

Code of practice for

Garment evaluation by wearer trials

Committees responsible for this British Standard

The preparation of this British Standard was entrusted by the Sector Board for Materials and Chemicals to Technical Committee TCI/24, upon which the following bodies were represented:

- Association of Consulting Scientists
- Association of Suppliers to the British Clothing Industry
- British Nonwovens Manufacturers' Association
- British Polyolefin Textiles Association
- British Textile Confederation
- British Textile Machinery Association
- British Textile Technology Group
- British Throwsters' Association
- Furniture Industry Research Association
- International Wool Secretariat
- Ministry of Defence
- National Wool Textile Export Corporation
- SATRA Footwear Technology Centre
- Society of Dyers and Colourists
- Textile Finishers' Association
- Textile Institute

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Sector Board for Materials and Chemicals, was published under the authority of the Standards Board and comes into effect on 15 October 1994

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The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference TCI/24
Draft for comment 93/304466 DC

ISBN 0 580 23151 8

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date	Comments

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Foreword

This British Standard has been prepared under the direction of the Sector Board for Materials and Chemicals.

It provides guidelines for carrying out performance tests on garments and providing data on which to base predictions about the expected wear performance.

When developing new test methods, revising existing methods or preparing standards of performance, there is a need to relate either the results obtained from laboratory tests or specification requirements to what happens in actual consumer/user practice. Test methods and performance criteria for textiles are usually evaluated by wearer trials.

As a code of practice, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

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 Statutory Instrument 1986 No. 26, 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 8 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 Scope

This British Standard contains recommendations for carrying out performance tests on garments and providing data on which predictions concerning the expected wear performance of garments under end-use conditions can be based. The wearer trials described in this standard cover the total performance of the article over a fixed time scale or the examination of a limited number of parameters, e.g. pilling or abrasion.

2 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the following definitions apply.

2.1

wearer trial

controlled trial carried out on an item of textile apparel in which the item is worn

2.2

wearer

person participating in a trial by wearing the item of apparel

2.3

trial coordinator

person responsible for setting up, overseeing and co-ordinating all aspects of the trial

2.4

assistant coordinator

person responsible for overseeing the running of the trial in the field

2.5

observer

person responsible for observing the trial in the field

2.6

population

any identifiable group of persons for whom the garment is to be supplied

3 Wear trial design

3.1 Purpose of wear trials

Wear trials may serve one or more purposes, for example:

- a) to evaluate the suitability of test methods;
- b) to provide data for the preparation of performance standards;
- c) to determine the performance of new or existing products, by comparison with products of known performance;
- d) to determine the suitability of existing products for new end uses;

e) to evaluate the interaction between wear and different textile substrates, processes or combinations of textile products;

f) to evaluate the interaction between wear and the article's design and construction;

g) to enable the subjective assessment of parameters that are difficult or impossible to evaluate under laboratory conditions.

Before deciding on the type of trial to be used and commencing any trials, the following factors should be agreed between the trial coordinator and the instigators of the trial.

- 1) Who is to control the trial.
- 2) The number of parameters to be examined.
- 3) The number of articles to undergo a trial.
- 4) The size range.
- 5) Whether the group of wearers is to be all male, all female or a combination of male and female.
- 6) How often the test items are to be examined and by whom.
- 7) Whether the cleansing or refurbishing is to be carried out by the wearer, or by a centrally controlled source.
- 8) How often the items are to be cleansed or refurbished.
- 9) Whether the item is to be:
 - i) worn or used until the end point; or
 - ii) worn or used for a fixed time.

NOTE If the former, it should be agreed whether the wearer or the trial coordinator should decide the end point. If the latter, the time scale selected should be based on the style of article and expected life.

For the maximum advantage to be obtained from a trial, the wearers should be provided with as much information as possible about the reasons for the trial, what to look for and what is expected of them. This information can be provided at informal meetings or interviews, or as written information. In each case the structure and content of the information should be such as to be readily understood by the wearer. When children are to participate, the information should be capable of being understood both by the parent or guardian and by the child.