

OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)

Market Reports Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

Australia

The following information is provided only as a guide and should be confirmed with the proper authorities before embarking on any export activities.

Import Tariffs

Australian import tariffs are assessed on an ad valorem basis, i.e., as a percentage of the FOB (free on board) value of the imported merchandise. On January 1, 2005, Australia and the United States entered into the U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement (USAFTA), which provides for the removal of import tariffs on goods traded between the two countries. Under this agreement, U.S. textile and apparel exports that meet the required rules of origin receive preferential tariff rates in Australia, and vice versa. For more information, see the [U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement in the FTA section](#).

The following table provides a summary of Australia's non-preferential tariffs.

Australia: Tariffs (percent ad valorem) on Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

	HS Chapter/Subheading	Non-preferential Tariff Rates (%)
Yarn		
-silk	5003-5006	0
-wool	5105-5110	0 - 5
-cotton	5204-5207	5
-other vegetable fiber	5306-5308	0 - 5
-man-made fiber	5401-5406/5501-5511	0 - 5
Woven Fabric		
-silk	5007	0 - 5
-wool	5111-5113	5
-cotton	5208-5212	5
-other vegetable fiber	5309-5311	0
-man-made fiber	5407-5408/5512-5516	5
Knit Fabric	60	5
Non Woven Fabric	5603	5
Industrial Fabric	59	0 - 5
Apparel	61-62	0 - 10
Home Furnishings including: bed, bath, kitchen linens, etc.	63	0 - 5
Carpet	57	0 - 5
Footwear	64	0 - 5
Travel Goods	4202	0 - 5

The complete harmonized tariff schedule and more detailed information can be found on the [Australian Customs Service Website](#). See Schedule 3 - Classification of goods and general and special rates of duty - for non-preferential tariff rates. Schedule 5 shows the preferential tariff rates applied to US-origin goods under the USAFTA. Note that Australian tariffs on textile, apparel, footwear and travel goods, exported from the U.S. under the USAFTA have been phased to Free.

To return to the Foreign Tariff Information webpage, click [here](#).

For information on local customs requirements and documentation, see:

- [Importing Goods section of the Australian Customs Service website](#)
- [Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade U.S.-Australia FTA website](#)

Standards

Australia has two types of standard: voluntary and regulatory (or mandatory). Mandatory standards include safety standards (e.g., children's nightwear) and information standards (e.g., labeling). The [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission - ACCC website](#) contains information on mandatory standards, bans and recalls. The majority of voluntary standards are developed and published by [Standards Australia](#).

Nightwear for children--The [Consumer Goods \(Children's Nightwear and Limited Daywear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear\) Safety Standard 2017](#) is mandatory and applies to nightwear for children sizes 00–14. The regulation, which is based on Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 1249:2014 - Children's nightwear and limited daywear having reduced fire hazard, prescribes requirements for safety testing and labelling of children's nightwear and paper patterns for making children's nightwear. For more information, see Product Safety Australia's webpage on [Nightwear for Children](#).

Note: Until December 31, 2019, suppliers have the option to comply with the requirements from either the Consumer Goods (Children's Nightwear and limited daywear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear) Safety Standard 2017 or the [Trade Practices \(Consumer Product Safety Standards \(Children's Nightwear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear\) Regulations 2007](#). Beginning January 1, 2020, suppliers must comply with the requirements in Consumer Goods (Children's Nightwear and limited daywear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear) Safety Standard 2017.

Drawstrings on children's clothing--The ACCC has issued a voluntary guideline for drawstrings requirements on children's clothing. The guideline is based on the European standard EN 146822 and the voluntary US standard ASTM F18163.

Children's product safety--See the Australian National Retail Association's [Children's Apparel & Accessories – Product Safety Guidelines](#) for information on safety hazards associated with children's apparel and accessories designed, marketed and intended for children up to and including 14 years of age.

Formaldehyde in textile and apparel products--The ACCC has issued non-regulatory reference limits for textile and garment products sold in Australia.

Some relevant standards for textile and apparel products include the following:

Protective clothing:

- AS/NZS 4502 - Method for evaluating clothing for protection against heat and fire
- AN/NZS 4501 - Occupational protective clothing
- AS/NZS 4503 - Protective clothing - Protection against liquid chemicals
- AS/NZS 4543.3 - Protective clothing and protective devices for gonads
- AS/NZS 4453 - Protective clothing for users of hand-held chainsaws
- AS/NZS 4399:1996 and 1996A1 - Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification

Home furnishings:

- AS 2663 - Textiles - Curtain fabrics for domestic use
- AS 2663.1 - Textiles - Woven and knitted fabrics for window furnishings
- AS 2687 - Textiles - Upholstery fabrics for domestic and commercial use

All medical devices and health-related products must receive approval from the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) prior to use.

See Australia's current textile-related, mandatory standards on the [Product Safety Australia website](#). Also see:

- [Blinds, curtains and window fittings](#)
- [Bean bags](#)
- [Azo dyes](#) (see also, [ACCC -Consultation for options to limit consumer exposure to hazardous azo dyes](#))
- [Safety guidance on concentrations of particular chemicals in certain consumer goods](#)--The guidance includes a list of 22 hazardous aromatic amines that can be derived from certain hazardous azo dyes in clothing, textiles and leather articles. Guidance is also provided on formaldehyde in clothing and textiles and dimethyl fumarate in leather and textile articles.

Also see, [ACCC publishes criteria for accepting international standards](#).

