

## What's on a Label

Branding, Information, Warnings and Instructions.

## What must be included?

Legislation on product safety, fair trading and consumer protection applies to all products. Specific legislation applies to textile products, and to certain types or uses of product such as nightwear or toys.

Safety related legislation generally requires the product to be identified, the manufacturer to be contactable and safety warnings and instructions to be included for the consumer. Consumer protection requires the materials used to be identified and fair trading requires that consumers are not misled.

Sector specific legislation (and standards) for some product types and uses may require distinct information or symbols to be included; such as the CE mark.

## What should be included?

Best practice is to label with size information (if relevant), together with use and care instructions to allow the consumer to get the best from the product through its life.

## What else can be included?

Just about anything including typically, brand logos, promotional information and quality marks. All must of course be true and not mislead the consumer.

## Where they should go?

The type, style and location of labels should be chosen to be appropriate to the information they contain. Different labels for different information may often be appropriate. Some information needs to be permanent; not on labels that might be removed.

## Are there any other requirements?

Consider label visibility, legibility and durability; especially where safety warnings are included. Consider materials, positioning, configuration and methods of attachment for safety, comfort and accessibility.

For product sold in multiple territories labels in different or multiple languages may be needed or additional information, may be required by local legislation.

## LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS PERTAINING TO GARMENT LABELS

**Legislation** Can be downloaded free of charge from the UK Government website: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

- General Product Safety Regulations
- Textile Products (Labelling and Fibre Composition) Regulations
- Nightwear (Safety) Regulations
- Toy Safety Regulations
- Personal Protective Equipment Regulations
- Trade Descriptions Act & Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations

**Standards** Can be purchased from the BSI website: <http://www.bsigroup.co.uk/en-GB/standards/>

- BS EN ISO 3758:2012 Textiles – Care labelling code using symbols.

**CONTACT** For further information or to discuss any technical matters please contact us by telephone / e-mail:

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*The information contained in this note is for information only and should not be relied upon. Reference should be made to the Legislation and to published standards.*

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## GARMENT LABELS FOR THE UK

**Mandatory requirements, best practice and optional content.**



Brand name or logo.  
Must be entitled to use the Title or Mark.

Product identification with season/batch as appropriate: ensures compliance with the GPSD.

Warnings: Fire warnings and labelling are mandatory under the UK Nightwear (safety) Regulations for UK Baby clothing and all nightwear.  
Fire and other safety warnings may be indicated for other items by Safety Risk Assessment.

Fibre composition declaration is mandatory; Compliance with Fibre Composition Regulations: using only approved fibre names in decreasing order by weight. Also declare any content of animal origin eg pearl buttons. Should be able to substantiate.

Any promotional claims or quality marks should be accurate, not misleading and able to be substantiated.

Label to be durable, legible, accessible and of appropriate material.  
Translation into other languages may be required for territories outside the UK.



Manufacturer's / Importer's name and geographic address: ensures compliance with the GPSD.

Size designation appropriate to the item. (Specialist products eg PPE may require body size designation)

Care instructions using symbols and/or text. Care instructions are optional in the UK but expected by most consumers. Symbols indicate the harshest treatment which will not cause irreversible damage. Product must not be damaged when the instructions are followed.

Any other instructions for use may be included.

Country of origin: not currently mandatory in the UK but likely to become so. Must be accurate and not mislead.

CE mark is only put on the label when required by a specific European Directive such as for Toys or PPE.  
For example; a Jacket with High Visibility to EN 1150. In this case it requires the standard to be referenced.