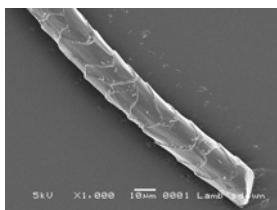


What is Superfine Wool ? How fine it is ?

Superfine wool is a unique luxury fibre that meets all of the demands of elegant, casual and tailored wear for men, women & babies. Owing to the fineness, it also provides the right combination of softness, comfort and performance in fine knitwear. Generally, finer wool produces a softer hand and a more luxurious garment.

In order to identify the fineness of wool fibers, many wool products are now labeled as 'Super 80s,' 'Super 90s,' or such designation through 'Super 250s.' In 2006, the International Wool Textile Organization (IWTO) finalised the definitions that codify the maximum fibre diameters each level of 'Super' designation should contain.

Recently, the United States congress has approved amendment to the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939 - Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act. The purpose of this amendment is to revise the labeling requirements for certain wool and cashmere products manufactured on or after January 1, 2007



The Wool Suit Fabric Labeling Fairness and International Standards Conforming Act corresponds with the "Super S" code of practice adopted by IWTO.

The Act gives clear definition of the fineness limits of each category of superfine wool and protects consumers from deceptively-labeled wool products by establishing a legal standard.

Please also read to our SafeGuards 009/07 dated February 2007 « ***Is your Cashmere label legally correct ?*** »

http://newsletter.sgs.com/eNewsletterPro/uploadedimages/000006/SafeGuards_00907_Cashmere.pdf

Further detail can be found from the table below:

Codified Designations of Superfine wool	Corresponding mean fiber diameter
'Super 80's' or '80's'	19.75 microns or finer
'Super 90's' or '90's'	19.25 microns or finer
'Super 100's' or '100's'	18.75 microns or finer
'Super 110's' or '110's'	18.25 microns or finer
'Super 120's' or '120's'	17.75 microns or finer
'Super 130's' or '130's'	17.25 microns or finer
'Super 140's' or '140's'	16.75 microns or finer
'Super 150's' or '150's'	16.25 microns or finer
'Super 160's' or '160's'	15.75 microns or finer
'Super 170's' or '170's'	15.25 microns or finer
'Super 180's' or '180's'	14.75 microns or finer
'Super 190's' or '190's'	14.25 microns or finer
'Super 200s' or '200s'	13.75 microns or finer
'Super 210s' or '210s'	13.25 microns or finer
'Super 220s' or '220s'	12.75 microns or finer
'Super 230s' or '230s'	12.25 microns or finer
'Super 240s' or '240s'	11.75 microns or finer
'Super 250s' or '250s'	11.25 microns or finer

The newly-established labeling regulation will benefit both consumers and manufacturers. Consumers can use the "Super" grade as a quality indicator during purchase, and manufacturers can avoid potential violation or recall by using the correct labeling.

Tests to verify compliance should only be carried out by qualified laboratories.

Both the *Cashmere and Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute (CCMI)* and *IWTO* publish lists of appropriately-qualified labs on their websites. The tests that must be used to determine Mean Fibre Diameter values can be performed using projection microscope (IWTO -8 or ASTM D2130) on wool or wool blend fabrics, or Laserscan (IWTO-12 or ASTM D6544) on pure wool fabrics. **SGS can provide such services through its Cashmere Labs in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Bradford, or Wool Testing Services laboratory in Wellington, New Zealand.**

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Complying with the Act

An appropriate quality system to assist in complying with the Act would involve the identification of both raw and processed speciality animal fibres to avoid using contaminated mixtures or to detect false declarations. Cashmere in particular is expensive and yet heavily in demand, and it is consequently frequently found to be compromised by the inclusion of much cheaper fibres such as sheep's wool or yak hair.



The most common tools in animal fiber identification are optical and scanning electron microscopy, as specialty fibers are difficult to distinguish by chemical methods. Expert microscopists need extensive training and have to rely on measurements of the physical characteristics of the fiber such as internal morphology, fibre diameter and cuticle scale dimensions. Animal fiber microscopists need to be supported by their own quality systems that include interlab correlation trials to ensure that their performance is reliable.



SGS Cashmere Labs, located in U.K., Hong Kong and Shanghai, are all approved by the **"Cashmere & Camel Hair Manufacturers Institute, (CCMI)"**.

With the experience, qualifications and reputation of our experts, we offer a highly competent analysis service to assure that products meet the labeling regulation.

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