

OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)

Market Reports Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

Canada

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

Textile and apparel goods manufactured in the United States enter Canada duty free under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) if they qualify under the rules of the Agreement. For more information, see the [NAFTA summary in the FTA section](#).

Products from the U.S. that do not qualify under the NAFTA rules are subject to Canada's MFN rates of duty. Canada applies percent ad valorem duties on the f.o.b. (free on board) value of imports.

Canada Tariffs (percent ad valorem) for Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

	HS Chapter/ Subheading	Tariff Rate Range (%)
Yarn		
-silk	5003-5006	0
-wool	5105-5110	0
-cotton	5204-5207	0 - 8
-other vegetable fiber	5306-5308	0
-man-made fiber	5401-5406/5501-5511	0 - 8
Woven Fabric		
-silk	5007	0
-wool	5111-5113	0
-cotton	5208-5212	0
-other vegetable fiber	5309-5311	0
-man-made fiber	5407-5408/5512-5516	0
Knit Fabric	60	0
Non Woven Fabric	5603	0
Industrial Fabric	59	0 - 18
Apparel	*61-62	0 - 18
Home Furnishings including: bed, bath, kitchen linens, etc.	63	0 - 18
Carpet	57	0 - 14
Footwear	64	0 - 20
Travel Goods	4202	0 - 11

* Tariffs for babies' garments and clothing accessories in 61.11 and 62.09 is 0%.

For information on duty remission programs for textiles and apparel, which allow eligible companies to import certain products on a duty-free basis, see the [Department of Finance - Canada](#).

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

The NAFTA Certificate of Origin is not a required document to ship to Canada. In fact, it should only be filled out if the product qualifies for NAFTA preferential treatment. Products not manufactured or produced within the NAFTA region do not qualify for NAFTA preferential tariff treatment. See the U.S. Department of Commerce's [NAFTA Certificate of Origin Interactive Tool](#) for information on the NAFTA Certificate of Origin process.

For information on local customs requirements and documentation, see:

- [Canadian Border Services Agency - CBSA](#)
 - [Accounting for Your Shipment](#)
 - [Importing Goods into Canada](#)
- [Border Information Service - BIS](#)
- [Department of Finance - Canada](#)

Standards

Health Canada's Consumer Product safety (CPS) legislation protects consumers against hazardous products based on its regulatory authority from the Hazardous Products Act (HPA).

Flammability Standards--Textile products manufactured, imported, advertised or sold in Canada are subject to the [Canada Consumer Product Safety Act - CCPSA](#) and must meet the flammability requirements set out in the [Textile Flammability Regulations](#). See the [Health Canada's CCPSA Quick Reference Guide](#). See the [Industry Guide to Flammability of Textile Products in Canada](#) on the Health Canada website.

The Hazardous Products Act has a minimum flammability standard for consumer textile articles, in particular children's soft toys, articles of bedding, carpets, rugs and mats, mattresses and tents.

Children's sleepwear has strict standards depending upon the design of the sleepwear. See the [Children's sleepwear - flammability requirement guidelines: H128-1/08-523](#), for more information on children's sleepwear requirements. Note--in May 2017, Health Canada revised its policy on infant sleepwear sizing to align with the U.S. Children's Sleepwear Regulations (16 C.F.R. Parts 1615).

All questions regarding the Hazardous Products Act should be directed to the Consumer Product Safety Office of [Health Canada](#).

Upholstered & Stuffed Articles--The Upholstered and Stuffed Articles Act prohibits the use of unclean or used fillings in articles sold in Canada. A fiber content statement for all textile components used in articles such as pillows, comforters, sleeping bags, and quilted garments must be stated. See the [Federal Labelling Requirements for Upholstered Furniture](#) on the Canada Competition Bureau website. Although the fiber content of the filling or stuffing material used in upholstered furniture is not required to be disclosed under the federal Textile Labelling Act and Regulations, it should be noted that the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba have provincial legislation regarding such labelling. Manufacturers, importers and distributors selling articles in these provinces should contact the appropriate provincial government office for more information. For further information on the federal labelling requirements for upholstered furniture, contact the [Information Centre of the Competition Bureau](#).

