



**FAQ: China Regulation and Quality  
Compliance - Textile Products**  
Version 3.0





## Contents

<b>Section I – Chinese Standards</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1. What is “GB”? .....	3
2. There are several different prefixes of China standard code, like GB, GB/T, FZ/T, QB/T, etc., what do they mean? .....	3
3. Do products sold in China need to comply with mandatory standards? .....	3
4. Does the voluntary standard mean “not compulsory,” can the brand owner/importer/retailer ignores the requirements of voluntary standard? .....	3
5. Which mandatory standards are related to textiles or apparel? .....	3
6. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 18401-2010? .....	4
7. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 31701-2015? .....	4
8. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 20400-2006? .....	6
9. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 21550-2010? .....	6
10. What is a product standard? .....	6
11. What is the executive standard? .....	6
12. Are Chinese Standards available in other languages? .....	7
<b>Section II – Compliance</b> .....	<b>8</b>
13. What is the minimum requirement for selling products in China? .....	8
14. Does a product only need to comply with mandatory standards? .....	8
15. Is there a difference in the requirements for items sold on the internet, private store, shopping mall, etc.? .....	8
<b>Section III – Testing and Reporting</b> .....	<b>9</b>
16. Does the brand owner/importer/retailer have to test their merchandise when it is being imported into or sold into the Chinese market? .....	9
17. Does the test need to follow the Chinese test method? .....	9
18. Can an ISO method be used instead of GB one? .....	9
19. Can a product be qualified by a fabric test report? .....	9
20. Does the retailer need to keep the hard copy of the test report in their stores? .....	9
21. Does a shopping mall require retailers to provide test reports for all products sold within the mall? .....	9
<b>Section IV – Labeling</b> .....	<b>10</b>
22. Which standard is related to the labeling of textile products? .....	10
23. What kind of information is required to be on the label of a garment or textile product? .....	10
24. What kind of information should be included on a permanent label? .....	10
25. For imported products, does the name and address of foreign manufacturer need to be shown on the label? .....	10
26. For a ‘made in China’ product, when the brand owner or retailer is the legally responsible party for product quality, does the detailed name and address of the domestic factory need to be shown on the label? .....	10
27. Is the size in alpha (S, M, L) or numeric (32, 34) applicable for Chinese labeling? .....	11
28. What is “safety category”? .....	11
29. What is the “certificate of quality qualification?” Who should provide this certificate? .....	11
30. What methods are used to attach the label to the products? .....	11
31. What’s the general layout of a hangtag? .....	11
32. Besides Chinese characters, can other foreign languages be used on a label? .....	12

## SECTION I – CHINESE STANDARDS

### 1. What is “GB”?

“GB” is the abbreviation of Chinese Pinyin “Guo Biao,” which means “Chinese national standard.” Now it is usually used as an abbreviation for all references to Chinese standards, like GB standards, GB testing, GB requirements, GB testing capability, etc.

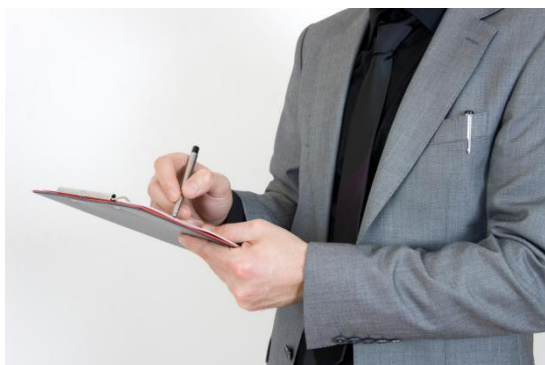


### 2. There are several different prefixes of China standard code, like GB, GB/T, FZ/T, QB/T, etc., what do they mean?

- GB – National standard – Mandatory
- GB/T – National standard – Recommended (“/T” means recommended standard)

Other than GB, the standard code prefixes come from the abbreviation of the related industries.

