

Glossary of

Terms relating to fabrics and associated fibres, yarns and processes

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- Association of Consulting Scientists
- British Clothing Industry Association
- British Retailers' Association
- British Textile Employers' Association
- Confederation of British Wool Textiles Ltd.
- Consumer Policy Committee of BSI
- Department of Trade and Industry [Chemical Textiles, Paper, Timber, Miscellaneous Manufacturing and Service Industries Division (CTPS)]
- Home and Contract Furnishing Textiles Association
- Institute of Trading Standards Administration
- International Wool Secretariat
- Mail Order Traders' Association of Great Britain
- Man-made Fibres Producers' Committee
- Retail Consortium
- Society of Dyers and Colourists
- Textile Distributors' Association
- Textile Institute
- Textile Research Council

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Foreword

This revision of this British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Textiles and Clothing Standards Policy Committee. It supersedes BS 6189:1981, which is withdrawn.

The principal changes introduced are that the standard has been revised taking into account:

- a) current information; and
- b) where appropriate, definitions in the latest edition of *Textile Terms and Definitions*, published by the Textile Institute¹⁾.

The fibre, yarn and processing terms defined in this glossary are those associated with the fabric construction terms defined in section 2. A number of terms relating to silk that do not meet this criterion are included in Appendix A, since definitions for these terms are not readily available elsewhere.

Some definitions in this standard differ from those given in *Textile Terms and Definitions*, e.g. where current usage has changed since the last edition of *Textile Terms and Definitions* was published or where, for the purposes of a British Standard, a more restricted definition is appropriate.

Generic names for man-made fibres, which are defined in BS 4815, are not included in the glossary. Definitions of generic names for natural fibres have been published as ISO 6938 and the resulting information is expected to be implemented as a British Standard. BS 7089 gives a definition of nonwovens and definitions of terms relating to nonwovens are also being prepared for a British Standard. Other British Standard glossaries covering textiles are BS 3724 (fibre ropes and cordage), BS 4440 (fishing nets) and BS 5523 (weaves).

Calculation of fibre content. All references in this standard to the fibre content of a fabric indicate content in terms of mass as determined in accordance with BS 4407, namely, anhydrous mass of the material plus the appropriate conventional regain factor set out in BS 4407.

Editorial note. In some cases, where two or more terms have the same meaning, one is preferred and is printed in bold type, the other being printed in medium type and, if deprecated, so marked. Rarely, where two terms are considered to be of equal standing, both are given in bold type.

Italicized words in definitions indicate terms that are defined elsewhere in this standard. In this glossary, parentheses () enclose optional words or phrases that can be omitted from the term or definition without affecting the meaning.

Terms marked with an asterisk are defined similarly in *Textile Terms and Definitions*.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations. In particular, attention is drawn to the need, if appropriate, for the fibre content to be given in accordance with Statutory Instrument 1986 No. 26 Trade Descriptions, The Textile Products (Indications of Fibre Content) Regulations 1986.

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i and ii, pages 1 to 24, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.

¹⁾ The Textile Institute, 10 Blackfriars Street, Manchester M3 5DR.

1 Scope

This British Standard defines fabrics and associated fibres, yarns and processing terms in common usage. A glossary of silk terms which are not associated with the fabric construction terms in section 2 is included in Appendix A.

NOTE The titles of the publications referred to in this standard are listed on the inside back cover.

Section 1. Fibres and yarns

1.1 Cotton

No.	Term	Definition
1101	*Lisle thread	A highly twisted, plied (usually 2-ply) good-quality cotton hosiery yarn, spun generally in fine counts. All lisle threads are gassed and some may be mercerized. NOTE The term <i>lisle thread</i> was formerly defined as a plied yarn having “S” and “Z” twist in the singles.

1.2 Linen²⁾

1201	combed tow	Flax tow fibre that has been subjected to a continuous combing operation on a machine suitable for long staple fibre.
1202	*flax line	The long flax fibre strands remaining after <i>hackling</i> .
1203	*flax tow	The short flax fibre strands removed in <i>scutching or hackling</i> .
1204	*natural flax green flax	Scutched flax produced from deseeded straw without any intermediate treatment such as <i>retting</i> .
1205	lin brisé	Mechanically broken flax fibre.
1206	*linen yarns	Yarns spun entirely from flax fibre.
1207	*strick	A small bunch of flax straws, of scutched flax, or hackled flax, of a size that can be held in the hand.

