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Department of Trade and Industrial Development

Mexican Official Standard, NOM-004-SCFI-1994, on trade information and labeling of textiles, apparel, and accessories (amends NOM-004-SCFI-1993).

In the margin, a stamp displaying the Mexican Coat-of-Arms and the words "United Mexican States, Department of Trade and Industrial Development, Bureau of Standards."

MEXICAN OFFICIAL STANDARD NOM-004-SCFI-1994, ON TRADE INFORMATION AND LABELING OF TEXTILES, APPAREL, AND ACCESSORIES (AMENDS NOM-004-SCFI-1993).

The Department of Trade and Industrial Development, through the Bureau of Standards, based on Articles 34 of the Statute of the Federal Government Services Administration; Articles 1, 39(V), 40(XII), and 47(IV) of the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization; Articles 9 and 24(I and XV) of the Rules of Procedure of the Department of Trade and Industrial Development;

Article 5 (XIII)(a) of the Decision assigning administrative units and delegating powers to the undersecretaries, the chief administrative officer, unit chiefs, bureau chiefs, the General Coordinator, and other subordinates of the Department of Trade and Industrial Development, published in the Diario Oficial on March 29, 1994, and amended by a decree published in that same gazette on September 14 of the same year, and

WHEREAS

On November 22, 1995, Mexican Official Standard NOM-004-SCFI-1994 on trade information and labeling of textiles, apparel, and accessories, was published in the Diario Oficial;

On December 4, 1995, the responses to comments on that standard were published in that same gazette;

On December 22, 1995, a Decision was published in the Diario Oficial nullifying the entry into force of the aforementioned standard which, according to the applicable provisions of the Federal Law on Metrology and Standardization, is to be published subsequent to publication of the comments.

In order to exhaust the stocks and inventories on hand at this time, a sufficient period of time has been allowed for compliance with the standard in question with respect to identification of the country from which the inputs were imported and information on sizes;

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It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to find ways to ensure that goods and services marketed in Mexican territory display the trade information that consumers and users need in order to make appropriate purchasing decisions and to use and fully enjoy the goods and services they acquire. Mexican official standards are the proper instrument with which to pursue these objectives;

For purposes of verifying compliance with this Standard at the point of entry into Mexico, it shall be required to observe those provisions of the Decision identifying the specific tariff items in the General Import Tax Law and the Exports Law under which goods subject to compliance with the Mexican official standards at the point of entry into Mexico are classified. That Decision was published in the Diario Oficial on December 28, 1995.

NOW, THEREFORE, the following MEXICAN OFFICIAL STANDARD NOM-004-SCFI-1994, ON TRADE INFORMATION AND LABELING OF TEXTILES, APPAREL, AND ACCESSORIES (AMENDS NOM-004-SCFI-1993) is hereby issued.

This Mexican Official Standard shall enter into force for these purposes 15 days after its publication in the Diario Oficial, except for:

(a) Sections 4.6.2 and 4.6.3, with respect to the identification of the country from which the inputs are imported ("imported from..."), which shall enter into force six months after their publication in the Diario Oficial.

(b) Provisions pertaining to the size or measurement of apparel items or accessories, which shall enter into force one year after publication. During the period prior to the entry into force of such provisions, traditional expressions based on everyday use and custom shall be accepted. Therefore, in this period and for these purposes, the use of units other than those in the General System of Units of Measure shall be permitted.

Mexico City, D.F., January 17, 1996

Ma. Eugenia Bracho González
Chief of the Bureau of Standards [initialed].

NOM-004-SCFI-1994
TRADE INFORMATION AND LABELING
OF TEXTILES, APPAREL, AND ACCESSORIES
AMENDS NOM-004-SCFI-1993

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 This Mexican Official Standard establishes the trade information that national manufacturers and makers of ready-to-wear clothing, and importers, must attach to textiles, household textiles, apparel, and accessories.

