
PRESS RELEASE

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What's behind the label? – The NATCP has investigated the fiber composition of summer clothing and underwear

The National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection (NATCP) carried out laboratory tests to verify whether the labels indicating the fibre composition of textile products available on the market provide consumers with accurate information. Issues were identified with 15 percent of the products tested, which shows that monitoring the labelling of textiles remains necessary.

The authority's previous experience has shown that a recurring problem is that the fibre composition stated on clothing and household textiles does not always reflect the actual materials used in the product. The investigation was primarily aimed at determining whether the raw material composition data stated on the products corresponded to reality, and whether any misleading or unfair commercial practices were taking place in this regard.

During this year's inspection, objections were raised regarding 15 percent of the products examined. Experts examined women's summer dresses labelled as 100 percent viscose, as well as underwear labelled as 100 percent cotton. According to the laboratory results, three items of underwear labelled as 100 percent cotton also contained between 7,9 and 53,8 percent polyester in addition to cotton. In each case, this exceeded the permitted 3 percent manufacturing tolerance. Furthermore, the Hungarian-language labelling on three products did not comply with the regulations: the fibre composition was either not stated in Hungarian or was incorrectly labelled.

Last year's experience also confirms that inspections of textile products are warranted, which is why the authority continuously monitors this product category. During the summer, the focus of the inspections was primarily on women's clothing and underwear, whilst in the autumn, pyjamas, nightdresses and other cotton textiles will be inspected. During the investigation, experts inspected products sourced from a variety of sales channels; the samples therefore included textiles sold in

shopping centres, retail chains, markets, specialist shops and online shops. The results of the inspection are available on the website www.nkfh.gov.hu/en.

Precise and accurate product labelling is a key factor in helping consumers make informed purchasing decisions. Through its investigations, the NATCP aims to contribute to fair market practices and strengthen consumer confidence, whilst also highlighting that clear, reliable information is in the mutual interest of both businesses and consumers.

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National Authority for Trade and Consumer Protection