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## ***Fashion Digest Newsletter***

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### **LABELING REQUIREMENTS**

***All textile products must have a label listing, as required by Federal law. Additionally fiber content, the country of origin (COO), care instructions, and the identity of the manufacturer must also be shown.***

**Suggestion:** Experts agree that it would be best to have 2 separate labels for branding and compliance.

**#1.** For the fiber content and the country of origin. The most common content and COO labels are woven, but can be printed on satin, twill tape or as heat transfers. However, for durability, especially for denim products, the labels should be woven. It is suggested that the labels for wash and care instructions be put right under the fiber content, along with size and the country of origin. In many cases, care instructions are sewn into the garment along the side seams.

**# 2.** A separate label holds the company name and logo for branding effectiveness, requiring the most visibility to the consumer. Woven labels are most often used for that purpose; with different qualities of satin, taffeta, and damask, etc.. A label company with an in-house art department can assist in the choice of the correct material to meet labeling requirements and create the 'look' of the line.

#### **Labeling Requirements under the Textile and Wool Acts**

##### **Country of Origin**

- Products covered by the Textile and Wool Acts must be labeled to show the country of origin.
- Imported products must identify the country where they were processed or manufactured.
- Products made entirely in the U.S. of materials also made in the U.S. are to be labeled "Made in U.S.A." or with an equivalent phrase.
- Products made in the U.S. of imported materials must be labeled to show the

processing or manufacturing that takes place in the United States, as well as the imported component.

- Products manufactured in part in the U.S. and in part abroad must identify both aspects.

### **FTC Rules and Customs Regulations**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has COO labeling requirements that are separate from those under the Textile and Wool Acts and Rules.

- **Imported products made entirely abroad**

A textile product made entirely abroad must be labeled with the name of the country where it was processed or manufactured. Importers and other marketers should check U.S. Customs regulations to determine the appropriate COO designation for products made entirely abroad.

- **Unqualified "Made in U.S.A." labels**

A label may say "Made in U.S.A." only if the product is made completely in the U.S. of materials that were made in the U.S. If a U.S. manufacturer uses imported greige goods that are dyed, printed, and finished in the U.S., for example, they may not be labeled "Made in U.S.A." without qualification.

- **Products made in the U.S.A. with imported materials**

The label must indicate that the product contains imported materials. The label need not identify the country of origin of the imported material. It can say simply: "Made in U.S.A. of imported fabric" or "Knitted in U.S.A. of imported yarn." This disclosure must appear as a single statement, without separating the "Made in U.S.A." and "imported" references.

***"One step removed" rule:*** *In deciding whether to mark a product as made, in whole or in part, in the U.S., a manufacturer must consider only the origin of materials that are one step removed from the particular manufacturing process. Examples: a yarn manufacturer must identify imported fiber - a manufacturer of knitted garments must identify imported yarn - A manufacturer of apparel made from cloth must identify imported fabric."*

Note: Manufacturers should be aware that for certain products - including sheets, towels, comforters, handkerchiefs, scarves, napkins, and other "flat" goods... U.S. Customs requires identification of the country where the fabric was made. To comply with Customs and FTC requirements for this group of products, the label must identify both the U.S. and the country of origin of the fabric. For example: "Made in U.S.A. of fabric made in China" or "Fabric made in China, cut and sewn in U.S.A."

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