- FZ/T – Abbreviation of “Fang Zhi”, i.e., textiles industry standard – Recommended
- QB/T – Abbreviation of “Qingong Biaozhun,” i.e., light industry standard (applicable for some leather products, footwear, hardgoods, etc.) – Recommended



### 3. Do products sold in China need to comply with mandatory standards?

Yes, usually the mandatory standard concerns human health, safety and hygiene, or a high risk product category. All the products produced, sold or imported into China must comply with the requirements of the relevant mandatory standard.

### 4. Does the voluntary standard mean “not compulsory,” can the brand owner/importer/retailer ignores the requirements of voluntary standard?

No, the voluntary standards specify the performance requirements of different kinds of products and technical details of test methods. There are many voluntary product standards to choose from; however, it is a requirement for one of these “voluntary” standards to be selected.

Once a particular voluntary standard is claimed on the label of the product as an “executive standard,” all the requirements of the selected “voluntary” standard should be fulfilled.

### 5. Which mandatory standards are related to textiles or apparel?

Please refer to below table:

Mandatory Standard Code	Standard Name	Applicable For
GB 18401-2010	National general safety technical code for textile products	Textile apparel Textile accessories Home textiles
GB 31701-2015	Safety technical code for infant and children's textile products	Textile apparel Textile accessories Home textiles
GB 20400-2006	Leather and fur – Limit of harmful matter	Leather garments Fur garments Leather accessories
GB 21550-2008	Restriction of hazardous materials in polyvinyl chloride artificial leather	PVC garments PVC accessories

#### 6. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 18401-2010?

Technical Requirements: (refer to the below table):

Test Item	Test Method	Category A	Category B	Category C
Formaldehyde Content (mg /kg) ≤	GB/T 2912.1	20	75	300
pH Value	GB/T 7573	4.0-7.5	4.0-8.5	4.0-9.0
Colorfastness to water (grade) ≥	Color change, stain GB/T 5713	3-4	3	3
Colorfastness to Perspiration (grade) ≥	Color change, stain GB/T 3922	3-4	3	3
Colorfastness to Dry Rubbing (grade) ≥	GB/T 3920	4	3	3
Colorfastness to Saliva (grade) ≥	Color change, stain GB/T 18886	4	-	-
Odor	GB 18401 6.7	None		
Banned azo dyestuff	GB/T 17952 GB/T 23344	Forbidden (20 mg/kg)		

Compliance Requirements:

- Products for infants (≤36 months or at/below 100 cm) should comply with Category A technical requirements.
- Products with direct contact to skin should at least comply with Category B technical requirements.
- Products without direct contact to skin should at least comply with Category C technical requirements.

Labeling Requirements:

- For textile products for adult, the appropriate safety category shall be labeled in the instructions for use, such as Category A, Category B or Category C.
- For textile products for infants and children, please refer to the labeling requirements specified in question 7.

#### 7. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 31701-2015?

- *The textile products for infants and children shall comply with the requirement of GB/T 18401. Please find the detailed requirements specified in Question 6.*

- Additionally, the textile products for infants and children also shall comply with the technical requirements in below table.

Item	Method	Requirement			
		Category A	Category B	Category C	
<b>Color fastness to rubbing / (grade) ≥</b>	Wet	GB/T 3920	3 (dark: 2-3)	2-3	-
<b>Heavy metals <sup>a</sup> / (mg/kg) ≤</b>	Lead	GB/T 30157	90	-	-
	Cadmium		100	-	-
<b>Phthalates <sup>a</sup> / (%) ≤</b>	DEHP, DBP, BBP	GB/T 20388	0.1	-	-
	DINP, DIDP, DNOP		0.1	-	-
<b>Flammability <sup>b</sup></b>		GB/T 14644	Class 1 (normal flammability)		
<b>Filling material requirement</b>	Fiber	Refer to GB 18401	Must comply with GB 18401.		
	Down and feather	Refer to GB 18401 & GB/T 10288 Annex A	Must comply with GB 18401 & microbiological requirements of GB/T 17685.		
<b>Attached components requirement (Only for infant products)</b>	Tensile strength	GB 31701 Annex A.4.1, load 70N for component dimension > 6 mm, load 50N for component dimension 3-6mm	After testing with specified load, it will be not allowed if any one of following occurs: -the attached component detached from the body of product. -the attached component damage. -the fabric torn or ruptured.		
	Appearance after washing (Required on the attached components ≤3 mm in largest dimension or cannot be grasped)	GB 31701 Annex A.4.2	Grading of appearance: -no change -barely changed: the attached component is minimally changed from the original state but still firmly attached to the product -slightly changed: the attached component occurs slight and obvious looseness -obviously changed: the attached component or the fabric is obviously damaged -completely detached: the attached component is completely detached from the fabric It will be not allowed if the slightly changed, obviously changed or completely detached were found.		
<b>Sharp points and sharp edges</b>		GB/T 31702	Not detected		
<b>Cords and drawstrings requirement</b>		Use steel ruler or steel tape	Comply with the GB 31701 section 4.4.3 table 3.		