1.3 Silk

1301	*crêpe yarn	a) A highly twisted yarn which may be used in the production of crêpe fabrics. b) A balanced hand-knitting yarn with a plaited appearance produced by twisting together three or four two-fold yarns.
1302	grenadine	A highly twisted <i>organzine</i> yarn.
1303	gum sericin	A gelatinous protein usually comprising 20 % (m/m) to 30 % (m/m) of <i>raw silk</i> , cementing the two <i>fibroin</i> filaments in a silk fibre. NOTE The gelatinous protein can be removed by <i>degumming</i> .
1304	*nett silk	<i>Raw-silk</i> filaments or strands that may have been processed into yarns by twisting and/or folding.
1305	*organzine	A silk yarn used as a warp for weaving or knitting, comprising single threads that are first twisted and then folded together two or more fold, and then twisted in the direction opposite to that of the singles twist, usually approximately 400 to 800 turns per metre.
1306	poil	A highly twisted singles yarn.
1307	*pure silk (pure dye silk)	Silk in which there is no metallic or other weighting of any kind, except that which is an essential part of dyeing.
1308	*raw silk	Continuous filaments or strands, containing no twist, as drawn off or reeled from silk <i>cocoons</i> .

²⁾ When the spinnability of the fibre requires it, up to 5 % of man-made fibre is sometimes incorporated as an aid to the spinning process.

No.	Term	Definition
1309	*spun silk	Yarn produced by dressing or combing processes from <i>silk waste</i> that has been “boiled off” to remove most of the <i>gum</i> .
1310	*tram	A silk weft yarn comprising two or more threads run together and then twisted with approximately 120 to 200 turns per metre.
1311	*wild silk	Most fibres extruded by insect larvae other than <i>bombyx mori</i> . NOTE The most important of the larvae is tussah (tussore). Other types include eri, muga (munga), anaphe and kuriwata.

1.4 Wool

1401	*botany wool	Tops, yarns or fabrics made from <i>merino</i> wool.
1402	*lambs' wool	Wool from the fleeces of lambs (young sheep up to the stage of weaning). NOTE 1 This definition applies irrespective of the breed or type of sheep. NOTE 2 It has been common practice in the trade to apply the term “lambswool” to textile products, having a soft handle, made from 100 % virgin wool of which at least one-third is <i>lambs' wool</i> as defined here.
1403	*merino	Wool from merino or merino-type sheep.
1404	Shetland	a) <i>Original usage</i> . Yarns spun in the Shetland Islands from the wool of sheep bred and reared on the islands; b) <i>Current usage</i> . A yarn spun on the woollen system of 100 % virgin wool (including wool from the dead animal) of wide-ranging quality; such yarn being capable of imparting to a fabric the qualities of crispness and/or smoothness and soft handling attributed to the products formerly made exclusively from the Shetland breed of sheep. NOTE Where the term is qualified by the adjectives “genuine”, “real” or any similar description, or quantified by the terms “100 %” or “all”, this implies that the wool actually originated in the Shetland Islands.

