Mexican and Central American Labeling Rules

Mexico recently made changes to their fiber labeling requirements. Mexico also proposed changes to their care labeling law. In addition, the Council of Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (COMIECO) changed their fiber labeling law to follow the Mexican NOM-004-SCFI-2006.

Mexico

Fiber Content Labeling:

Background:
Mexico requires that all apparel, apparel accessories, home textiles and other textiles are to be labeled in accordance to the Official Mexican Standard NOM-004-SCFI-2006. When a Mexican NOM refers to a standard (NMX), the standard in effect becomes mandatory. NOM-004-SCFI-2006 refers to two standards that were revised in November 2014.

A summary of the two new Mexican Standards for labelling of textile products is as follows:

- **NMX-A-2076-INNTEX-2013 “Textiles - Chemical fibers – Generic names”** (supersedes NMX-A-099-INNTEX-2007). The standard lists the generic names that must be used for chemical fibers (also known as synthetic, manufactured or man-made fibers). This standard is fully consistent with the International Standard ISO 2076:2010 "Textile-Man-made fibers- Generic names”. The major change in this new standard from the old standard is that the generic names for chemical fibers must be written without capital letters (in all lower case letters).
- **NMX-A-6938-INNTEX-2013 “Textiles – Natural fibers – Generic names and Definitions”** (supersedes NMX-A-099-INNTEX-2007). The Standard provides generic names and definitions for natural fibers. The standard provides a list of common names, as well as the generic name. This standard is consistent with the International Standard ISO 6938:2012 “Textile-Natural fibers-Generic names and Definitions”. When this update was initially released, guidance indicated that natural fiber names needed to be written in all capital letters. However, recently the Dirección General de Normas in Mexico has advised that natural fiber names on fiber content labels may be listed in all capital letters, all lower case letters, or with the first letter capitalized and the rest in lower case under the new rules. This will be noted in a next NOM edition.

Effective date for the above is: September 9, 2015

Mexico Care Labeling:

Dirección General de Normas (DGN) has published a notice inviting interested parties to comment by Aug. 29 on a proposed modification to textile labeling standard NMX-A-240-INNTEX-2009, which standardizes the use of care symbols used in care labels. Mexico is proposing to cancel this standard and replace it with an updated standard (NMX-A-3758-INNTEX-2014). If interested in reviewing the complete document, one may do so by visiting DGN’s offices in Mexico City or request a copy from Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Normalización Textil (INNTEX).

Central America Textile Products Labeling

The Council of Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (COMIECO) recently enacted RTCA 59.01.08:12, which establishes labeling requirements for textiles and textile products. The “Central American Technical Regulation” was created for the countries of Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
The Technical Regulation states that RTCA 59.01.08:12 is an adaptation of Mexico's NOM-004-SCFI-2006, Trade Information and Labeling of Textiles, Apparel, and Accessories. This Resolution to follow the labeling requirements of NOM-004-SCFI-2006 for the COMIECO countries took effect on July 23, 2015.

Recommended Action:

If selling textile products in Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, or Nicaragua; retailers and brands need to ensure their labels comply with the above requirements.

Bureau Veritas Assistance:

If you have any comments and/or questions, please contact your customer service representative or email: info@us.bureauveritas.com

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