Note:

a. Only applicable to coated, pigment dyed and/or printed fabrics.

b. Only tested on the outer layer of products; fabrics made entirely from any of the following fibers or entirely from combination of the following fibers, wool, acrylic, modacrylic, polyamide, polypropylene and polyester, are exempted from testing; fabrics with the weight greater than 90 g/m<sup>2</sup> are exempted from this testing.

Compliance Requirements:

- Products for infants (≤36 months or at/below 100 cm) should comply with Category A technical requirements.
- Products with direct contact to skin should at least comply with Category B technical requirements.

- Products without direct contact to skin should at least comply with Category C technical requirements.

**Labeling Requirements:**

- For textile products for children, standard code and appropriate safety category shall be labeled in the instructions for use, such as GB 31701 Category A, GB 31701 Category B or GB 31701 Category C.
- For textile products for infants, standard code along with "products for infants" should be labeled in the instructions for use, such as GB 31701 products for infants.

**8. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 20400-2006?**

Please refer to the below table:

Item	Method	Requirement		
		Category A	Category B	Category C
Banned Decomposable Aromatic Amine Dyestuffs (mg/kg) ≤	GB/T 19942	30		
Formaldehyde (mg/kg) ≤	GB/T 19941	20	75	300 (White sheared sheep skin 600)

**9. What are the requirements under the mandatory standard GB 21550-2010?**

Please refer to the below table:

Item	Method	Requirement
Vinyl Chloride Monomer Content (mg/kg) ≤	GB 21550 Section 5.3 & GB/T 4615-1984	5
Heavy Metal Content Analysis (mg/kg) ≤	Sol. Lead (Pb)	90
	Sol. Cadmium (Cd)	75
Other Volatile Matter Content (g/m <sup>2</sup> ) ≤	GB 21550 Section 5.5	20

**10. What is a product standard?**

A product standard is a recommended standard (the code beginning with GB/T, FZ/T or QB/T). It is recommended to be used according to the category and characteristics of the product or common practice of the industry for that particular product. A product standard specifies the quality requirements of a product and classifies the technical requirements of the different quality grades (e.g., Premium, Class 1 or Pass Grade). The brand owner, retailer or manufacturer should choose the most suitable product standard for a product and declare its standard code and quality grade on the label/hangtag. The product's quality must meet the minimum requirements of quality grade that is specified within the declared product standard.

**11. What is the executive standard?**

When the product standard or other standard has been chosen and labeled on the product, then we often call the selected standard(s) the executive standard. A product's quality should meet all the requirements of the executive standard.

**12. Are Chinese Standards available in other languages?**

No official translations are published by the authorities in China. Intertek China Domestic Market Services group has professionally translated the majority of the commonly used GB standards into English (e.g., GB 18401, GB/T 5296.4, etc.) into English and translated copies of the product standards commonly used into



English. In addition, copies of GB test methods are also available for a fee to clients. To ensure consistency, copies are held by all Intertek locations offering China GB testing.

