

# Care Labelling

## A Guide to Your Responsibilities

The UK Fashion and Textile Association (UKFT) is the UK representative of GINETEX, the organisation that owns access to the standard garment care labelling symbols. The symbols are also trademarked in many important and emerging markets throughout the world. Membership of UKFT can now include your licence to reproduce the GINETEX care symbols around the world, potentially saving you hundreds of pounds.

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### Did you know?

- The care symbols which are used on billions of garments each year are a registered trademark
- To use these symbols in Europe you must pay a licence fee
- The level of the fee varies from country to country, but it can be charged per garment, and can amount to hundreds of thousands of Euros
- The care symbols give consumers and retailers information on how best to wash, dry or cleanse clothes
- Following the correct care labelling helps to keep clothes in the best shape possible, and reduces the number of customer complaints and returns
- The symbols are owned by an international organisation called GINETEX\* which is based in Paris (see overleaf)
- UKFT is the UK representative of GINETEX.
- Members of UKFT can pay an annual licence fee, which gives them the right to use standard GINETEX care symbols throughout the World

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## What the Symbols Mean

There are five basic symbols, but there are over 40 different permutations (including words and numbers) covering a wide variety of washing, cleansing and drying methods. The basic symbols are:



**Washing**



**Bleaching**



**Professional Care  
(Dry Cleaning)**



**Drying**



**Ironing**

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## Selling in the UK

If you are only selling in the UK you do not need permission to use the care symbols, as these are not Registered Trademarks in the UK.

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## Selling Outside the UK and Other Labelling Requirements

UKFT maintains a global database of the care labelling requirements in all other major markets throughout the world. As well as advice on care labelling, UKFT can also provide members with information on the different requirements on fibre content and country of origin labelling.

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## Selling in Europe

Consumer legislation in most European markets requires that the consumer be given information on the care of garments at the time of purchase.

As the care symbols are Registered Trademarks in many European markets, users must pay for the right to use the symbols in each European country in which they sell.

## Join UKFT for Peace of Mind

Membership can now include your licence to reproduce the GINETEX care symbols throughout the World.

As a new benefit of Membership, UKFT now offers, as an add-on, the GINETEX care labelling licence. Annual Membership of UKFT is open to UK-based designers, manufacturers, brands and suppliers of fashion and textiles, Membership subscriptions are on a sliding scale, according to annual turnover (see below).

Retailers who sell their brand/own label outside the UK can also become part of UKFT through our Retail Partner Programme (RPP). Annual Membership of UKFT's RPP gives retailers the right to use the standard GINETEX symbols worldwide, without any further costs.

### Members and Retail Partners of UKFT who pay the additional fee for the GINETEX licence benefit from:

- The right to use standard GINETEX symbols worldwide
- The freedom to make use of (at a fixed annual cost) a strong brand system recognised by producers, retailers and consumers throughout the world
- Online access to graphics for current labelling symbols
- A Technical Booklet containing specifications and conditions of use for correct care labelling
- The latest information on changes or additions to the system, new symbols and updates
- Access to a network providing solutions for care labelling problems
- The opportunity to submit proposals for changes and additions to the system

UKFT Membership Category	Turnover	Annual Membership <i>Excluding care labelling licence</i>	Annual Membership Plus <i>Including care labelling licence</i>
Starter	up to £250k	£400	£500
Starter +	£250k–£1m	£750	£937.50
Small	£1–5m	£1,500	£1,875
Medium	£5–15m	£2,000	£2,500
Large	£15–35m	£3,000	£3,750
Very Large	£35m+	£5,000	£6,250
Retail Partner Programme			£2,500

All prices are subject to VAT

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## UKFT and Our Work on Care Labelling

### Promotion

UKFT has its own care labelling website, [www.care-labelling.co.uk](http://www.care-labelling.co.uk) which provides a wide range of information on labelling issues, together with advice on textile care. UKFT receives hundreds of queries every year, ranging from advice on the requirement for care labelling in a vast array of countries to consumers needing specific information on stain removal. UKFT has also advised publishers of several 'How to Clean' books and, under the guise of 'Stain Man', has appeared on several radio programmes.

### Technical

UKFT provides the Secretariat to the BSI (British Standards Institution) Technical Committee on Care Labelling, Dry Cleaning, Domestic Laundering and Drying, and through this it is represented on the ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) Sub

Committee on Care Labelling. In 2012, after a 10 year discussion, this ISO Committee published a revised version of ISO 3758, the Standard that deals with care labelling.

The current Standard includes a new symbol for wet cleaning (a modern form of professional cleaning which uses specially formulated detergents instead of solvents), a change from a broken bar to a double underline to indicate the most gentle wash, and a unique set of bleaching symbols to reflect a change in the "ingredients" of detergents. Most importantly, the current Standard brings one step closer the goal of a truly international labelling system.

Members of UKFT are given an opportunity to comment on any changes to ISO 3758 and perhaps more importantly are kept informed of any changes to the care labels ahead of the rest of the industry.

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## \*Background to GINETEX

GINETEX, the International Association for Textile Care Labelling, was founded in Paris in 1963 following several international symposia for Textile Care Labelling at the end of the 1950's.

GINETEX devised an international care labelling system for textiles; based on symbols, it avoids the need for a myriad of translations. The pictograms used are registered trademarks in most countries and are the property of GINETEX. The care labelling system gives consumers and textile companies the correct information on how to clean and care for textile products. Use of the processes shown with the symbols will avoid any irreversible damage to a product.

GINETEX defines and promotes the system of care labelling and coordinates the technical background to the symbols.

GINETEX has a large membership of national organisations which represent the textile and retail industries, as well as other interested parties concerned with textile care. Organisations in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom are currently in membership of GINETEX.