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Merchandise Labeling requirements at European Union level

Vendors are required to mark and label all merchandise in accordance with the European Union Directives, Regulations and Requirements as well as relevant domestic laws of the countries where the merchandise will be distributed and sold, dealing with, without limitation, the classification, packaging and labeling, consumer protection, guarantees for consumer goods, language, composition, wash and care instructions, product liability.

This chapter only provides a summary of the main EU regulations applicable at the date of this manual. There are however several local country requirements which may apply in addition to the European regulations and guidelines. It is impossible to cover all specific local country requirements in this manual. Vendors are required to carefully check local requirements and ensure compliance.

Moreover, special labeling requirements are applicable to certain categories of product, such as footwear and textile maintenance and care products.

General labeling requirements, applicable to all merchandise items

Country of Origin indication on all merchandise

The country of origin marking is required on all articles and must be in accordance with EU and local country regulations and requirements. The marking must be in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese (but please consult section 3.5. regarding languages), permanent, legible and conspicuous to the consumer. The country of origin marking must not be obstructed by tags, tickets or packaging. Any item individually packed in a polybag, must have the country of origin labeling on the bag, if it is not visible through the bag.

The country of origin must appear in the following places, for the following merchandise items:

Footwear

On the individual footwear item as well as at the end of the individual sale carton in which the footwear is packaged.

Shirts, Sweaters, Jackets, Tops and Coats

A fabric label; sewn into the garment at the center of the nape of the neck
Please note: any item individually packed in a polybag, must have the country of origin labeling on the bag, if it is not visible through the bag.

Trousers, Shorts, Other Bottoms

A fabric label sewn into the waistband of the pants at the center of the back of the waist.

Socks, Hosiery

On the tag or label on the outside of the pair of socks.

Accessories

On the accessory item, in the same vicinity as the bar code tickets.

Manufacturer and Importer requirements

Products placed on the European market must mention the following, in accordance with Decision N. 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council dd 9 July 2008:

Every product item must bear a type, batch or serial number;

The manufacturer's name or registered trade name and the address at which they can be contacted on the product. This must be indicated on the product or on its packaging.

The importer's name or registered trade name and the address at which they can be contacted on the product. This must be indicated on the product or on its packaging.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR SPAIN & OUTSIDE THE EU:

For products manufactured in Spain: voluntary to mention the industrial register number of the national manufacturer.

For products manufactured outside the EU: Mandatory to mention the tax ID of the importer.

Hazardous products

Certain consumer chemical products require danger, warning and caution labels for products that are corrosive, explosive, flammable or poisonous. (see chapter 8).

Textile labeling

The requirements regarding the labeling of textile in Europe are covered by the Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 (the “Regulation”) which replaced the EU Directive 2008/121/EC from 08-05- 2011

1. Composition

Textile products within the meaning of the Regulation, shall be labeled or marked whenever they are put on the market for production or commercial purposes, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation.

“Textile products” mainly means (i) products which are exclusively composed of textile fibres as well as (ii) products containing at least 80% by weight of textile fibres.

Annex V to the directive contains a long list of exclusions. In view of Runners Point’s business, the exclusion worth mentioning is number 23 “textile parts of footwear”.

Annex VI contains a long list of exclusions where inclusive labeling (the use of a single label for several textile products or components is permitted. In view of Runners Point’s business, the exclusion worth mentioning is number 8 Shoe and Boot Laces.

Labeling requirements:

A textile product composed of two or more fibers, shall be labelled or marked with the name and percentage by weight of all constituent fibers in descending order, however a fibre that does not account for more than 5% of the total weight of the article or fibres which collectively account for up to 15% of the total weight of the textile product, may be designated by the term “other fibres”, immediately preceded or followed with their total percentage of weight.

- 1.1. The term “pure”, “all” or “100%” should only be used where the garment is made up of only 1 fibre, unless
 - a. the extraneous fibres are not more than 2%, or
 - b. When the textile product has undergone a carding process and is does not contain more than 5% by weight of extraneous fibers,And providing this quantity is justified as being technically unavoidable in good the extraneous fiber manufacturing practice and not added as a matter of routine.

- 1.2. The names, descriptions and particulars as to textile fibers content shall be indicated in clear, legible and uniform print and in the official language of the Member States unless the Member State concerned provides otherwise.

