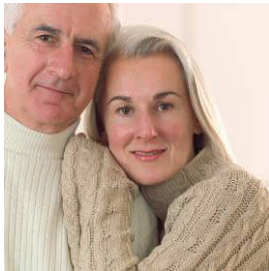


## Is your cashmere label legally correct ?

*US Government has recently amended the labeling requirements for Wool and Cashmere products by introducing the new "Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act". The newly established labeling regulation was enacted to amend the "The Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939" with more precise definitions of cashmere and superfine wool.*

The new law will not only protect consumers from deceptive labels, but manufacturers also benefit in having clear guidelines to prevent potential violation or product recall by the Federal Trade Commission. All the cashmere and wool products manufactured **on or after 1st January, 2007** must comply with the act.



Cashmere was previously defined simply as "hair or fleece from the genuine Cashmere goat". In the latest regulation additional diameter measurements were set: the mean fiber diameter must be less than 19 microns; the coarse hair (exceeding 30 microns) must be less than 3% by weight of the product; and the coefficient variation of diameter has to be less than 24%.

Labeling Guideline	The Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939	New Statute - 15 U.S.C. 68b (6)
<b>Cashmere</b>	Fiber content of a product containing hair or fleece of the Cashmere Goat.	<p>Fiber from the fine undercoat of Cashmere Goat (<i>Capra hircus laniger</i>)</p> <p>Average fiber diameter less than 19 microns</p> <p>Less than 3% by weight of product has fibers with diameter exceeding 30 microns</p> <p>Coefficient of variation of diameter around the mean must not exceed 24 percentage</p>

## Complying with the Act

An appropriate quality system to assist in complying with the Act would involve the identification of both raw and processed speciality animal fibres to avoid using contaminated mixtures or to detect false declarations. Cashmere in particular is expensive and yet heavily in demand, and it is consequently frequently found to be compromised by the inclusion of much cheaper fibres such as sheep's wool or yak hair.



The most common tools in animal fiber identification are optical and scanning electron microscopy, as specialty fibers are difficult to distinguish by chemical methods. Expert microscopists need extensive training and have to rely on measurements of the physical characteristics of the fiber such as internal morphology, fibre diameter and cuticle scale dimensions. Animal fiber microscopists need to be supported by their own quality systems that include interlab correlation trials to ensure that their performance is reliable.



**SGS Cashmere Labs**, located in U.K., Hong Kong and Shanghai, are all approved by the *"Cashmere & Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute, (CCMI)"*.

With the experience, qualifications and reputation of our experts, we offer a highly competent analysis service to assure that products meet the labeling regulation.

### For enquiries:

Global Competences Support Centre, [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)

HK – Ruth Hon, ☎ +852 2774 7148 or ✉: [cashmere.hongkong@sgs.com](mailto:cashmere.hongkong@sgs.com)

UK – Liqin Zhang, ☎ +44 1274 760 400 or ✉: [cashmere.europe@sgs.com](mailto:cashmere.europe@sgs.com)

CN – Mary Xu, ☎ +86 21 64951616 – ext. 501 or ✉: [mary.xu@sgs.com](mailto:mary.xu@sgs.com)

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 ✉ [mktg.hk@sgs.com](mailto:mktg.hk@sgs.com)

Europe – London –UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 ✉ [ukenquiries@sgs.com](mailto:ukenquiries@sgs.com)

Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 225 0024 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 ✉ [sgs.turkey@sgs.com](mailto:sgs.turkey@sgs.com)

Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 ✉ [Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com](mailto:Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com)

Web: [www.sgs.com](http://www.sgs.com) Global Competences Support Centre: ✉ [gcsc@sgs.com](mailto:gcsc@sgs.com)

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