Section 2. Fabric construction

No.	Term	Definition
2001	abbot cloth	A heavy coarse cotton or linen fabric, usually in a basket weave.
2002	*afgalaine	A plain-weave, all-wool dress fabric, containing either: - woollen warp with woollen weft; or - worsted warp with woollen weft where the warp is usually “S” and “Z” twist, arranged alternately, with an “S” twist woollen weft.
2003	agaric	A cotton fabric with a loop pile construction.
2004	ajour	A lacy open-work embroidery, usually silk.
2005	*Albert cloth	A reversible centre or self-stitched double-cloth overcoating, woven with a different design on each side, in stripes or checks.
2006	all silk	A fabric where no textile fibre other than silk is present, irrespective of the amount of weighting.
2007	antung	A plain-weave, slub-free fabric made from <i>wild silk</i> .
2008	bag cloth	A heavily sized woven fabric used for making bags to hold dry goods.
2009	bagheera velvet	A piece-dyed <i>velvet</i> with a rough surface.
2010	bainin	A hand-woven home-spun fabric.
2011	*baize	A light-weight woollen felt used for covering tables, screens, etc.
2012	Balbriggan	A light-weight circular-knit fabric originally made at Balbriggan in Ireland.
2013	balloon cloth *balloon fabric	- A plain-weave closely-woven cotton fabric made from fine yarns, often used for surgeons’ gowns. - Any fabric which forms a functional part of the lift-creating and, where different, the outer envelope of a lighter-than-air aircraft. It is usually a simple, single fabric, of tightly woven construction, and may include rip-stop threads to enhance tear resistance, although some plied fabrics are used. It was originally made of cotton, linen or silk and doped or coated with rubber to reduce gas permeability, but modern fabrics are typically polyamide or polyester coated with a polymer or polymers, and/or laminated with a thin natural or synthetic film or films. This reduces permeability to the lifting gas employed, confers protection against ultraviolet radiation, and provides weather resistance.
2014	*barathea	A fabric of pebbled appearance, usually of twilled hopsack or broken-rib weave, made of silk, worsted, or man-made fibres, and used for a variety of clothing purposes.
2015	bark crêpe	A heavy crêpe with a rough texture.
2016	barrege	A sheer fabric, usually of wool or silk, used for veilings.
2017	*beaver cloth	A heavy, firm-texture fabric, made from woollen yarns, that is milled, raised, and cut close on the face before receiving a <i>dress-face finish</i> . NOTE It is intended to simulate natural beaver skin.
2018	*Bedford cord	A fabric showing rounded cords in the warp direction with pronounced sunken lines between them, produced by the nature of the weave. The weave on the face of the cords is usually plain, but other weaves may be used. There are weft floats the width of the cords on the back. Wadding ends may be used to accentuate the prominence of the cords.

No.	Term	Definition
2019	*billiard fabric	A fine, heavily milled and dressed woollen fabric of the closely cropped dress-face type, used for covering billiard tables.
2020	blazer cloth	A well-milled fabric used for blazers.
2021	*bouclé fabric	A fabric made with a clear-cut rough or granulated surface produced by means of fancy yarns and generally used for ladies coats, suits and dresses.
2022	*box cloth	An all-wool, woollen spun fabric with a firm handle and a fibrous surface that is usually completely covered with fibres so that no threads show. NOTE It is woven in a variety of weaves, depending on the mass per unit area required, and is used for such purposes as leggings, coachman fabrics and <i>billiard fabrics</i> .
2023	*brocade	A figured fabric, usually of single texture, in which the figure is developed by floating the warp threads, the weft threads, or both, and bound in a more or less irregular order. The ground is usually formed of a weave of simple character. NOTE 1 Many furnishing brocades are made with a satin ground and weft figure. NOTE 2 More elaborate fabrics are also made with more than one warp and/or weft.
2024	broderie anglaise	A light-weight woven fabric embroidered by a Schiffli machine.
2025	*buckram	a) A stiff fabric, generally linen or cotton, made by impregnating a plain-weave open-sett fabric with fillers and stiffeners. b) Fabric consisting of two stiffened fabrics bonded together, the fabrics being not necessarily of identical construction. NOTE 1 An example of this is an open-sett fabric from yarn of high linear density which might be bonded to an open-sett fabric from yarn of low linear density. NOTE 2 The uses of <i>buckram</i> include linings, millinery, waistbands and book binding. In the twelfth to sixteenth centuries the term had an entirely different meaning; it was applied to fine delicate fabrics made of linen or cotton used for apparel.
2026	*buckskin fabric	A fabric similar in handle and appearance to, but heavier than, a <i>doeskin fabric</i> and made from fine <i>merino</i> wool, close-sett, heavily milled, dressed, and closely cut.
2027	*bunting	Fabric made for the manufacture of flags, originally a special type of wool fabric, of plain weave, but now tending to be a polyamide/wool blend, produced from yarns spun on the worsted system.
2028	*cambric	A light-weight, closely-woven plain fabric, usually made from cotton or linen, and usually given a slight stiffening.
2029	candlewick	A fabric, often with patterned tufting, made from a coarse folded yarn usually of 100 % cotton (candlewick yarn*).
2030	Canton crêpe	A crêpe fabric, with filling yarns, having a pebbled surface.
2031	*canvas	A strong and firm fabric usually made from cotton, flax, hemp, or jute of mass per unit area traditionally ranging from 200 g/m ² to 2 000 g/m ² . The weave is plain or double-end plain. In cotton canvas, the yarns may be singles but are frequently plied; in other canvasses, the yarns are generally singles. The warp predominates, and a feature of the heavier canvasses is the very close packing of the warp, which is highly crimped over a straight weft. NOTE The term <i>canvas</i> covers fabric with a great variety of uses (see also <i>duck</i>).