The composition message in the label shall be well separated from other messages in the labels (i.e. country of origin, wash and care, etc.) It is mandatory to set a line or a space between the messages so as not to confuse the customers.

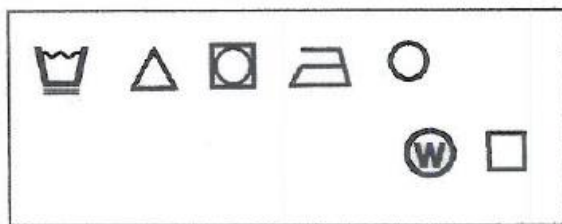
2. Wash and Care instructions

Wash and care instructions are required on all garments and other textile articles. They must be in accordance with the system of care symbols as developed by ISO standard 3758 “textiles – care labeling code using symbols”, which is based on the symbols developed by the International Association for Textile Care Labeling Ginetex. This ISO standard has also been adopted as a European standard (EN ISO 3758). It is prohibited to distribute or offer for sale products in most European countries, if the labeling is not in conformity with the above mentioned standard.

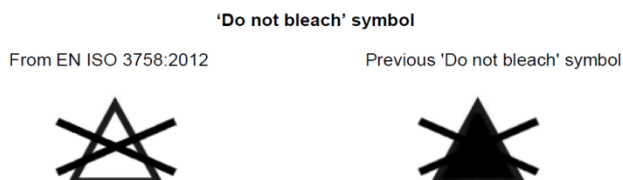
The symbols should be listed in the order of the ISO standard 3758, i.e.: wash, bleach, tumble-dry, iron, professional textile care, and all 5 standard symbols must be used. Last version of this standard was published in 2012 (edition 3).

According to ISO 3758, if dry cleaning and professional wet cleaning are to be specified, then the wet clean symbol should appear separately, directly under the dry clean symbol. The natural drying symbol is an optional symbol but if used, should again be separate from the main 5 under the other symbols as shown below.

The wet clean and natural drying symbols are 6th and 7th respectively, after the original 5 symbols. In order to comply with the ISO standard, the following design could be used.



Attention: in the 2012 edition (3) of ISO 3758 the “Do not Bleach” symbol has been changed:



These symbols do not require the use of language. The symbols are trademark protected. The trademarks are owned by Ginetex.

The care label:

- Should be durably fixed to the textile article;
- Should be legible during the whole lifetime of the article. In particular, it should withstand the washing and dry cleaning process it recommends;
- Should be clearly positioned where it is easily noted and without interference from a seam;
- Should not show through the article and spoil its appearance.

The full list and images of the symbols and its description can be found at the following website: www.iso.org

For further information, you can also consult <http://www.sartex.ch/ginetex-switzerland/>
or www.care-labelling.co.uk

3. Flamability – European Requirements

There is no EU standard or requirement to indicate the flammability of a fabric. However, certain local countries have domestic requirements – please consult the chart under the languages section below.

4. Special Requirement for polybags

For merchandise items that are sold to customers inside polybags, the following requirements apply:

1. The composition/care instruction of the items **INSIDE** the bag (see above section 3.1 and 3.2) must be printed **ON** the bag if the labels on the product items inside the bag cannot be seen from the outside.

2. A suffocation WARNING must be printed **ON** the bag. The recommended text for the warning would be as follows: "**WARNING. This bag is not a toy. Risk of suffocation. Do not allow children to use**" (or similar language). The warning information must be printed in the official languages of the countries where Runners Point will market the product (see below section 3.5 for the language chart). The size of the warning should be proportionate to the size of the bag, but in any case it must be easily readable.

Warnung: Dieser Beutel ist kein Spielzeug. Halten Sie diesen Beutel fern von Babys und Kleinkindern. Nicht in Kinderkrippen, Kinderbetten oder Kinderwagen sowie in Kindernähe benutzen. Die dünne Folie könnte sich im Mund und an der Nase festsaugen und das Atmen behindern.

Warning: This bag is not a toy. Keep it out of reach of babies and small children. Do not use the bag in cribs, children's beds, prams, pushchairs or anywhere in the vicinity of children. The thin film could adhere to the mouth or nose of a child and cause breathing difficulties or suffocation.

Attention: Ce sachet n'est pas un jouet. Éloignez ce sachet de la portée des bébés et des petits enfants. Ne pas utiliser dans les crèches, les lits d'enfants ou les voitures d'enfants ainsi qu'à proximité des enfants. La feuille plastique très fine pourrait se plaquer dans la bouche et sur le nez par succion et empêcher l'enfant de respirer.

