



From 1 May 2008, clothing sold in the Netherlands must meet minimum burning behaviour requirements. On behalf of a number of organisations, MODINT, the Dutch Clothing Association has entered into the following agreements with the government regarding these requirements.

Fabric requirements

Fabric used to make clothing sold in the Netherlands should be able to pass a flammability test. This test is to be performed according to the American ASTM D1230 standard. At one second of flame contact time, the flame spread over 127 mm may not be shorter than 4 seconds.

If an item of clothing is made of several layers, the requirements apply to the fabric(s) that form the outer layer and not to the linings, etc.

Based on results obtained in the United States (USA) with testing and assessing clothing materials, the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) assumes that the following certain types of fabric meet these requirements:

- a) Fabrics with a smooth (not roughened) surface with a mass (weight per m²) of more than 88 grams, regardless of the type of fibres it is made of.
- b) All fabrics (both smooth and roughened and regardless of the weight per m²) if entirely made of one of the following fibres or a combination of these fibres: acrylic, modacrylic, nylon, olefin, polyester and wool.

Clothing sales requirements in the Netherlands

From 1 May 2008, clothing made of all types of fabric other than those mentioned above under a and b may only be sold in the Netherlands if a test report or a supplier's certificate can prove that the requirements have been met.

The party responsible for marketing the clothing items in the Netherlands remains responsible for meeting the requirements and for the accuracy of the documents in question.

The requirements apply to women's wear, menswear, children's wear and baby clothes (size 80 and up), as well as to sportswear and (textile) accessories such as scarves.

Extra attention for roughened materials

Based on results obtained in the USA with testing and assessing clothing materials, it is important to pay special attention to the burning behaviour of roughened materials such as fleece.

Exempted categories

There are no requirements for the following categories of clothing: undergarments, baby clothing (up to size 80), swimwear and hosiery. Nightwear is subject to the following requirements.



Nightwear

The current requirements for nightwear as stipulated in the 1997 Covenant on Fire Safety for Nightwear remain in full force. When the European standard (now being developed) for burning behaviour of children's nightwear comes into force, the relevant requirements in the Covenant on Fire Safety for Nightwear will no longer apply.