

## FY2004 Market Monitoring Test Results

### Sample purchase test related to the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law “Underwear (briefs/pants)”

(National Institute of Technology and Evaluation)

In FY2004, NITE conducted a sample purchase test of “Underwear (briefs/pants)” 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 20 sample underwear items available in the market; 14 pairs of shorts for women and 6 pairs of underpants for men.

Following results, 13 samples were deemed noncompliant with the labeling regulations.

The primary noncompliance item involved 6 sample products which failed to declare the fabric(s) which accounted for more than 5% of the total, used to increase the efficacy in specific parts.

Details of identified noncompliance items are shown in the table below.

Noncompliant item	Number of samples(*)
The products failed to indicate fabric(s) which accounted for more than 5% of the total, used to increase the efficacy of specific parts	6
The products failed to indicate all the designated parts	4
The blending ratio exceeded the allowable margin of error ( $\pm 5\%$ )	3
The products contained no designated care labeling using symbols	2
The composition for accessory parts was not expressed in percentages	1
The label used no designated terms for fibers	1
The product declared a composition rate which included non-regulated parts (inner fabric used for crotch part)	1
The product indicated care labeling symbols in an improper order	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.

Note: Section 2, Article 7 of the labeling regulations defines “in determining the composition ratio of textile goods mentioned in the enforcement order appendix 1-(3) of the Household Goods Quality Labeling Law, labelers may exclude the fibers or fabrics used to increase the efficacy of specific parts such as embroidery, reinforcement or piping, when they account for 5% or less of total composition.”

## Examples of parts subject to the labeling regulations for underwear

For underwear, the regulations require labeling only for outer fabrics. The fabrics shown in the pictures below, (1) through (3), are deemed as outer fabrics by their positions, and are consequently subject to the regulations. However, they may be considered as fabrics used to increase the efficacy of specific parts, and may consequently be excluded when their composition rates are 5% or less.

Picot lace, shown in picture (4), is mainly attached to the inner fabrics, thus the fabric composition labeling is not required.

Similarly, (5) inner fabrics including crotch fabric are exempt from the labeling regulations.

- (1) Elasticized tape
- (2) Lace, elasticized lace
- (3) Embroidery thread, ribbon
- (4) Picot lace
- (5) Inner fabric (crotch fabric etc)