



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

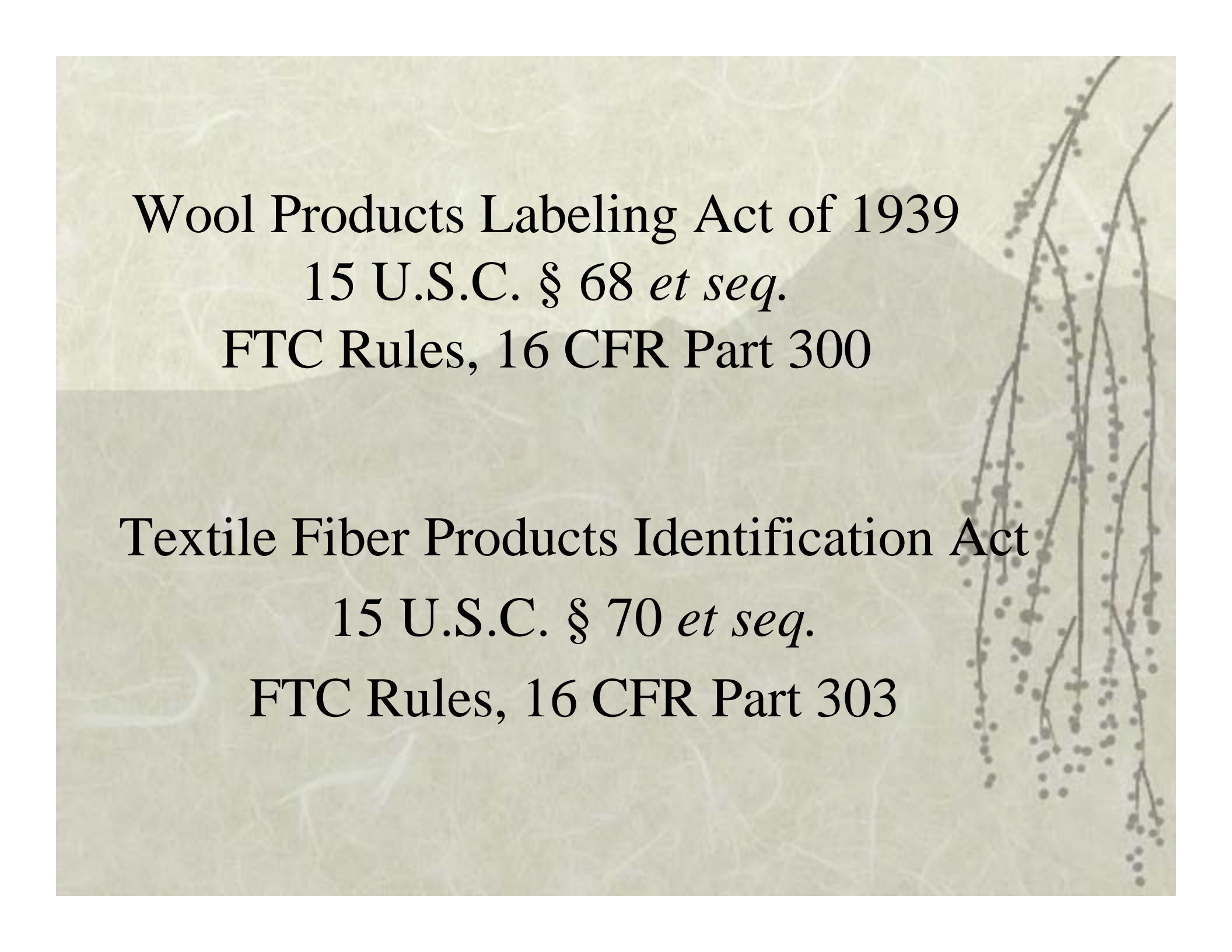
Conference on
Cashmere Labeling



*Wool & Textile Product
Labeling Requirements*

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Division of Enforcement

The background of the slide features a close-up, textured view of wool fibers in shades of beige and cream. On the right side, there is a faint, dark silhouette of a sheep's head and neck, looking towards the left. The overall aesthetic is natural and wool-related.

Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939

15 U.S.C. § 68 *et seq.*

FTC Rules, 16 CFR Part 300

Textile Fiber Products Identification Act

15 U.S.C. § 70 *et seq.*

FTC Rules, 16 CFR Part 303

The Wool Act

❖ Covers products that contain *Any* amount of wool or recycled wool

- Clothing
- Blankets
- Fabrics & Yarns
- All wool products not specifically excluded

❖ Exclusions

- Carpets, rugs & mats
- Upholsteries
- Wool products made for export



Wool

- ❖ **WOOL** Includes Fiber Made From:
 - Fleece of Sheep or Lamb
 - Hair of Cashmere or Angora Goat, Camel, Alpaca, Llama & Vicuna
- ❖ *PASHMINA* is NOT a recognized fiber

Recycled Wool

- ❖ Recycled wool – must be labeled *recycled*
 1. wool returned to a fibrous state after having been **woven or felted** into a product **whether or not used by a consumer**
 2. wool returned to a fibrous state after having been **spun or knitted** into a product **that was used by a consumer**

Who is covered by the Wool Act

- ❖ Manufacturers
- ❖ Importers
- ❖ Wholesale Distributors
- ❖ Retailers

Three Label Requirements

- ❖ Fiber Content
- ❖ Name of Manufacturer, Importer or Seller or RN issued by the FTC
- ❖ Country of Origin

Fiber Content Label

- ❖ List generic fiber names & % in descending order of predominance by weight
- ❖ Fiber that is less than 5% of fiber weight is listed as *Other Fiber*
 - But, any amount of wool must be stated (even if less than 5%)
 - other fibers under 5% can be named if they have a functional significance at that amount

Fiber Content Label

- ❖ Generic names for manmade fibers are those that have been recognized by the FTC in § 303.7 of the Textile Rules or recognized by the ISO
- ❖ Trim & ornamentation excluded from fiber disclosure – unless made of wool

Specialty Wool Fibers

❖ **Can** be named, with the % stated

- Cashmere
- Mohair
- Camel hair
- Alpaca
- Llama
- Vicuna



❖ If recycled the word *Recycled* must be used

Full Fiber Content Disclosure

- ❖ **Must** be made whenever the specialty fiber is named in *any* label on the garment
- ❖ Example of what not to do
 - Content Label states:
 - 90% wool
 - 10% cashmere
 - While Sleeve Label or Hang Tag states:
 - “Fine Cashmere Blend”
- ❖ For the garment to be properly labeled, the actual content would have to be repeated on the sleeve label or hang tag

Label must have Business Name or RN

- ❖ Must name manufacturer, importer, or other seller, or, state the RN
- ❖ Any business in the U.S. chain of distribution or a foreign manufacturer
- ❖ RNs available only to U.S. businesses
- ❖ RN Application information must be kept up to date

RN Database -- ONLINE

- ❖ Entire searchable database available 24/7
- ❖ Easy online application and update service
- ❖ Usually less than 3 day turnaround on applications
- ❖ GO TO: www.ftc.gov

Country of Origin Label

- ❖ “Made in USA” – only if made in the U.S. of materials also made in the U.S.
- ❖ Imports – name of country where manufactured or processed
- ❖ “Made in USA of imported fabric”
- ❖ “Made in China, finished in USA”
 - Processing in both countries
- ❖ Label must comply with both FTC & U.S. Customs requirements

Placement of Label & Information

- ❖ Country of origin must be on front of a label on the inside center of the neck
- ❖ Fiber & Manufacturer or Seller ID
 - Front or back of label
 - Placed anywhere that is clear, conspicuous & readily accessible
- ❖ One label or separate labels for disclosures
- ❖ Information can be on the Care Label
- ❖ Need not be permanent label (except for care instructions)

Catalogs

- ❖ Mail Order catalogs & Mail Order promotional materials must give Origin
- ❖ “Made in USA”
- ❖ “Imported”
- ❖ “Made in USA and Imported” or “Made in USA or Imported”
- ❖ *Includes Online Catalogs*



Advertising

- ❖ Wool Act – Does not address advertising
- ❖ Textile Act
 - If ad names or implies a particular fiber, the complete fiber content must be disclosed as on the label, but % of each fiber need not be given
 - Use generic fiber names
- ❖ Section 5 of the FTC Act prohibits deceptive practices in commerce -- Applies to any textile product, including wool

Separate & Continuing Guaranties

- ❖ Guaranty from a U.S. seller to a buyer that the goods are not misbranded under the Textile Act or Wool Act
- ❖ Separate Guaranty – Applies only to that transaction
- ❖ Continuing Guaranty – Applies to all goods subject to the Wool and/or Textile Act manufactured or marketed by guarantor
- ❖ Can be filed with the FTC (form available on website)

Benefit of a Guaranty to the Buyer

❖ A Guaranty is a Legal Defense

- A business that, in good faith, relies on a guaranty will not be found in violation of the law if the textile or wool products are subsequently determined to be mislabeled
- Reliance on the guaranty must be in good faith – the buyer cannot ignore evidence that otherwise indicates inaccurate labeling