Recent international research has shown that prolonged exposure of the skin to the sun causing by ultraviolet radiation produce both short and long term harmful effects. However, these harmful effects can be significantly reduced by clothing. The level of protection offered by clothes varies considerably with respect to the fabric properties and the design of the garments.

BS EN 13758-2:2003+A1:2006 "Textiles - Solar UV protective properties - Part 2: Classification and marking of apparel" specifies the requirements for marking of clothing which are designed to offer the wearer protection against ultraviolet radiation exposure. This standard endeavours to strike a compromise over a number of conflicting aspects: protection, marketability, and comfort.

UV protection of garments for which compliance with this standard is claimed must fulfill all stringent instructions of testing, classification and marking, including

a) **Materials** used for the clothing assembly shall have a UV protection factor (UPF) larger than 40 UPF (40+), average UVA transmission lower than 5% according to BS EN 13758-1 - Part 1: Method of test for apparel fabrics.

b) **Garment Design** requirements as specified in part 2 of the standard. UV clothing designed requirement to offer protection to the upper and / or lower body should cover the respective part completely.

c) **Marking and Labelling.** UV protection clothing which complies with the standard.

- Shall permanently be marked/labeled with (i) the number of the standard i.e. BS EN 13758-2. (ii) UPF 40+.
- Shall be marked with a Pictogram (sun yellow with Pantone Process Yellow CVU or white), shading, outline and characters shall be black (Pantone Black 6 CVP) with a minimum 10 point font size,
- Shall be marked with wordings "Sun exposure causes skin damage", "Only covered areas are protected" and "The protection offered by this item may be reduced with use or if stretched or wet.".
Can be marked with the wording "provides UVA + UVB protection from the sun".

It is recommended that a small leaflet is attached to the garment to explain the danger of UV radiation exposure and the ability of the garment to reduce this exposure.

It is important for suppliers to accurately classify the solar protective properties for apparel fabrics, assess garment design according to the requirements and evaluate marking/labeling with the standard. Testing & evaluating garments for compliance with the standard may be the only way to do this.

The Solution

Intertek Hong Kong is pleased to announce that the classification and marking review for textile apparel compliance to the standard BS EN 13758-2:2003+A1:2006 can be conducted from August 2012.

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