1.2 The trade information to which this Standard refers must be applied to textiles, apparel and accessories, and to household textiles made with textile products, even though they may contain plastics. In the case of imported products, this must be done prior to their admission into this country.

1.3 Those who in any way market the products included in this Standard must require their suppliers to ensure that the products display the trade information set forth herein.

1.4 The labeling of textiles and apparel encompasses four important types of information:

- I Information about the manufacturer and/or importer;
- II Fiber content;
- III Care instructions (maintenance and washing);
- IV Apparel size.

1.5 Electric blankets are exempt from this Standard.

2. References

To ensure the proper implementation of this Standard, the following current standards should be consulted:

- NMX-A-23 Outerwear for women and girls
- NMX-A-25 Outerwear. Hat sizes
- NMX-A-26 Outerwear. Children's sizes
- NMX-A-45 Outerwear. Men's and boys' sizes
- NMX-A-84 Quantitative analysis of textile materials
- NMX-A-93 Slip sizes
- NMX-A-95 Women's nylon panties
- NMX-A-99 Terminology and Classification of Textile Fibers
and Threads
- NMX-A-103 Petticoat sizes
- NMX-A-104 Blouse sizes
- NMX-A-105 Testing method for determining the shrinkage,
owing to washing, of preshrunk fabrics.
- NMX-A-107 Men's sport shirts
- ~~NMX-A-108 Skirt sizes~~
- NMX-A-115 Dress sizes for girls and young women
- NMX-A-116 Size measurements for girls' panties,
undershirts, slips, and dresses
- NMX-A-120 Infant wrap-style undershirt sizes
- NMX-A-121 Female infant dress sizes

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NMX-A-125 Testing method for determining the fastness of the color of textile materials subjected to dry cleaning

NMX-A-127 Testing method for assessing the recovery of creases in fabrics by use of a vertical tension device

NMX-A-149 Testing method for determining changes in measurement caused by dry cleaning

NMX-A-175 Permanent press in textile articles

NMX-A-182 Measurements of the human body

NMX-A-190 Determination of flame-resistance in textile products

NMX-A-191 Young men's pants sizes

NMX-A-193 Young women's pants sizes

NMX-A-208 Brassieres - specifications

NMX-A-240 Textile and clothing industry. Symbols used to indicate care and maintenance of clothing

NMX-A-243 Night clothes, and men and boys' shirts

NMX-A-244 Pantyhose. References for designating sizes

NMX-A-251 Night clothes, corsets, and women and girls' shirts. References for designating sizes

NOM-008-SCFI General System of Units of Measure.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Standard, the following definitions shall apply:

3.1 Accessory: an article used as a complement to the apparel or for ornamental purposes.

3.2 Manufacturer: the natural or juristic person responsible for a product; a merchant shall be considered the manufacturer of those products that display his trademark, even when he has ordered their full or partial production, the manufacture, or their finishing by a third party.

3.3 Input: the raw material likely to be used in the manufacture or production of textiles, household textiles, apparel and accessories, excluding those that are incorporated into the product from non-textile products for functional purposes, such as buttons, zippers, fasteners, etc.

3.4 Apparel: for purposes of this Standard, an article manufactured with textiles, the purpose of which is to cover part of the body, except footwear.

3.5 Textile: a product made by using natural, artificial, or synthetic fibers, including but not limited to, yarns, sewing threads, worsteds, fabrics, cashmeres, passementerie, laces, ribbons, embroidery, elastics and the like.

3.6 Label: any mark, sign, or device that is printed, woven, or stamped.

3.6.1 Permanent Label: a fabric label or any other type of label that will last at least as long as the product on which it is applied, sewn, or attached by

thermosetting or a similar process that guarantees its durability.

3.6.2 Temporary Label: a label made of any type of material, and which is removable.

3.7 Consumer: the natural or juristic person who purchases, makes, or enjoys as final consignee goods, products or services. Those who purchase, store, use or consume goods or services with the intent to incorporate them into the production, processing, marketing, or rendering of services to third parties shall not be considered to be consumers.

