



Write “Care Labeling Rule, 16 CFR Part 423, Comment, Project No. R511915” on your comment and “Care Labeling Rule, 16 CFR Part 423, Request to Participate, Project No. R511915” on your request to participate as a panelist. File your comment online at <https://ftcpublic.commentworks.com/ftc/carelabelingruleroundtable> by following the instructions on the web-based form. File your request to participate as a panelist by e-mail to: [carelabelingroundtable@ftc.gov](mailto:carelabelingroundtable@ftc.gov). If you prefer to file your comment or request on paper, mail or deliver it to the following address: Federal Trade Commission, Office of the Secretary, Room H-113 (Annex M), 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert M. Frisby, Attorney, 202-326-2098, or Amanda B. Kostner, Attorney, 202-326-2880, Federal Trade Commission, Division of Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Rule prohibits manufacturers and importers from selling textile wearing apparel and certain piece goods without attaching labels stating the care needed for their ordinary use.<sup>1</sup> Manufacturers and importers must possess, prior to sale, a reasonable basis for these care instructions<sup>2</sup> and can use approved care symbols to disclose those instructions.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 16 CFR 423.5 and 423.6(a) and (b).

<sup>2</sup> 16 CFR 423.6(c).

<sup>3</sup> The Rule provides that the symbol system developed by ASTM International, formerly the American Society for Testing and Materials, and designated as ASTM Standard D5489-96c “Guide to Care Symbols for Care Instructions on Consumer Textile Products” may be used on



opportunity to present views orally at a workshop or hearing<sup>8</sup>

and (r)5(ev)-4(er)

## II. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT THE ROUNDTABLE

The roundtable will focus on the proposed amendment permitting a wetcleaning instruction and comments urging the Commission to require a wetcleaning instruction. The wetcleaning discussion also will address: (1) the cost of substantiating wetcleaning instructions; (2) the availability of wetcleaning services; (3) consumer awareness of wetcleaning; and (4) the content of labels providing a wetcleaning instruction (*e.g.*, instructing “professionally wetclean” versus “wetclean”).

The roundtable also will explore issues relating to the use of care symbols and the Commission’s proposal to clarify the Rule’s reasonable basis requirements. These discussions will address: (1) the differences between ASTM and ISO symbols and between the 2005 and 2012 ISO symbols; (2) whether to require that labels identify ISO symbols if used to comply with the Rule; (3) the change in the meaning of the circle P symbol in the ASTM system; (4) the absence of ASTM and ISO symbols for solvents other than perchloroethylene (“perc”) and petroleum; (5) consumer understanding of symbols; and (6) how to clarify the Rule’s reasonable basis requirements.<sup>14</sup> In addition, the roundtable will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss other issues raised by comments. A more detailed agenda will be published at a later date, in advance of the scheduled roundtable. In the interim, the Commission is particularly interested in receiving relevant consumer perception evidence.

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<sup>14</sup> *See, e.g.*, GreenEarth Cleaning (41).

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION**

#### **A. Registration Information**

The roundtable is open to the public, and there is no fee for attendance. For admittance to

### **C. Electronic and Paper Comments**

The submission of comments is not required for participation in the roundtable. If a person wishes to submit paper or electronic comments about the topics to be discussed at the roundtable or issues raised in the comments filed in response to the NPRM, such comments should be filed as prescribed in Section IV, and must be received on or before April 11, 2014.

### **IV. FILING COMMENTS AND REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE AS A PANELIST**

You can file a comment or request to participate in the roundtable as a panelist online or on paper. For the Commission to consider your comment, we must receive it on or before April 11, 2014. Write “Care Labeling Rule, 16 CFR Part 423, Comment, Project No. R511915” on your comment and “Care Labeling Rule, 16 CFR Part 423, Request to Participate, Project No. R511915” on your request to participate. Your comment --- including your name and your state --- will be placed on the public record of this proceeding, including, to the extent practicable, on the public Commission Website, at <http://www.ftc.gov/os/publiccomments.shtm>. As a matter of discretion, the Commission tries to remove individuals’ home contact information from comments before placing them on the Commission Website.

Because your comment will be made public, you are solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive personal information, such as anyone’s Social Security number, date of birth, driver’s license number or other state identification number or foreign country equivalent, passport number, financial account number, or credit or debit card number. You are also solely responsible for making sure that your comment does not include any sensitive health information, such as medical records or other individually identifiable health information. In addition, do not include any “[t]rade secret or any commercial or financial





