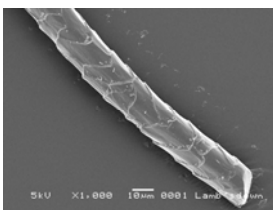


What is Superfine Wool ? How fine it is ?

Superfine wool is a unique luxury fibre that meets all of the demands of elegant, casual and tailored wear for men, women & babies. Owing to the fineness, it also provides the right combination of softness, comfort and performance in fine knitwear. Generally, finer wool produces a softer hand and a more luxurious garment.

In order to identify the fineness of wool fibers, many wool products are now labeled as 'Super 80s,' 'Super 90s,' or such designation through 'Super 250s.' In 2006, the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) finalised the definitions that codify the maximum fibre diameters each level of 'Super' designation should contain.

Recently, the United States congress has approved amendment to the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 - Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act. The purpose of this amendment is to revise the labeling requirements for certain wool and cashmere products manufactured on or after January 1, 2007



The Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act corresponds with the "Super S" code of practice adopted by IWTO.

The Act gives clear definition of the fineness limits of each category of superfine wool and protects consumers from deceptively-labeled wool products by establishing a legal standard.

Please also read to our SafeGuards 009/07 dated February 2007 « *Is your Cashmere label legally correct ?* »

http://newsletter.sgs.com/eNewsletterPro/uploadedimages/000006/SafeGuards_00907_Cashmere.pdf

Further detail can be found from the table below:

<i>Codified Designations of Superfine wool</i>	<i>Corresponding mean fiber diameter</i>
'Super 80's' or '80's'	19.75 microns or finer
'Super 90's' or '90's'	19.25 microns or finer
'Super 100's' or '100's'	18.75 microns or finer
'Super 110's' or '110's'	18.25 microns or finer
'Super 120's' or '120's'	17.75 microns or finer
'Super 130's' or '130's'	17.25 microns or finer
'Super 140's' or '140's'	16.75 microns or finer
'Super 150's' or '150's'	16.25 microns or finer
'Super 160's' or '160's'	15.75 microns or finer
'Super 170's' or '170's'	15.25 microns or finer
'Super 180's' or '180's'	14.75 microns or finer
'Super 190's' or '190's'	14.25 microns or finer
'Super 200s' or '200s'	13.75 microns or finer
'Super 210s' or '210s'	13.25 microns or finer
'Super 220s' or '220s'	12.75 microns or finer
'Super 230s' or '230s'	12.25 microns or finer
'Super 240s' or '240s'	11.75 microns or finer
'Super 250s' or '250s'	11.25 microns or finer

The newly-established labeling regulation will benefit both consumers and manufacturers. Consumers can use the "Super" grade as a quality indicator during purchase, and manufacturers can avoid potential violation or recall by using the correct labeling.

Tests to verify compliance should only be carried out by qualified laboratories.

Both the *Cashmere and Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute (CCMI)* and *IWTO* publish lists of appropriately-qualified labs on their websites. The tests that must be used to determine Mean Fibre Diameter values can be performed using projection microscope (IWTO -8 or ASTM D2130) on wool or wool blend fabrics, or Laserscan (IWTO-12 or ASTM D6544) on pure wool fabrics. **SGS can provide such services through its Cashmere Labs in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Bradford, or Wool Testing Services laboratory in Wellington, New Zealand.**

For enquiries:

Global Competences Support Centre, gcsc@sgs.com
 US—Louann Spirito, ☎ +973 575 5252 or ✉: Louann.spirito@sgs.com
 HK—Ruth Hon, ☎ +852 2774 7148 or ✉: cashmere.hongkong@sgs.com
 UK—Liqin Zhang, ☎ +44 1274 760 400 or ✉: cashmere.europe@sgs.com
 CN—Mary Xu, ☎ +86 21 64951616—ext. 501 or ✉: mary.xu@sgs.com

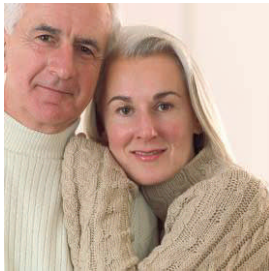
© 2007 SGS. All rights reserved. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 ✉ mktg.hk@sgs.com
 Europe – London –UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 ✉ gb.cts.sales@sgs.com
 Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 225 0024 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 ✉ sgs.turkey@sgs.com
 Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 ✉ Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com
 Web: www.sgs.com Global Competences Support Centre: ✉ gcsc@sgs.com
 If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: [Unsubscribe](#)

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)
Cashmere	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

HK – Ruth Hon, ☎ +852 2774 7148 or ✉: cashmere.hongkong@sgs.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Web: www.sgs.com Global Competences Support Centre: ✉ gcsc@sgs.com

If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: [Unsubscribe](#)

© 2007 SGS. All rights reserved. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.