Local standards organization and other resources:

- [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission - ACCC website](#)
- [Product Safety Australia](#)
- [Standards Australia](#)

Labeling

In Australia, the [Commerce \(Trade Descriptions\) Regulation 2016](#) sets out the labeling requirements for imported goods. See the [Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection website](#) for details of Australia's labeling requirements for imported products, such as textile products, apparel and footwear. Also see the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection's [Labelling for Textile Goods and Apparel guide](#).

Information on labels must be written in English. See standard [AS/NZS 2392:1999 - Textiles - Labelling of clothing, household textiles and furnishings](#), which specifies positions of attachment for permanent labels carrying the brand name, size or dimensions, care instructions, fiber content, country of origin and, for children's nightwear and some daywear garments, the fire hazard classification.

Fiber Content: Currently, there is no national mandatory information standard in place for fiber content labeling in Australia. Most of the standards in operation in various States prior to 2010 lapsed with the introduction of the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) in January 2011. Reportedly, a national mandatory information standard for fiber content labeling may be considered in the future as part of the harmonization of information standards across Australia. In the interim it is recommended to show percentage of each fiber and list them in descending order (highest to lowest).

New South Wales still requires fiber content labelling of textile products, including the various percentages of different fibers, such wool or cotton. Further information on the NSW regulations can be found at the [NSW Office of Fair Trading website](#).

The standard, [AS/NZS 2622:1996 - Textile products - Fibre content labelling](#), specifies methods of labeling textile products with fiber content information. The standard AS/NZS 2622:1996 (based on ISO 6939:1988) is to be used in conjunction with Australia's textile labeling legislation, Regulation 2016. See also [AS/NZS 2450:1994 - Textiles - Natural and man-made fibres - Generic names](#), which specifies lists and defines natural and man-made fibers (based on ISO 2076:1989).

Care Labeling: [Consumer Protection Notice No. 25 of 2010](#) sets out the mandatory requirements that textile products (i.e., clothing, textiles, furnishing and suede skins, leathers and furs) have adequate care labeling instructions in English on a permanent label. This mandatory standard is based on certain sections of the standard [AS/NZS 1957:1998 Textiles - Care labelling](#), which sets out words, phrases and symbols to be used for giving care instructions and specifies methods by which goods may be labelled. [AS/NZS 2621:1998 - Textiles - Guide to the selection of correct care labelling instructions from AS/NZS 1957](#) provides guidance in the selection of appropriate care labeling instructions and specifies basic performance requirements and test methods.

Care symbols alone do not meet the requirement; however, care symbols or instructions in other languages may be provided. For more details, see the [Care Labelling for Clothing & Textiles page](#) on the Product Safety Australia website. Also see the [Care Labelling for Clothing and Textiles Products: Supplier Guide](#). Also, for further reference, see the [Intertek brochure on care labeling](#) (Intertek is a private quality assurance provider).

Country of Origin: Country of Origin requirements vary depending on whether the product is made wholly or partially in Australia or is imported. For more information, see the [Competition and Consumer Act 2010](#) [refer Volume 3, Schedule 2, Chapter 5, Part 5-3 Country of origin representations].

Also see the following guides on the ACCC website.

- [Country of Origin guide for textiles, clothing and footwear industries](#)
- [Country of origin guidelines for the furnishing industry](#)

Footwear: Additional rules that apply to footwear can be found in section 20 of [Commerce \(Trade Descriptions\) Regulation 2016](#). Also see the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection guide on [Labelling for Shoes](#).

Flammability labels: The [Consumer Goods \(Children's Nightwear and limited daywear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear\) Safety Standard 2017](#) sets out the mandatory requirements for certain children's garments sized 00–14. The mandatory standard is based on [AS/NZS 1249- 2014/Amd 1:2014 - Children's nightwear and limited daywear having reduced fire hazard](#). (Note that work is underway to update AS/NZS 1249, see [DR AS/NZS 1249:2014 Amd 2:2017](#).)

AS/NZS 1249 specifies four categories for labeling children's nightclothes, depending on the degree of fire protection the garment provides. Categories 1–3 require a low fire hazard label and category 4 requires a high fire hazard warning label. The fire hazard information label must be permanent and conspicuous. Garments found to be too flammable and that do not meet any of the four categories' criteria cannot be sold in Australia. Garments must be tested to standard [AS 2755.2-1985 \(R2013\) Textile fabrics - Burning behavior measurement of flame spread properties of vertically oriented specimens](#).

Until December 31, 2019, suppliers have the option to comply with the requirements from either the [Consumer Goods \(Children's Nightwear and limited daywear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear\) Safety Standard 2017](#) or the [Trade Practices \(Consumer Product Safety Standards \(Children's Nightwear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear\) Regulations 2007](#). From January 1, 2020 suppliers must only comply with the requirements in [Consumer Goods \(Children's Nightwear and limited daywear and Paper Patterns for Children's Nightwear\) Safety Standard 2017](#).

See the [Product Safety Australia nightwear for Children webpage](#) for more information.

Wool Products: Wool products may also be subject to special marking requirements.

Sun Protection Labeling: Voluntary standard is currently being updated, see draft standard update, [DR AS/NZS 4399:2017 CP - Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification](#).

For information and assistance regarding labeling, contact:

- [Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection](#)
- [Product Safety Australia](#)
- [Australian Competition & Consumer Commission - ACCC](#)
- [Standards Australia](#)

Market Information

- [Australian Department of Industry, Innovations and Science](#).

For additional information on exporting textiles, apparel, footwear and travel goods, click [here](#).

[Return to Export Market Reports](#)