

## FY2004 Market Monitoring Test Results

### Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Blankets”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2004, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Blankets” to confirm their compliance with the quality labeling regulations for textile goods (hereinafter referred to as “labeling regulations”) under the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law.

NITE purchased 14 sample blankets available in the market; 4 blankets made of “wool,” 4 “acrylic,” 3 “cotton” and 3 “silk” blankets.

These products are required to indicate composition of fibers, domestic washing and other handling methods, names and contacts of labelers etc. Following results, 5 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations. Details of the identified noncompliance items are as follows:

Particulars to be declared	Noncompliant item	Number of samples(*)
Composition of fibers	The products labeled “100% wool” or “100% silk” used non-indicated fibers other than pile for warp, and acrylic or polyester for piping	4
Domestic washing and other handling methods	The products have misleading labels. Washing instructions sewn on the products differ from those indicated on their hang tags (e.g. suitable detergent and water temperature)	2
Name of labeler	Name and contact of labeler were not indicated	1

(\*) Each noncompliant item is counted cumulatively when a product has multiple noncompliant items.

NITE presented the test results to noncompliant labelers and conducted hearings with them for their opinions and measures to be taken. The results of the hearings, together with the test results, were reported to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Based on the test results, METI has given administrative guidance to the relevant labelers.

#### **Difference between “100% wool” and “100% wool for piles”**

The provision in Section 1, Article 7 of the quality labeling regulations for textile goods states that “when the product consists of any fibers mentioned in the appendix 6, a labeler may exclude these fibers when calculating composition ratio.” According to Appendix 6-1, fibers that can be excluded from composition ratio calculations are “compositional fibers other than those comprising the pile (only when terms indicating that the ratios are for the pile are applied).

Therefore, when labeling the composition of fibers for blankets, a labeler may indicate “of pile”

instead of indicating all the fibers for the product. However, in this case, the labeler is required to indicate that the composition ratio is just for the pile.

Thus, “100% wool” differs from “100% wool for pile.” The products labeled in the former manner should be made of 100% wool, while products using the latter labeling may contain fibers other than wool for “non-pile” parts such as warp or piping.