Lead in Children's Products--On May 2, 2018, Health Canada published changes to the Consumer Products Containing Lead (Contact with Mouth) Regulations in the Canada Gazette. The amended regulation, effective November 2, 2018, will expand coverage of the regulation to include clothing or clothing accessories intended for use by a child under 14 years of age. For more information, the full text of the legislation can be found in the [Canada Gazette](#). Canada also has regulations on lead in children's costume jewelry and toys. Even without, specific regulations related to lead content, Canada can recall products deemed to be a safety risk under the general prohibition of unsafe products entering Canada. For more information, see Health Canada, Consumer Products Division's [Industry Guide to Health Canada's Safety Requirements for Children's Toys and Related Products, 2012](#).

Drawstrings on Children's Clothing--Health Canada has released an industry guidance document titled [Drawstrings on Children's Upper Outerwear](#). Requirements set out in the guidance:

- There shall be no drawstrings in the hood and neck area of children's upper outerwear in sizes newborn to 12.
- Children's upper outerwear in sizes 2T to 16 should comply with ASTM F1816-97, which specifies length and design restrictions for drawstrings.

Children's upper outerwear should, at a minimum, comply with the requirements. Noncompliance with these requirements could be found in violation of the Canada Consumer Product Safety Act (CCPSA).

Small Parts in Children's Products--Clothing and footwear is technically exempt from the small parts regulation, which applies to toys in Canada. However, apparel products have been recalled for small parts choking hazards under the general prohibition of unsafe products entering Canada.

Phthalates--Canadian regulations related to phthalates in child care articles only apply to vinyl materials.

Protective Clothing and Footwear--The Canadian General Standards Board deals with the certification of products and services, regulation of quality, and environmental management systems in relation to products such as protective clothing.

Footwear is regulated under CSA Z195-14, which covers design, performance and safety requirements. For more information, see the [Canada Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\) webpage Z195-14 - Protective footwear](#). See Industry Canada for information on standards related to [Protective Clothing](#).

Window coverings--Under the Hazardous Products Act, all corded window covering products sold, advertised or imported into Canada must meet certain specifications of the National Standard of Canada, CAN/CSAZ600 Safety of Corded Window Covering Products. In addition to required product specifications, the standard specifies requirements concerning labeling and instructions.

See [Industry Canada](#) for information on standards in the following textiles related areas:

- [Medical Gloves](#)
- [Carpets and Underlay](#)
- [Nanomaterials in textiles](#)

Products designed to conform to U.S. standards will often meet Canadian standards with little or no modification. However, similarities between U.S. and Canadian standards do not relieve the U.S. exporter of the obligation to meet the Canadian standard.

NAFTA allows U.S. exporters to get "one-stop shopping" product approval for both the United States and Canada by submitting their product to only one organization in order to get product certification for both countries. This eliminates the time and expense of obtaining separate certifications for each market. Numerous U.S. testing and certification organizations have received accreditation from the [Standards Council of Canada - SCC](#). Provincial regulations, however, do not fall under the NAFTA accreditation framework. U.S. companies faced with difficulties in obtaining provincial approvals should consult with the [U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service](#) to determine the nature of the problem.

Local standards organization and other resources:

- [Standards Council of Canada - SCC](#)
- [Industry Canada - Canadian Textiles Industry](#)
- [Health Canada](#)
- [Canadian Standards Association \(CSA\)](#)

Labeling

Canada's Competition Bureau administers and enforces labeling requirements for textile and apparel products sold in Canada, under the [Textile Labelling Act](#) and the [Textile Labelling and Advertising Regulations](#). See Canada's Competition Bureau website for a [Guide to the Textile Labeling and Advertising Regulations \(TLAR\)](#) and [Labelling Assessment Tools - Textile Labelling](#).

Textile and apparel labels must include the dealer identification, country of origin, and fiber content (in English and French) information. Non-required information may include, care instructions, size, and trademarks or descriptive terms.

