



## Introduction to Chinese textile & apparel standards



**Textile and apparel products must conform to Chinese quality requirements before entering the market**

Textile and apparel products placed on the Chinese market are subject to a number of mandatory quality and safety requirements expressed through mandatory national (GB) standards as well as professional standards.

Mandatory national standards are legal requirements that generally cover product quality, safety and use of the product. In addition to mandatory national standards there exist a large number of voluntary standards.

For more information about Chinese standards and how to search them visit our [website](#).

Chinese requirements for textiles and apparel can be compared to the European approach for quality and safety of the product. In Europe the requirements are predominantly voluntary, whereas in China these general requirements are mandatory and compliance is required by law.

With the exception of safety equipment and textiles used for interior trimming, there are generally no certification requirements for textile and apparel products entering the Chinese market, however products found to be non-compliant will be taken off the shelf or stopped at customs.

Chinese GB standards are often based on international equivalents, however they often refer to former versions of ISO standards and frequently have slightly different technical requirements which can make it difficult to re-use test results.

Unlike the general European quality and safety requirement, the content of Chinese mandatory national standards is very detailed and the instructions are very explicit.

In addition to GB standards, textile and apparel products are covered by a large number of product specific standards, namely professional FZ standards. FZ standards are mainly voluntary and set out additional quality requirements that help demonstrate product quality. The table at the end of this paper lists examples of voluntary FZ standards for reference.

To highlight some of the most common textile and apparel standards the general standards GB5296.1 & GB 5296.4 cover basic principles for labelling information and instructions. GB5296.1 is a general product safety standard and, as such, applies not only to textiles but a number of consumer products as well. The standard can be compared to the European General Product Safety Directive.

GB 5296.4 covers labelling information and labelling requirements for instructions for use and can be compared to EN13402. The standard specifies mandatory requirements for name and address of the manufacturer, country of origin, size and care labelling. GB/T 8685 describes the Chinese care labelling symbols, which can be obtained from certification companies.

The GB 18401 standard is a safety standard that classifies products into 3 categories, namely baby products, products that come into direct contact with the skin, and products with no skin contact. The requirements are similar to those in Europe, however the Chinese standard goes into more detail and puts additional safety requirements such as formaldehyde content and colour fastness to perspiration.

The health risk is identified in the areas of formaldehyde content, pH of the aqueous extract, colour fastness (to water, to perspiration, to rubbing, to saliva), odour and dyestuffs cleaved into arylamine (azoic colourants).

FZ/T 01053 covers fibre content and is very similar to Directive 96/74/CE, with different tolerances levels however.

GB/T 3920 describes the testing methodology of colour fastness in order to evaluate the staining in rubbing and is based on ISO 105-X12:2001. In addition, there are colour fastness standards that cover fastness to water, fastness to perspiration, fastness to saliva (for baby cloth), etc.

Clothing specific FZ standards are voluntary and mostly regulate the technical features and other specific requirements, such as limits on formaldehyde content and pH value. For example FZ/T 81003 for children's clothing and students' wear gives specific instructions on all technical features, testing methods, labels, packaging and storage of the garments.

FZ standards are often used to document the superior quality of a product or in other ways differentiate a product. A number of international certification companies have designed compliance programmes targeted to the Chinese market and offering different levels of compliance.

Below is a table listing some of the most common mandatory and voluntary Chinese standards. The list provides a starting point for SMEs who wish to investigate if their products conform to Chinese requirements, however the list is not exhaustive.

Examples of mandatory and voluntary standards for textiles and apparel		
Category	Standard code	Title in English
General	GB 5296.1	Instructions for use of products of consumer interest – General Principles
	GB 5296.4	Instructions for use of products of consumer interest – Instructions for use of textiles and apparel
	GB 18401	National general safety technical code for textile products
	GB/T 8685	Care labelling code of textiles and apparel
	FZ/T 01053	Textiles – Identification of fibre content
	GB/T 2912.1	Textiles – Determination of formaldehyde – Part 1: Free and hydrolysed formaldehyde (water extraction method)
	GB/T 2912.2	Textiles – Determination of formaldehyde – Part 2: Released formaldehyde (vapour absorption method)
	GB/T 2912.3	Textiles – Determination of formaldehyde – Part 3: High performance liquid chromatography method
	GB/T 3920	Textiles – Tests for colour fastness – colour fastness to rubbing
	GB/T 3922	Textiles – Testing method for colour fastness to perspiration
	GB/T 5713	Textiles – Tests for colour fastness – colour fastness to water
	GB/T 7573	Textiles – Determination of pH of the aqueous extract
	GB/T 17592	Textiles – Determination of the banned azo colorants
	GB/T 18886	Textiles – Tests for fastness – colour fastness to saliva
	GB 7565	Textiles – Tests for colour fastness – specification for standard adjacent fabric – cotton and viscose
	GB 9994	Commercial moisture regains of textiles
	GB 20400	Leather and fur – limits of harmful matter
	GB/T 17591	Flame retardant fabrics
	GB/T 5455	Textiles – Burning behaviour – Vertical method (decoration, airplanes and ships, protective clothing)
	GB/T 14645	Textile fabrics – Burning behaviour – The 45 ° test determination of damaged area and ignition times (trains)
	FZ/T 01028	Textile fabrics – Determination of burning property – horizontal method (cars)
	GB 18383	General technical requirements for products with filling materials
GB/T 8685	Textiles – Care labelling code using symbols	
Clothing	FZ/T 81003	Children's clothing and students' wear
	GB/T 2664	Men's suits and coats
	GB/T 2660	Shirts
	GB/T 2662	Padding jacket
	GB/T 2665	Women's suits and coats
	GB/T 2666	Women's and men's trousers
	FZ/T 81004	Skirts and skirted suit
	FZ/T 81006	Jeans wear
	FZ/T 81007	Casual wear
	FZ/T 81008	Jacket
	GB/T 8878	Cotton knitted underwear
	GB/T 22853	Knitted sportswear
	GB/T 22849	Knitted T-shirt
	FZ/T 73009	Cashmere knitting goods
	FZ/T 73015	Flax knitting goods
	FZ/T 73017	Knitted night clothes
	FZ/T 73018	Wool sweater
	FZ/T 73005	Low wool (wool below 30%) and wool-like knitted sweater
	FZ/T 73025	Knitted garment and adornment for infant
	FZ/T 73026	Knitted skirt suit



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