

Australian Standard™

**Textiles for health care facilities and
institutions—Medical sheepskins**

**Part 1: Product specification
and testing**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee TX/15, Textiles for Health Care Facilities and Institutions. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 27 February 1998 and published on 5 May 1998.

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Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Australian Linen Services Executive
Australian Wool Research and Promotion Organisation
Australian Wool Testing Authority
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia
Federation of Sterilising Research and Advisory Councils of Australia
Hospital Laundry Managers Association of Australia
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee TX/15, Textiles for Health Care Facilities and Institutions.

The objective of this Standard is to provide manufacturers and suppliers of medical sheepskins with a set of requirements for product specification and testing.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A ‘normative’ appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ appendix is only for information and guidance.

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STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

Australian Standard

**Textiles for health care facilities and institutions—
Medical sheepskins**

Part 1: Product specification and testing

SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

1.1 SCOPE This Standard specifies requirements for woolskins (tanned sheepskins and lambskins) for health care, medical and institutional uses. These are used to minimize the incidence, severity and duration of pressure ulcers by decreasing friction, pressure and humidity at the points of contact between a patient and the support surface (e.g. bed or chair).

1.2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

4146 Laundry practice

IWS

TM 5 Method of test for determining colourfastness to light

TM 165 Method for assessing colourfastness to rubbing of textile materials and dyed sheepskins

TM 174 Method for assessing the colourfastness of textile materials in a damp alkaline environment

TM 175 Colourfastness in an acidic environment

TM 250 Colourfastness to hand washing

SLP

2 (1965) Sampling

18 (1965) Shrinkage temperature measurement

1.3 DEFINITIONS For the purposes of this Standard, the following definitions apply.

1.3.1 Crimp—the waves, folds and corrugations of wool fibres within a wool staple.

1.3.2 Fatliquors—emulsified oils applied to leather to soften the leather's fibrous structure and prevent the fibres sticking together on drying after washing.

1.3.3 Flesh—the muscle tissue and fat adhering to the inner layer of a freshly flayed skin which can be removed by a fleshing machine.

1.3.4 Hitemp medical skins—tanned skins which can be washed and disinfected in an industrial washing machine at temperatures not exceeding 80°C and dried at temperatures not exceeding 60°C.

NOTE: Restrictions on additives to the wash formulae. (See Table A9.4).

1.3.5 Initial wool finishing stage—the processing stage after dry cleaning and prior to the final wet processing which is the stage in the process where the wool is combed, ironed and clipped to the final finished length (see Clause 2.7).

1.3.6 Kemp—coarse and medullated wool fibres, often found in the britch areas of sheep and lambs.

1.3.7 Leather—skin with its original fibre structure more or less intact, tanned so as to be imputrescible.

1.3.8 Medical sheepskin—lambskin or sheepskin tanned and shorn to a uniform wool pile height for use as a bed or chair underlay to distribute and relieve pressure so as to prevent the onset of pressure ulcers (decubitus ulcers or bed sores).

1.3.9 Pilling Small balls/tufts of wool which form on woolskins above the main wool pile due to mechanical action and washing of the wool pile—the tufts may be attached to the wool tips.

1.3.10 Regtemp medical skins—tanned sheepskins which can be washed and disinfected in an industrial washing machine at temperatures not exceeding 60°C and dried at temperatures not exceeding 60°C.

NOTE: Restrictions on additives to wash formula (Table A9.3).

1.3.11 Seed scar—healed damaged skin tissue formed after a grass seed has penetrated the skin.

1.3.12 Tanning—the processing of perishable raw hides and skins by the use of tanning materials into the permanent and imputrescible form of leather.

NOTE: A rationale is provided in Appendix A to clarify terms and procedures which have special significance when used in the processing of sheepskins.

1.3.13 Urine resistant (UR)—a type of medical sheepskin which has had additional treatment to enhance the resistance to urine provided by other tanning agents.

1.3.14 Wool pile height—the vertical distance between the leather grain surface and the shorn wool tips, measured at right angles to the leather grain.

1.4 DESIGNATION OF SHEEPSKINS Each skin's designation is comprised of components as indicated in Tables 1.4(A) and (B).

TABLE 1.4(A)
TYPE DESIGNATION OF MEDICAL SHEEPSKIN

Type	Regtemp	Hitemp
Standard	R1	H1
Urine resistant	R2	H2

TABLE 1.4(B)
SIZE DESIGNATION OF MEDICAL SHEEPSKIN

Code	Minimum length cm	Minimum width cm	Area dm ²	
			Minimum	Maximum
S (small)	83	56	46	54
M (medium)	87	60	55	63
L (large)	92	63	64	72
XL (extra large)	100	70	73	80 +