

OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)

Market Reports Textiles, Apparel, Footwear and Travel Goods

Switzerland

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

Switzerland (with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) is a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). EFTA members, except Switzerland, participate in the European Union (EU) single market through the European Economic Area (EEA) accord.

Swiss duties are "specific" rather than "ad valorem". Customs duties are levied per 100 kilograms of gross weight, unless some other method of calculation is specified in the tariff (e.g. per unit, per meter, per liter). The gross dutiable weight includes the actual weight of the goods and their packaging, including the weight of any fixing material and supports on which the goods are placed.

From January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019, tariffs on certain yarns and fabrics will be suspended. See the list of 60 lines in the implementing legislation - RO 2015 4935.

Some textile products imported into Switzerland may benefit from a reduced rate of duty depending on their end use. For example, certain fabrics used by the embroidery industry benefit from customs relief (see the attached file below for the list). In the Swiss tariff schedule (see attached above), a "B" indicates fabrics subject to embroidery industry duty relief. A "R" indicates other products subject to duty relief based on an end-use commitment. To obtain a Customs relief certificate, the importer must present an end-use commitment and have obtained a permit from the General Directorate of Customs (Directions generale des douanes (DGD)).

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

For information on local customs requirements and documentation, see:

- [Swiss Customs Administration](#)

Standards

Textile products are subject to restrictions contained in the [Ordinance on the Reduction of Risks relating to the Use of Certain Particularly Dangerous Substances, Preparations and Articles](#).

CE Marking

To sell certain products in the 27 EU member states, as well as in Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Turkey and Iceland, U.S. exporters are required to apply [CE marking](#) whenever their product is covered by specific product legislation. See the [European Union country report](#) for more information on CE marking.

Oeko Tex Standard 100--The "Oeko Tex Standard 100" is used by the majority of Swiss companies. The standard, set by the "International Community for Research and Testing in the field of Textile Ecology and Organization for Consumer and Environmentally Friendly Textiles e.V.", consists of the following fundamental guidelines:

- Requirements apply to the end product only
- Exclusion of certain dyes, which can cause cancer or allergic reactions
- No flame protection or biocide equipping allowed
- Limitation of harmful substances in the end product (pesticides, formaldehyde, heavy metals)
- Differentiated limitations according to textile types and target groups

The guidelines for the award of the "Oeko Tex Standard 100" label were developed by the above-mentioned organization, also responsible for granting their label. The designation is restricted to one year, after which the product will need to undergo new testing.

Local standards organization and other resources:

- [Schweizerische Normen Vereinigung - SNV](#) - Swiss Standards Association
- [European Committee for Standardization - CEN](#)

Labeling

The following information is generally found on textile and apparel product labels, although not mandated by Swiss law:

- care symbols
- fiber content (percentages of fiber)
- size
- country of origin (made in)
- ecolabels

Swiss guidelines for textile labeling can be found on the Swiss Association for Textile Marking - [SARTEX website](#). Some Swiss labeling guidelines may follow European Union directives (see the [European Union country report](#)).

Care labeling--Care labeling guidelines on the [SARTEX website](#) cover pictograms, which are trademarked by the International Association for Textile Care Labelling (Groupement International d'Etiquetage pour l'Entretien des Textiles - GINETEX).

Fiber Content--The inclusion of fiber content is not mandatory. However, if such information is provided, it must comply with the Swiss Directives on Fibre Content Labeling of Textiles. Use of the generic fiber names provided in EU Regulation No 1007/2011 is recommended. See the [SARTEX website](#) for more information.

Fur and Fur Products--According to the [Ordinance on Labelling of Furs and Products Of Furs](#), which is enforced by the Federal Veterinary Office, such products must be labeled in at least one of the official languages (i.e., German, French, Italian, or Romansh) with the following information:

- scientific and common name of the animal species
- country of origin of the animal
- indication of provenance / rearing method

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

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