

Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (TFPIA)—short guide*

The **Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (TFPIA)**, often referred to as the "Textile Act" or "Textile Fiber Rule," is a US federal law enforced by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) that mandates accurate labeling of textile products. It ensures consumers know the fiber content, country of origin, and manufacturer of the goods they purchase. Here is a comprehensive company guide to TFPIA compliance.

1. Covered Products

The TFPIA applies to most household textile products, including:

- **Apparel:** Clothing and accessories.
- **Bedding:** Sheets, blankets, comforters, pillowcases, mattress pads.
- **Towels:** Bath towels, washcloths, beach towels, kitchen towels.
- **Window Treatments:** Curtains, draperies, valances.
- **Table Linens:** Tablecloths, napkins, placemats.
- **Floor Coverings:** Rugs and carpets with textile surfaces.
- **Furniture Covers:** Slipcovers, furniture throws.

2. Mandatory Label Information

Labels must be clearly legible, conspicuous, and attached securely to remain on the product until it reaches the final consumer. The following information is required:

- **Fiber Content:** Generic names and percentages by weight of constituent fibers (e.g., 50% Cotton, 50% Polyester).
 - Fibers must be listed in descending order of predominance.
 - Any fiber under 5% should be listed as "other fiber(s)" unless it has a functional significance.—like adding stretch.
 - Specific rules apply for "ornamentation" (less than 5% and for decoration).
- **Country of Origin:** The country where the product was processed or manufactured.
 - If manufactured in the USA, it must say "Made in USA" or "Crafted in USA".
 - If imported, it must list the foreign country.
- **Manufacturer/Dealer Identity:** The name of the company or its Registered Identification Number (RN).
 - An RN is a number issued by the FTC to US businesses that manufacture, import, or sell products covered by the Textile, Wool, or Fur Acts.

3. Key Labeling Rules and Definitions

- **Generic Fiber Names:** Manufacturers must use the generic fiber names established by the FTC, not trademarked brand names (e.g., must use "spandex," not "Lycra").
- **Manufactured Fibers:** Section 303.7 of the Textile Rules defines the generic names for man-made fibers.
- **Mislabeling/Tolerances:** There are strict rules against mislabeling. Reasonable manufacturing tolerances are allowed for fiber content, but intentional mislabeling is a violation.
- **Exclusions:** Some items are not covered by the TFPIA, such as upholstery stuffing, shoes, and certain disposable items (though other regulations might apply).

4. Relationship to Other Rules

- **Care Labeling Rule:** While not strictly part of the TFPIA, the FTC requires that clothing and some textiles have permanent, easy-to-find care instructions.
- **Wool Products Labeling Act (WPLA):** Items containing wool must comply with the WPLA, which has stricter rules regarding percentage disclosure.
- **Fur Products Labeling Act (FPLA):** Apparel containing fur must list the animal name, country of origin, and if the fur is dyed or treated.

5. Compliance Checklist for Businesses

1. **Identify Fiber Composition:** Determine the exact generic fiber content and percentages of your products.
2. **Determine Origin:** Identify where the product was last substantially processed or manufactured.
3. **Get an RN:** Register with the FTC to obtain a Registered Identification Number (optional, but allowed in place of a company name).
4. **Create Permanent Labels:** Create labels that are secure and conspicuous.
5. **Affix Labels:** Ensure labels are attached properly (e.g., neck placement for garments).
6. **Include Care Instructions:** Adhere to the Care Labeling Rule by providing washing/drying instructions.

**Disclaimer: This guide is a summary for educational purposes. Always consult the latest FTC regulations and legal counsel for complete compliance.*