3.8 Household Textiles: articles made by using natural and/or artificial synthetic fibers that have a use different from that of apparel and that are designed to perform any of the following functions: protection, decoration or cleaning of homes and commercial or services establishments. These include but are not limited to, curtains, towels, carpets, blankets, bedspreads, etc.

4. Specifications

4.1 Trade information

4.1.1 Apparel and accessories and household textiles made with textile products, even if they contain plastics.

Apparel and accessories shall display, legibly, the following information on one or more permanent labels attached on the lower part of the collar or waist or in any

other visible location, in accordance with the characteristics of the apparel or accessory, in those cases and under the terms stipulated by this Standard:

- (a) Trademark
- (b) Description of inputs (percentage, in decreasing order)
- (c) Size, for apparel, or measurements for household textiles and textiles
- (d) Care instructions (in this case, symbols are permitted and need not include legends)
- (e) Country of origin
- (f) Name, designation or trade name, and federal tax register number of the manufacturer or importer.

The information under subsection (f) above must be displayed on any of the kinds of labels mentioned in Sections 3.6.1, 3.6.2, or on their closed packaging.

4.1.2 Textiles

Textiles and other goods not included in the above section must display the following information legibly, in those cases and under the terms stipulated by this Standard:

- (a) Description of inputs (percentage, in decreasing order)
- (b) Country of origin

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- (c) Name, designation or trade name, and federal tax register number of the manufacturer or importer.

The above information must be displayed in the manner specified in Sections 5.2.1, 5.2.2, or 5.2.3, as appropriate.

4.1.3 When the product is sold in closed packages that do not allow the contents to be seen, the package shall also indicate, in addition to the information listed in section 4.1.1 or 4.1.2, as applicable, a description of the product and the quantity contained therein.

4.1.4 The above information must appear in Spanish, under the terms of the Federal Consumer Protection Law.

4.1.5 When apparel is sold in pairs made of the same material, the label may be displayed on only one of the pieces.

4.1.6 When the product has a lining, the pertinent information must be indicated separately.

4.2 Trademarks

The product's trademark must be indicated. When the manufacturer or importer of the products to which this Standard refers uses a trademark different from his own name, designation, or trade name, he must include the designation by which he is known as the supplier of the product.

4.3 Description of inputs

For the purposes of this Standard, the national manufacturer or maker of ready-to-wear clothing, or the importer shall list the inputs as percentages of the volume of the various fibers constituting the product, in decreasing order, as indicated below:

4.3.1 The fibers, where applicable, must be designated in accordance with NMX-A-99 (see section on references).

4.3.2 Any fiber that constitutes five percent or more of the total shall be listed by its generic name.

The trade name or registered trademark of a fiber may be used if authorization from the license holder has been obtained, as long as it is used in conjunction with the generic name of the fiber and appears in letters of equal size.

4.3.3 Fibers constituting less than five percent of the total may be designated as "others."

4.3.4 For textiles composed of two or more fibers, each fiber constituting at least five percent of the total shall be mentioned until 100 percent is accounted for.

4.3.5 Whenever textiles, apparel, or accessories have been manufactured or produced with scraps, surplus, different lots, or textile by-products that are unknown or whose origin cannot be demonstrated, the percentage

of fibers falling under this category shall be indicated or, otherwise, an inscription reading "... (percentage) of regenerated fibers" shall be included.

4.3.6 When regenerated fibers or blends of those and other virgin or regenerated fibers are used, the percentage and generic names of each fiber constituting the product shall be indicated, with the word "regenerated" accompanying the name of the fiber.

4.3.7 The terms "virgin" or "new" shall only be used when all the fibers constituting the textile are new or virgin.

4.3.8 When referring to fibers constituting a textile, no names of any animals whatsoever shall be used, unless the fiber or textile is manufactured with fur taken from the hide of the animal in question. A combination of words that imply or tend to infer the existence of components derived from the hide or fur of any animal or from any animal product shall be prohibited.