## SECTION II – COMPLIANCE

### 13. What is the minimum requirement for selling products in China?

According to “Product Quality Law of the People’s Republic of China,” product quality shall include two parts of requirements: product quality and marks/labeling.

For textiles and apparel for adult, GB 18401, GB/T 5296.4 and related product standards should be met.

For textiles and apparel for infants and children, GB 31701, GB/T 5296.4 and related product standards should be met.



### 14. Does a product only need to comply with mandatory standards?

No. The product quality should also meet the requirements of the related product standard.

### 15. Is there a difference in the requirements for items sold on the internet, private store, shopping mall, etc.?

No. There is no difference to the requirements.

## SECTION III – TESTING AND REPORTING



### **16. Does the brand owner/importer/retailer have to test their merchandise when it is being imported into or sold into the Chinese market?**

Testing is not compulsory by Chinese law, though the product should comply with the requirements. It is the responsibility of the brand owner/importer/retailer to ensure their product's quality complies with the standards. Otherwise, they will be exposed to potential risks including inspection by authorities or customer complaints, etc. Not only could a fine or penalty be imposed, but the brand image and company's reputation might also be damaged if non-compliance is detected by an authority or customer.

### **17. Does the test need to follow the Chinese test method?**

Mandatory standards and product standards specify using Chinese test methods normally, so Chinese methods should be used accordingly. Some companies register their enterprise standard as using a non-Chinese test method. A non-Chinese method is allowed for such a case.

### **18. Can an ISO method be used instead of GB one?**

Some GB test methods adopt ISO methods, and all technical conditions are same as ISO method, as such, ISO method can be used.

However, if a test report needs to be used in China domestic market, the GB method code and the test item in Chinese should be shown on test report.

### **19. Can a product be qualified by a fabric test report?**

No, the test should be conducted on the final product unless the fabric tested is the end product sold on the market.

### **20. Does the retailer need to keep the hard copy of the test report in their stores?**

No, this is not required by Chinese law. However once there is a customer complaint, a test report is important evidence for proving a product's quality. In addition, the report also acts as evidence of product quality during any inspection by Governmental authorities meaning further sampling or testing may not be requested.

### **21. Does a shopping mall require retailers to provide test reports for all products sold within the mall?**

It is the responsibility of shopping mall's management to ensure that products sold in their mall meet its executed standards. Different practices exist, some require the test reports and some do not.

## SECTION IV – LABELING

### 22. Which standard is related to the labeling of textile products?

GB/T 5296.4-2012 includes the general labeling requirement for textile products.

There are some product standards that include specific labeling requirements, such as warnings, for particular products.



### 23. What kind of information is required to be on the label of a garment or textile product?

According to GB/T 5296.4-2012, eight elements are required as follows:

- Name and address of manufacturer
- Product name
- Product size or specification
- Fiber composition and contents
- Methods of care
- Effective product standards
- Safety category
- Use and storage precautions (optional)

In addition, according to “Product Quality Law of the People’s Republic of China,” two additional elements also need to be on the label:

- Certificate of quality qualification
- Quality grade

### 24. What kind of information should be included on a permanent label?

“Fiber composition and contents,” “product size or specification” and “methods of care” must be shown on a permanent label.

### 25. For imported products, does the name and address of foreign manufacturer need to be shown on the label?

No, the legally registered name and address in mainland China of the agent, importer or vendor shall be indicated on the label. The name and address of the foreign manufacturer is not required for imported textiles and apparel. However, the Country of Origin is required on the label.

### 26. For a ‘made in China’ product, when the brand owner or retailer is the legally responsible party for product quality, does the detailed name and address of the domestic factory need to be shown on the label?

No. Only the name and address of the brand owner or retailer legally registered in mainland China is acceptable. The name and address of the domestic factory is not compulsory on the label. However, the

province and the prefecture-level city where the factory is based needs to be stated on the label, because it is required by some relevant rules.