Opgelet: Dit zakje is geen speelgoed. Houd dit zakje verwijderd uit de omgeving van baby's en kleine kinderen. Niet in kinderviegen, kinderbedden of kinderwagens alsook in de omgeving van kinderen gebruiken. De dunne folie zou zich in de mond en aan de neus kunnen vastzuigen en het ademen kunnen belemmeren.

Avvertenza: questo sacchetto non è un giocattolo. Tenerlo lontano dalla portata di bebè e bambini piccoli. Non utilizzare in culle, lettini o carrozzine e nelle vicinanze di bambini. La sottile pellicola potrebbe attaccarsi a bocca e naso impedendo la respirazione.

Advertencia: Esta bolsa no es ningún juguete. Mantenerla alejada de bebés y niños pequeños. No emplear en cunas, camas o cochecitos para niños, ni tampoco cerca de niños. La lámina fina podría adherirse a la boca y a la nariz, dificultando la respiración.

Warning:

This bag is not a toy. Keep it out of reach of babies and small children. Do not use the bag in cribs, children's beds, prams, pushchairs or anywhere in the vicinity of children. The thin film could adhere to the mouth or nose of a child and cause breathing difficulties or suffocation.

5. Language requirements for Textile labels

Country	Composition	Language	Wash & Care (icons)	Country of origin (for product manufactured OUTSIDE EU)	Flammability
Netherlands	Mandatory	Dutch	Voluntary	Voluntary	Mandatory - local language
Belgium	Mandatory	Dutch & French	Voluntary	Mandatory	Voluntary
Luxembourg	Mandatory	Dutch, French, German	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Germany	Mandatory	German	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
UK	Mandatory	English	Voluntary	Recommended	Mandatory for nightwear- local language
Ireland	Mandatory	English	Voluntary	Mandatory	
France	Mandatory	French	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Italy	Mandatory	Italian	Mandatory	Mandatory	Voluntary
Spain	Mandatory	Spanish	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Portugal	Mandatory	Portuguese	Mandatory	Voluntary	Voluntary
Austria	Mandatory	German	Mandatory	Voluntary	Voluntary
Switzerland	Mandatory	German, French, Italian - depending on Kanton	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Denmark	Mandatory	Danish	Voluntary	Voluntary	Voluntary
Sweden	Mandatory	Swedish	Voluntary		
Hungary	Mandatory	Hungarian	Mandatory	Mandatory	Voluntary
Greece	Mandatory	Greek	Recommended	Mandatory	Voluntary
Turkey	Mandatory	Turkish	Mandatory	Mandatory - local language	Mandatory - local language
Czech Republic	Mandatory	Czech	Mandatory	Voluntary	Voluntary
Poland	Mandatory	Polish	Voluntary	Mandatory - local language	Voluntary

In cases where the labelling of Wash & Care Symbols and/or Country of Origin is voluntary, if this information is mentioned on the labels, the language requirements apply.

Footwear labeling

1. The EU Directive

The requirements regarding the labeling of footwear in Europe are covered by EU **Directive 94/11/EC of 24 March 1994**. The footwear covered under this Directive includes shoes, sandals, boots, slippers, espadrilles, sports shoes (including specialist sports shoes and those with skates attached) and all articles with applied soles designed to protect or cover the foot.

The labeling for footwear only needs to be in one article of each pair and can be printed, embossed or on an attached sticker or label. Whatever method is used **the labeling must be securely attached, visible and accessible, and must be** in accordance with the following rules.

(1) Labeling shall provide information as to the material which constitutes at least 80% of the;

- i) surface of the upper,
- ii) surface area of lining and sock,
- iii) volume of the outer sole

(Where no one material constitutes at least 80% of the surface area or volume, information shall be given to the main materials used in the composition of the footwear).

(2) The materials to be indicated are only four: leather, coated leather, textile material or other material.

(3) The materials used in the 3 parts of the shoe can be given either by using text, or by using a pictogram. HOWEVER, if pictograms are used, information to the consumer must be given (either inside the store in a permanent manner, or attached to the shoe itself). **Please note that if only text is being used, the information must be provided in all languages relevant for Runners Point's markets – see below chart.**

(4) As for the three parts of the shoe, they also can be labeled either using text or a pictogram.