4.3.9 A three percent tolerance shall be permitted with regard to inputs of textiles, household textiles, and apparel and accessories, when expressed as a percentage, except in the case where expressions such as "100% pure," or "all," are used when referring to the product inputs. Said tolerance shall be considered on the basis of the

volume of each of the fibers or inputs, rather than on total product volume, except for purposes of sections 4.3.10 and 4.3.11 of this Standard.

4.3.10 A three percent tolerance considered on the basis of total product volume, rather than on the volume of each of the fibers or inputs that compose it, shall be permitted in the following cases:

- (a) Elastic bands
- (b) Stockings and pantyhose whose manufacture includes inputs made of elastomeric fibers of natural or synthetic origin
- (c) Braiding, yarn, sewing thread, or fancy threads

4.3.11 Apparel inputs that were included solely for ornamental, protective, or structural purposes shall be shown on the label when their volume exceeds five percent of the total volume of the product or their area exceeds 15 percent of its total surface area.

4.4 Sizes and measurements

4.4.1 Apparel sizes must be expressed in Spanish, without prejudice to any other language (see NMX-A-23; NMX-A-25; NMX-A-26; NMX-A-45; NMX-A-93; NMX-A-95; NMX-A-103; NMX-A-104; NMX-A-107; NMX-A-108; NMX-A-115; NMX-A-116; NMX-A-120; NMX-A-121; NMX-A-191; NMX-A-193; NMX-A-208; NMX-A-243; NMX-A-244; and NMX-A-251).

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4.4.2 Measurements of household textiles must be expressed in accordance with the General System of Units of Measure (See NOM-008-SCFI).

4.4.3 Measurements of textiles must be expressed in accordance with the General System of Units of Measure (See NOM-008-SCFI).

4.5 Instructions for care

Apparel and accessories shall display information as to the proper treatment and instructions for care and preservation of the product, which shall include the following:

4.5.1 Washing:

- (a) By hand, by machine, dry-cleaning, or special process, or recommendation against any of these washing methods
- (b) Water temperature
- (c) With soap or detergent

4.5.2 Drying:

- (a) Wring or do not wring
- (b) Sun or shade
- (c) Line dry or dry flat
- (d) Use or do not use special equipment, home or industrial dryer
- (f) Specific dryer temperature or cycle recommendations.

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4.5.3 Ironing:

- (a) With warm, hot, or steam iron, or recommendation against ironing
- (b) Special conditions, if any.

4.5.4 Bleaching: use or non-use of chlorine compounds or other whiteners

4.5.5 Special recommendations, with specific mention of any inherent tendency to shrink or become misshapen, and instructions for dealing with such conditions.

4.5.6 The instructions for care and maintenance of the product must be indicated by means of brief, clear language or by the symbols set forth in reference NMX-A-240.

4.6 Country of Origin

Information on the country of origin shall be subject to the following rules:

4.6.1 When the finished product and all inputs were manufactured or produced in the same country, the expression "made in ... (country of origin)" shall be used.

4.6.2 When the product was manufactured in Mexico with inputs from another country, the statement shall read "made in Mexico with ... (description of inputs) imported from ... (country of origin)."

4.6.3 When the product was manufactured in one country with inputs from another country, the statement shall read "made in ... (country of manufacture) with ... (description of inputs) imported from ... (country of origin)."

4.6.4 When the manufacturing process took place in two or more countries, that part of the process that took place in the last two countries shall be indicated, with descriptions such as "finished in ... (country) with imported material," or "manufactured in ... (country)," or any other phrase that briefly describes the manufacturing process.

4.7 Finishes

When information on the product's finish is used, it shall be accompanied by the name of the process, using, for example, terms such as "waterproofed, preshrunk, mercerized, flame retardant," etc. (See NMX-A-105; NMX-A-125; NMX-A-127; NMX-A-149; NMX-A-175; and NMX-A-190.)

