

IMPORT LABELLING REQUIREMENTS:

The Consumer Protection Act (CPA) was enacted in order to:

- promote and protect the economic interests of consumers;
- improve access to, and the quality of information that is necessary so that
- consumers are able to make informed choices according to their individual wishes and needs;
- protect consumers from hazards to their well-being and safety;
- develop effective means of redress for consumers.

Section 24 of this Act addresses the requirements placed entirely on the importers who intend to bring textiles into the Republic. The Section looks at the Product Labelling and trade description. We have received a question from an importer who intends importing some goods from India into South Africa.

QUESTION:

We intend importing full grain leather belts from India to South Africa.

What 'care labels' do we need on the product?

Any other info we adhere to?

ANSWER:

Please be advised that the Consumer Protection Act and Regulations labelling requirements apply only to those Goods as listed in annexure "D" of the Regulations.

You need to determine if the Goods sought to be imported fall within the 3 categories listed therein, namely:

1. Textiles as listed in the following chapters of the Harmonized Customs

Tariff:

- 1.1 Chapter 50 (**SILK**);
- 1.2 Chapter 51 (**WOOL, FINE OR COARSE ANIMAL HAIR; HORSEHAIR YARN AND WOVEN FABRIC**);
- 1.3 Chapter 52 (**COTTON**);

- 1.4 Chapter 53 (OTHER VEGETABLE TEXTILE FIBRES; PAPER YARN AND WOVEN FABRICS OF PAPER YARN);
- 1.5 Chapter 54 (MAN-MADE FILAMENTS; STRIP AND THE LIKE OF MAN-MADE TEXTILE MATERIALS);
- 1.6 Chapter 55 (MAN-MADE STAPLE FIBRES);
- 1.7 Chapter 56 (WADDING, FELT AND NONWOVENS; SPECIAL YARNS; TWINE, CORDAGE, ROPES AND CABLES AND ARTICLES THEREOF);
- 1.8 Chapter 57 (CARPETS AND OTHER TEXTILE FLOOR COVERINGS);
- 1.9 Chapter 58 (SPECIAL WOVEN FABRICS; TUFTED TEXTILE FABRICS; LACE; TAPESTRIES; TRIMMINGS; EMBROIDERY);
- 1.10 Chapter 59 (IMPREGNATED, COATED, COVERED OR LAMINATED TEXTILE FABRICS; TEXTILE ARTICLES OF A KIND SUITABLE FOR INDUSTRIAL USE);
- 1.11 Chapter 60 (KNITTED OR CROCHETED FABRICS); and
- 1.12 Chapter 63 (OTHER MADE UP TEXTILE ARTICLES; SETS; WORN CLOTHING AND WORN TEXTILE ARTICLES; RAGS).

2. Clothing as listed in the following chapters of the Harmonized Customs Tariff:

- 2.1 Chapter 61 (ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES, KNITTED OR CROCHETED);
- 2.2 Chapter 62 (ARTICLES OF APPAREL AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES, NOT KNITTED OR CROCHETED); and
- 2.3 Chapter 65 (HEADGEAR AND PARTS THEREOF);

3. Shoes and leather goods as listed in the following chapters of the Harmonized Customs Tariff:

- 3.1 Chapter 42 (ARTICLES OF LEATHER; SADDLERY AND HARNESS; TRAVEL GOODS, HANDBAGS AND SIMILAR CONTAINERS; ARTICLES OF ANIMAL GUT (OTHER THAN SILK-WORM GUT);
- 3.2 Chapter 43 (FURSKINS AND ARTIFICIAL FUR; MANUFACTURES THEREOF); and
- 3.3 Chapter 64 (FOOTWEAR, GAITERS AND THE LIKE; PARTS OF SUCH ARTICLES).

If the Goods do not fall under the above category, the CPA and Regulations do not apply. However, this does not absolve an importer from the obligations of also complying with the

provisions of other legislation relating to the importation of goods into the Republic of South Africa.

If the Goods fall within the above category, the Consumer Protection Act and Regulations require that a label be applied to the Goods in a conspicuous and easily legible manner stating:

- A. The Country in which they were manufactured, produced or adapted; and
- B. The goods have to conform to the South African national standards for fibre content and care labelling.

The fibre content and care labelling requirements are contained in SANS 10235:2007 (Fibre Content labelling of textile & textile products) and SANS 10011:2007 (Care labelling of textile piece goods, textile articles and clothing). Both these documents can be obtained from SABS.

Importers, manufactures and suppliers when selling or importing clothing, textiles, textile products, shoes and leather into South Africa, have an obligation to ensure that the merchandise or goods have in English a label sewn on, printed on legibly and conspicuously on, or securely attached to them

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