

FY2003 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Socks labeled 100% cotton or 100% silk”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2003, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Socks labeled 100% cotton or 100% silk” to confirm their compliance with the quality labeling regulations for textile goods (hereinafter referred as “labeling regulations”) under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law.

NITE purchased 16 pairs of sample socks; 12 brands labeled “100% cotton” and 4 brands labeled “100% silk” available in the market for the test.

Following results, 11 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations; 10 samples for fabric composition and 1 sample for labeler’s name and contact.

The table below shows details of the identified noncompliance items.

Particulars to be declared	Noncompliant item	Number of samples (*)
Fabric composition	The fibers used to increase the efficacy of specific parts accounted for more than 5% of total composition. (*)	10
	< Ratio of the fiber >	
	● Over 5% and less than 10%	7
	● 10% - 20%	2
	● 20% and over	1
Labeler’s name	The labeler’s official name was not indicated. Labeler’s contact was displayed improperly.	1

(*Note) Section 2, Article 7 of the labeling regulations defines “in determining the composition ratio of textile goods, labelers may exclude the fibers or fabrics used to increase the efficacy of specific parts such as embroidery, reinforcement or piping, when they account for 5% or less of total composition”. Fabric composition must be labeled when the ratios of these fibers exceed 5%.

Fibers used to increase the efficacy of specific parts include embroidery thread for leg parts, threads reinforcing rubber thread used at the elastic parts, and reinforcing thread used at heels, toes and soles, etc.

NITE presented the test results to noncompliant labelers and conducted hearings with them for their opinions and measures to be taken. The results of the hearings, together with the test results, were reported to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Based on the test results, METI has given administrative guidance to the relevant labelers.