **Tumble dry warm.** Set tumble dryer at medium temperature.

A.4.5 **Tumble dry cool.** Set tumble dryer at low temperature.

A.4.6 **Tumble dry, no heat.** Set dryer to operate without heat.

A.4.7 **Tumble dry, remove promptly.** When article is dry remove immediately, shake, and fold or place on hanger.

A.4.8 **Drip dry.** Hang dripping wet with or without hand shaping and smoothing.

A.4.9 **Line dry.** Hang damp from line.

A.4.10 **Do not line dry.** Do not hang damp from line.

A.4.11 **Dry away from direct sunlight.**

A.4.12 **Dry away from direct heat.**

A.4.13 **Dry flat.** Lay out horizontally for drying.

A.4.14 **Re-shape to dry.** Re-shape to original dimensions while damp.

A.4.15 **Smooth by hand.** Remove wrinkles and straighten seams and facings by hand while wet.

A.4.16 **Dry without delay.** Dry the article immediately after the previous process.

A.5 IRONING AND PRESSING

A.5.1 **Hot iron.** Set at highest temperature setting, 200°C maximum.

A.5.2 **Warm iron.** Set at medium temperature setting, 150°C maximum.

A.5.3 **Cool iron.** Set at lowest temperature setting, 110°C maximum.

A.5.4 **Do not iron.** Do not smooth or finish with an iron.

A.5.5 **Iron on reverse side only.** Turn article inside out for ironing or pressing.

A.5.6 **Do not steam.** Do not use steam in any form.

A.5.7 **Steam only.** Steam without contact pressure.

A.5.8 **Steam press or steam iron.** Use steam press or iron at steam setting.

A.5.9 **Iron damp.** Article to be ironed should be damp before ironing.

A.5.10 **Use press cloth.** Use a dry or damp cloth between iron and article.

Specific terms:

(a) *Use press cloth, dry.* Use a dry cloth between iron and article.

(b) *Use press cloth, damp.* Use a damp cloth between iron and article.

A.6 DRY CLEANING

A.6.1 **Professionally dry clean or commercially dry clean only.** Exclude use of self-service facilities but include restoration to shape and stain removal.

A.6.2 **Do not dry clean.** Do not dry clean the article.

A.6.3 **No steam.** Exclude the use of steam for restoring to shape.

A.6.4 **Tumble at reduced temperature.** Exclude self-service dry cleaning or drying in hot tumbler. Tumble dry at reduced temperature.

A.7 INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF TEXTILE ARTICLES FOR CARE TREATMENT ASSUMING ARTICLES CAN BE CLEANED

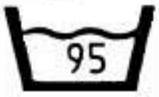
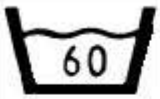
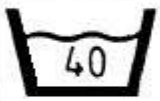
A.7.1 **Remove trim.** Assumes trim details can be easily removed and replaced.

A.7.2 **Remove buttons.** Assumes buttons can be easily removed and replaced.

A.7.3 **Remove lining.** Assumes lining can be easily removed and replaced.

A.7.4 **Close all fasteners.** Instruction to protect all fasteners and fabric from damage.

Table 1. Washing symbols

Symbol	*Optional phrase*	*Description of process*
	'Wash in cotton cycle' or 'Wash in cotton programme' or 'Wash as cotton'	Maximum temperature of wash: 95°C Mechanical action normal Rinsing normal Spinning normal*
	'Wash in cotton cycle' or 'Wash in cotton programme' or 'Wash as cotton'	Maximum temperature of wash: 60°C Mechanical action normal Rinsing normal Spinning normal*
	'Wash in synthetics cycle' or 'Wash in synthetics programme' or 'Wash as synthetics'	Maximum temperature of wash: 50°C Mechanical action reduced Rinsing with gradual cooling before spinning Spinning reduced*
	'Wash in cotton cycle' or 'Wash in cotton programme' or 'Wash as cotton'	Maximum temperature of wash: 40°C Mechanical action normal Rinsing normal Spinning normal*
	'Wash in synthetics cycle' or 'Wash in synthetics programme' or 'Wash as synthetics'	Maximum temperature of wash: 40°C Mechanical action reduced Rinsing with gradual cooling before spinning Spinning reduced*
	'Wash in wool cycle' or 'Wash in wool programme' or 'Wash as wool'	Maximum temperature of wash: 40°C Mechanical action much reduced Rinsing normal Spinning normal* Do not wring by hand
	Hand wash	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
		Do not wash

* If the article is to be drip dried, remove from machine before final spin.

Table 2. Chlorine-based bleaching symbols

Symbol	*Optional phrase*	*Description of process*
	May be chlorine bleached	Bleaching (chlorine-based)
	Do not chlorine bleach	Do not use chlorine-based bleach

Table 3. Ironing symbols

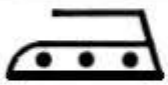
Symbol	*Optional phrase*	*Description of process*	*Examples of applications*
	Hot iron	Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 200°C (Hot iron)	Cotton, linen, viscose or modified viscose
	Warm iron	Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 150°C (Warm iron)	Polyester mixtures, wool
	Cool iron	Iron at a maximum sole-plate temperature of 110°C (Cool iron)	Acrylic, nylon, acetate triacetate, polyester
	Do not iron	Do not iron	

Table 4. Dry cleaning symbols

Symbol	*Optional phrase*	*Description of process*
	Dry clean	Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in all solvents normally used for dry cleaning
	Dry clean	Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene), trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113), trichlorofluoroethane (solvent 11) and hydrocarbons (white spirit)*, using the normal dry cleaning procedures without restriction
	Dry clean	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 drying temperature
	Dry clean	Articles which are suitable for dry cleaning in trichlorotrifluoroethane (solvent 113) and hydrocarbons using the normal dry cleaning procedures without restriction
	Dry clean	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 drying temperature
	Do not dry clean	Articles which are not suitable for dry cleaning

* Hydrocarbons used in dry cleaning have a distillation temperature between 150°C and 210°C and a flash point between 38°C and 60°C

Table 5. Drying (after washing) symbols		
Symbol	*Tumble Dry*	*Description of process*
	Tumble dry	Articles which are suitable for tumble drying
	Do not tumble dry	Articles which may not be tumble dried

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