Pictograms for the 3 parts of shoe:

Upper



Lining and sock



Outer sole



Pictograms for the 4 materials to be used:

Leather



Coated leather



Natural textile materials and
synthetic or non woven textile
materials



All other materials



Example of how to use the two sets of pictograms in the correct way:

Parts of footwear

Materials used

Written indication

Pictogram Written indication

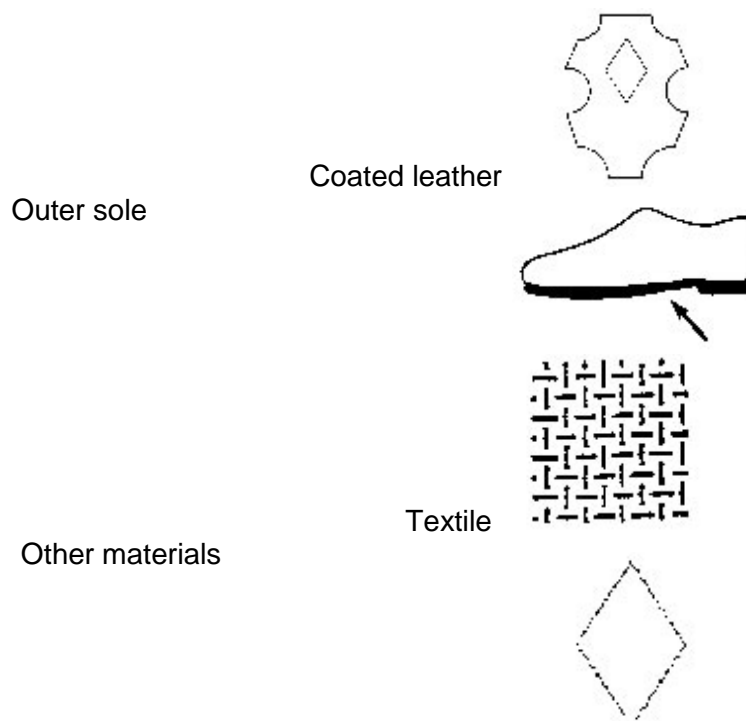
Upper



Leather

Lining & sock





2. Special labeling requirements apply to footwear in Hungary

In Hungary, special instructions for maintenance and use of footwear need to be provided.

Instruction for use: these instructions must be affixed to the shoes or can be placed into the shoebox. Where the instruction is not affixed to the shoe, the instruction must contain a clear indication that the instruction and the shoes belong together. The instructions must contain **in Hungarian language**:

- the relevant information on the purpose, use and handling of the shoes
- main features (e.g. water-proof, quality classification) of the product
- in the case of domestic products a reference to the producer and its address
- in the case of imports, reference to the importer and its address
- the place of origin if the product does not come from the EEA

In the case of imports, where a foreign language instruction is attached to the product, a Hungarian translation with the same content must be attached. The size of the shoes must be indicated either on the label or in the instructions.

3. Special labeling requirements apply to certain types of footwear in Turkey

For the Turkish market, if footwear consists predominantly of textile, an additional hangtag must be affixed to the shoes providing the customer with clear indications regarding the maintenance and use of the shoes in the Turkish language.

4. Language requirements for footwear labeling in Europe

Language requirements in case no icons but only text is used to indicate footwear composition

Country	Composition	Language	Country of origin (for product manufactured OUTSIDE EU)
Netherlands	Mandatory	Dutch	Mandatory
Belgium	Mandatory	Dutch/French	Mandatory
Luxembourg	Mandatory	Dutch/French/German	Voluntary
Germany	Mandatory	German	Voluntary
UK	Mandatory	English	Mandatory
Ireland	Mandatory	English	Mandatory
France	Mandatory	French	Voluntary
Italy	Mandatory	Italian	Mandatory
Spain	Mandatory	Spanish	Voluntary
Portugal	Mandatory	Portuguese	Voluntary
Austria	Mandatory	German	Voluntary
Switzerland	Mandatory	German/French/Italian - depending on Kanton	Voluntary
Denmark	Mandatory	Danish	Voluntary
Sweden	Mandatory	Swedish	Voluntary
Hungary	Mandatory	Hungarian	Mandatory
Greece	Mandatory	Greek	Voluntary
Turkey	Mandatory	Turkish	Mandatory
Czech Republic	Mandatory	Czech	Mandatory
Poland	Mandatory	Polish	Mandatory