

FY2003 Market Monitoring Test Results

Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Clothing made of 100% animal hair”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2003, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Clothing labeled as being made of 100% animal hair” 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 10 sample clothing items available in the market; 4 coats for women, 5 sweaters for women (including unisex products) and 1 stole for women.

The tested animal hair includes wool, angora, alpaca and camel. Cashmere wool was excluded as NITE had tested the material in the previous year.

All sample products except one provided the proper labeling required by the labeling regulations.

The noncompliant item was improperly labeled for composition of fibers; the product, which was made of about 65% angora and 35% wool, was labeled 100% angora.

NITE has reported the test results to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Based on the test results, METI has given administrative guidance to the relevant labeler.

<Reference> Main animal hair types and characteristics

Type	Name of animal (Classification)	Characteristics
Cashmere	Kashmir goat (Family: Bovidae)	The goats produce a double fleece consisting of the soft, silky undercoat (called “cashmere”) and much coarser guard hair used for interlining cloth for carpets etc.
Angora	Angora rabbit	A native of the Angora region in Turkey, and domesticated in UK and France, their hair is white, brown, gray or black and grows up to 15 cm long. Angora wool is known for its light-weight and high heat insulation capacity.
Alpaca	Alpaca (Family: Camelidae, Genus: Vicugna)	There are two types of alpaca called Huacaya and Suri. The latter has fine silky hair which is slightly longer than those of the former. Their hair is dark brown, gray, light brown, pale yellow, white or black.
Camel	Camel	The hair has a camel colored sheen and is used especially in Europe. Excellent in retaining heat and elasticity but difficult to dye, so it is generally used in its natural color.