Dealer Identification--The dealer identity includes the name and address of the importer, manufacturer or distributor or the CA number. If available, the Canadian dealer's 5-digit identification number, commonly referred to as a "CA Number", can be used instead of a name and full postal address. For more information on the CA Identification number, see the [Competition Bureau Canada website](#).

Country of Origin--Apparel products made and sold in Canada do not have to be labeled "Made in Canada". However, if the apparel is NOT made in Canada, but is being sold in Canada, it must say "Made in (country name)" on the label. Firms may wish to consult the [Canadian Border Service Agency](#).

Fiber Content--The amount of textile fiber present in a textile product must be determined according to established test methods. For every fiber that is present in an amount of five percent or more by mass in a textile article, both the generic name and the amount must be listed on the label. The fibers must be listed in order of predominance and be in English and French. See the [Guide to the Textile Labeling and Advertising Regulations \(TLAR\)](#) for information on fiber content labeling.

Care Labeling--In Canada, there is a voluntary system for care labeling allowing the use written instructions or symbols. However, the Canadian General Standards Board - CGSB has developed a care labeling standard, identified as Care Labelling of Textiles - CAN/CGSB 86.1-2003. See the Office of Consumer Affairs of Industry Canada website for the [Guide to Apparel and Textile Care Symbols](#). Copies of CAN/CGSB-86.1-2003 can be purchased from the [Canadian General Standards Board - CGSB](#). Also, for further reference, see the [Intertek brochure on care labeling](#) (Intertek is a private quality assurance provider).

Size--Manufacturers are not required under the TLAR to manufacture garments that conform to specific size dimensions or use specific size codes. The determination of garment dimensions and designation of size codes or "sizes" are left to the discretion of the dealer. However, in accordance with Section 5 of the Act, where a size dimension has been identified, it must be accurate. For information and/or data regarding body dimensions for women, infants and children, as well as garment dimensions and size designations for specific articles of clothing for women, infants and children, please see the standards published by the [Canadian General Standards Board - CGSB](#).

Language--Except in areas where only one official language is used in consumer transactions, the required fiber content information, that is, the generic names, as well as any information directly relating to the fiber content, must be bilingual. Two separate labels may be used, one English and one French. Care instructions are also required to be in French and in English. Dealer identification, as well as the country of origin, need only be in one of the official languages. The province of Quebec has additional requirements concerning the use of the French language on all products marketed within its jurisdiction. Information on these requirements may be obtained from the [Office de la Langue Française](#).

Province requirements--Textile and apparel products are subject to stuffed article labeling requirements in Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

Footwear -- Footwear must be labeled with the country of origin. Footwear is also subject to stuffed article labeling requirements in Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba; as well as to Quebec's French language labeling requirement.

Additional labeling guides--

- [Guide to the Labelling of Down and Feathers](#)
- [Labelling of Fabric Sold at Retail](#)
- [Federal Labelling Requirements for Upholstered Furniture](#)
- [Guide to the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and Regulations](#)

Product safety labeling--Additional labeling requirements may apply to certain products, such as children's sleepwear and floor covering under the flammability regulations in the Hazardous Products Act. Questions should be directed to the Consumer Product Safety Office of [Health Canada](#).

Environmental labeling--Industry is charged with ensuring that any claims about a product being "environmentally-friendly" are accurate and in compliance with relevant legislation. In general, environmental claims that are ambiguous, misleading or irrelevant, or that cannot be substantiated, should not be used. For more information, see the Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)-[Environmental Labelling Programs - Ecolabels](#) and Competition Canada's [Environmental Claims: A Guide for Industry and Advertisers](#).

Advertising--Advertisements for textile and apparel products are subject to the advertising requirements of the Textile Labeling and Advertising Regulations. Fiber content disclosures are not required in the advertising of the product. However, if the fiber content is mentioned, the generic names of all fibers must then be stated in descending order of predominance. False representations in the advertising of apparel and textiles are strictly prohibited. See Canada's Competition Bureau website for a [Guide to the Textile Labeling and Advertising Regulations \(TLAR\)](#).

Market Information

- [Industry Canada - Canadian Textiles Industry](#)
- [Canadian Importers Database](#)

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



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