**27. Is the size in alpha (S, M, L) or numeric (32, 34) applicable for Chinese labeling?**

No. The size labeling is required to be based upon the Chinese size standard; it is unique and different from other markets. For example, for adult apparel, the Chinese size is formed using body height, chest or waist girth and a code for the body type. (Body type is determined by the difference between chest and waist circumference.). There are several size standards available, e.g., men's, women's, children's, sweater, etc. The one chosen needs to follow the requirement specified in the declared product standard. However, the size in alpha or numeric can be used together as long as the Chinese size is also available.

**28. What is "safety category"?**

Category specified in GB 18401-2010 and GB 31701-2015 should be shown on the label. Please refer to the detailed technical and labeling requirements in Question 6 and Question 7.

**29. What is the "certificate of quality qualification?" Who should provide this certificate?**

The product should be checked or inspected by the manufacturer's inspector before leaving the factory to ensure the product's quality. The "certificate of quality qualification" is proof that the product has been checked and the manufacturer or retailer guarantees the product quality already meets the Chinese requirements. Therefore, the "certificate of quality qualification" is a self-declaration. It is usually declared by using a hangtag instead of a test or inspection report.

**30. What methods are used to attach the label to the products?**

Usually, the instructions for use (label) take the following forms:

- Directly printed or woven onto the product
- Permanent label secured to the product
- Label hanging from the product
- Label hanging from, adhering to, or secured to the product package
- Directly printed onto the product package
- Information provided with the product

Note: When the labels in multiple forms are used on one product, ensure consistency of the label contents.

**31. What's the general layout of a hangtag?**

Please refer to the example below:

**Example 1:**

**合格证**


产品名称: 女式机织休闲上衣  
纤维成分: 100%棉  
号 型: 160/80A  
执行标准: FZ/T 81007-2012  
质量等级: 合格品  
安全类别: B类  
制造者名称: XXXX  
地 址: XXXX  
电 话: XXXX

洗涤说明:

**Certificate**

Product name: Women's woven casual top  
Fiber content: 100% cotton  
Size: 160/80A  
Product standard: FZ/T 81007-2012  
Quality grade: Pass  
Safety code: Category B  
Manufacturer: XXXX  
Address: XXXX  
Tel.: XXXX

Care instruction:



**Example 2:**

**合格证**


产品名称: 儿童针织 T-恤衫  
纤维成分: 100%棉  
号 型: 120/60  
执行标准: FZ/T 73045-2013  
质量等级: 合格品  
安全类别: GB 31701 B类  
制造者名称: XXXX  
地 址: XXXX  
电 话: XXXX

洗涤说明:

**Certificate**

Product name: Children's Knitted T-shirt  
Fiber content: 100% cotton  
Size: 120/60  
Product standard: FZ/T 73045-2013  
Quality grade: Pass  
Safety code: GB 31701 Category B  
Manufacturer: XXXX  
Address: XXXX  
Tel.: XXXX

Care instruction:



**32. Besides Chinese characters, can other foreign languages be used on a label?**

Yes. The label for the Chinese market must be presented in Simplified Chinese. Foreign languages are optional, but the size of foreign characters should be no larger than the corresponding Chinese characters

All Rights Reserved.

\*Intertek is the owner of the copyright in the material and intellectual know-how presented. No parts of this material may be reproduced, adapted or distributed outside of your company without the consent of Intertek other than to the extent necessary to view the material.

# TOTAL QUALITY. ASSURED.

## About Intertek

Intertek is a leading Total Quality Assurance provider to industries worldwide. Through our network of more than 1,000 laboratories and offices and over 43,000 people in more than 100 countries, the Group is re-defining the industry with our Total Quality Assurance proposition. We go beyond physical quality control to provide total peace of mind through our innovative and bespoke Assurance, Testing, Inspection and Certification solutions for our customers' operations and supply chains. Intertek Total Quality Assurance expertise delivered consistently, with precision, pace and passion, enabling our customers to power ahead safely. Visit [www.intertek.com](http://www.intertek.com)

扫描二维码，关注Intertek天祥集团官方微信



400-886-9926



[service.china@intertek.com](mailto:service.china@intertek.com)



[intertek.com.cn](http://intertek.com.cn)