Clothing label checklist: US, EU, UK, Canada and Australia

What the label must show in each market, with the law and regulator behind each rule. Tick each line on your artwork before it goes to print. Full explanations and every source: collectivestudioltd.com/journal/clothing-labelling-requirements-by-country

LAW required by the rule named · EXPECTED not in the rules named; buyers or guidance expect it · IF IT APPLIES only for some products or routes

Every market, before you print

- [ ] Every fibre percentage and any origin you print is **true**. All five regimes treat a wrong fibre percentage or a false origin as a breach.
- [ ] Fibre composition taken from the **fabric actually used**.
- [ ] Your **RN number, CA number or EU responsible person**, as each market needs, ready before the label goes to print. They are yours to obtain; we cannot supply them.
- [ ] Organic or sustainability wording only where a **certificate supports it for that exact garment**.
- [ ] **Retailer or marketplace labelling manual** checked (size formats, barcode placement). They often ask for more than the law does.
- [ ] One artwork per market, or one combined label where the rules allow it.

01 United States

FTC: Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (16 CFR Part 303); Care Labeling Rule (16 CFR Part 423)

- [ ] LAW **Generic fibre names and percentages by weight**, in descending order. A fibre under 5% appears as "other fiber" unless it has a clearly established and definite functional significance at that amount, as with 4% spandex. Wool is always named. 16 CFR 303.3(a)
- [ ] LAW **Country of origin**: Made in Bangladesh for anything cut and sewn here. The fabric's origin is not required. 16 CFR 303.33(a)(1); 19 CFR 102.21
- [ ] LAW On a garment with a neck, the origin label sits at the **inside centre of the neck**, midway between the shoulder seams or beside another label there, with the country on the front side. 16 CFR 303.15(b)
- [ ] LAW **Identity of the manufacturer or importer**: company name or FTC-issued RN number. Fibre content and your RN or company name may share the neck label or sit on another easy-to-find one, such as a side-seam care label.
- [ ] LAW **Permanent care instructions** with a reasonable basis behind them, attached before sale, legible for the garment's useful life: words, ASTM D5489-96c symbols, or both. ISO symbols cannot replace the words. 16 CFR Part 423; 423.8(g)
- [ ] LAW Label text in **English**.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Children aged 12 or under**: a permanent tracking label and a Children's Product Certificate.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Printed neck label** instead of sewn: checked with your customs broker first, as Customs may require the origin on a sewn-in label.

02 European Union

EUR-Lex: Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 (textile fibre names and labelling); Regulation (EU) 2023/988, General Product Safety Regulation

- [ ] LAW **Name and percentage by weight of every constituent fibre**, in descending order. A stretch yarn written into your tech pack can be stated, so the narrow "other fibres" wording does not cover it. Art. 9
- [ ] LAW Label **durable, easily legible, visible and accessible**, in uniform print. Art. 14
- [ ] LAW Fibre information in the **official language or languages of each member state of sale**: a range sold in Germany and France needs German and French. Art. 16(3)
- [ ] LAW **Manufacturer's name**, registered trade name or trade mark, with a **postal and an electronic address**, on the garment or its packaging. GPSR, since 13 Dec 2024
- [ ] LAW An **EU-established responsible economic operator** in place for the product. GPSR
- [ ] EXPECTED **Care symbols**: no EU-wide rule, but some member states require care labelling and retailers expect it.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Country of origin** is not required by 1007/2011. If you print one, it must be true.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Parcels sent from outside the EU straight to a customer** need the customer's language sewn in from the start. English-only stock is fine between businesses if it is relabelled before retail. Art. 14(2)

Checked against the regulators linked in the guide, 19 September 2026.

03 United Kingdom

legislation.gov.uk: Textile Products (Labelling and Fibre Composition) Regulations 2012; **Trading Standards** guidance (Business Companion)

- [ ] LAW **Fibre content in English**, on the item or its packaging: every fibre by name with its percentage by weight, in descending order, not only the main ones. UK Art. 9(1), Reg. 1007/2011
- [ ] LAW **Components with different fibre contents labelled separately**. Decorative matter of 7% or less is left out of the count.
- [ ] EXPECTED **Producer's name and address** and a **batch or product reference** on the garment or packaging, as Great Britain's General Product Safety Regulations 2005 expect. On the sewn-in label they cannot be lost with a swing tag.
- [ ] EXPECTED **Care label**: not required by law, but retailers expect one.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Nightwear**: fixed fire-safety wording.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Country of origin** is optional. If you print one, it must be accurate.

Responsible for the label: the manufacturer or the importer into the UK (Trading Standards guidance).

04 Canada

Competition Bureau: Textile Labelling Act and Regulations; **CBSA**: Memorandum D11-3-1, marking of imported goods

- [ ] LAW **Generic name and percentage of every fibre making up 5% or more**.
- [ ] LAW Fibre information **in both English and French**.
- [ ] LAW **Dealer's name and postal address, or a CA identification number** (CA plus five digits). Only Canadian businesses can apply for a CA number; a brand outside Canada uses its business name and postal address. Dealer identity need not be bilingual.
- [ ] LAW On clothing, a label **permanent enough to survive ten cleanings**.
- [ ] LAW **Country of origin**, in English or French, legible and sufficiently permanent. It may share the textile label, for example Made in Bangladesh / Fabriqué au Bangladesh. CBSA D11-3-1
- [ ] EXPECTED **Care instructions** are voluntary under the textile regulations; retailers almost always expect the symbol row.

05 Australia

ACCC Product Safety: Consumer Goods (Care Labelling) Information Standard 2023; **Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905** and Regulation 2016, Australian Border Force

- [ ] LAW **Adequate care instructions** in English, the international care symbols, or both, on a label attached to the item.
- [ ] LAW **Country where the garment was made**, in a true trade description, in English, prominent and legible, **at the time of import**. Goods that need it and lack it can be seized.
- [ ] EXPECTED Origin label at the **centre back** of the garment, where the Australian Border Force asks for it.
- [ ] IF IT APPLIES **Fibre content** is not mandated by the care standard, but any fibre claim must be accurate under the Australian Consumer Law.

Responsible for the label: the importer.

06 Your label details

Fill in before artwork goes to the factory

- [ ] **Markets** this style will be sold in: _____
- [ ] **Fibre composition** from the fabric used: _____
- [ ] **RN number** (US) / **CA number or name and postal address** (Canada): _____
- [ ] **EU responsible economic operator**: _____
- [ ] **Languages** needed on the fibre label: _____

Legal minimums as set out in our guide, not legal advice. Rules change; confirm the current position with the regulator for each market or a licensed customs broker. Care instructions, the elastane rule and the US neck-label position were re-checked on 23 September 2026, and the CA number rules read on 17 October 2026.