4.8 The word "handmade" may be used only when the product has been manufactured or produced completely by hand.

The indication "handmade" shall be accompanied by the description of that part of the process done by hand, i.e., "hand-sewn."

5. Labeling

5.1 Apparel and accessories, and household textiles.

5.1.1 Apparel and accessories:

Apparel and accessories must incorporate information as indicated in section 4.1.1 and, in the case of imported products, this must be done prior to their admission into this country.

5.1.2 Household textiles:

For the following articles, the information required by Section 4.1.1 must be displayed on a permanent label (see section 3.6.1) affixed, in the case of imported products, prior to their admission into this country:

- (a) Sheets
- (b) Blankets and coverlets, except electric blankets
- (c) Bedspreads
- (d) Tablecloths
- (e) Place mats
- (f) Napkins
- (g) Protectors
- (h) Tablecoverings
- (i) Ready-made curtains
- (j) Towels
- (k) Mattresses and box springs made or upholstered with textiles.

5.1.3 In the following cases, the information required in 4.1.1 must appear on the box, container, package or

wrapper in which the product is sold:

- (a) Pantyhose
- (b) Stockings and knee-high stockings
- (c) Socks and knee socks
- (d) Any other product for which attaching the label directly thereto would be prejudicial to the use or to the esthetic or monetary value of the product owing to its fragility.

5.2 Textiles and other products made with fibers or fabrics.

5.2.1 For the following products, the information to which section 4.1.2 refers must be displayed on a permanent label (see 3.6.1) which, in the case of imported products, is incorporated prior to their admission into this country. As an alternative, this information may also be embroidered or printed on the product.

- (a) Bolts of fabric, not longer than five meters, prepared for retail sale and containing 45 percent or more of combed wool (cashmere yard goods)
- (b) Handbags
- (c) Suitcases
- (d) Coin purses
- (e) Wallets

- (f) Cases
- (g) Knapsacks
- (h) Handkerchiefs
- (i) Umbrellas and sunshades
- (j) Seat covers
- (k) Covers for electric and other home appliances
- (l) Ironing board covers
- (m) Heat protectors and oven mitts for household use
- (n) Bathroom fixture covers
- (ñ) Covers for furniture
- (o) Cushions
- (p) Toys made of or lined with textile materials
- (q) Articles for cleaning
- (r) Diapers
- (s) Canvasses for painters.

5.2.2 The information referred to in 4.1.2 must be displayed on temporary labels affixed or tied to the product, in the following cases:

- (a) Woven and non-woven fabrics, regardless of type
- (b) Carpets, and carpet pads made of textile materials
- (c) Wigs

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- (d) Articles for hair (except those which, owing to their small size, must be packed in bulk)
- (e) Bow-ties
- (f) Disposable items intended to be used only once.

5.2.3 The information referred to in section 4.1.2 must be displayed on the spool, container, package, wrapper, or skein or other presentation in which the product is offered, in the following cases:

- (a) Threads and yarn
- (b) Worsted yarn for hand knitting
- (c) Pieces or rolls of any length of lace, embroidered strips, ribbons, shoelaces, belts, articles for the hair, elastics, textile labels in rolls or in bulk, and other articles of passementerie having a width of up to 30 cms.

5.3 When sets are sold that include different ~~products that are~~ subject to this Standard, each of them must comply with it individually.

6. Enforcement

6.1 Enforcement of the proper application of this Standard is the responsibility of competent authorities.

7. Bibliography

NOM-2-13-1977, Guide for the Drafting, Organization, and Presentation of Mexican Official Standards.

8. Conformity With International Standards

This Standard cannot be aligned with any international standard inasmuch as no references existed at the time of its drafting.

Done at Mexico City, D.F., on January 17, 1996.

Ma. Eugenia Bracho González
Chief of the Bureau of Standards [initialed].