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GARMENT ALERT #3

BOSS/HUGO BOSS MAN'S SUIT 'FUZZY SPANDEX'

Boss/Hugo Boss man's wool/elastane suit labelled **Specialist Dry Cleaning Recommended/Dry Clean Only** with a white lint-like effect developing throughout its fabric surface, following recommended dry cleaning. This problem with 'fuzzy spandex' was seen in Boss/Hugo Boss suits in 2007 and 2008.

GARMENT LABELLING

Designer/Manufacturer:

Boss/Hugo Boss

Fibre Content Labelling:

**96% wool/4% elastane,
lining – 100% Cupro rayon**

CARE LABELLING:

By English Phrases -Specialist Dry Cleaning Recommended, Dry Clean Only, Dry Clean As Delicate, No Free Water or Damp Load, Minimum Drying Conditions, Use Soft Clad Press With Light Pressure, Warm Iron Under Damp Cloth.

By International Care Labelling

Symbols – Do Not Wash, Do Not Use Chlorine Bleach, Warm Iron, Dry Clean As Delicate, Do Not Tumble Dry

COMMENTS ON THE GARMENT'S CARE LABELLING

The care instructions include the prohibition on tumble drying in the form of an international care labelling symbol. This is both inappropriate and incorrect for a suit that has been care labelled as Dry Clean Only because the automated dry cleaning cycle, of necessity, includes a final tumble drying phase in order to remove the last traces of any residual perchlorethylene dry cleaning solvent after spinning. This tumble drying phase is required to make garments safe to both handle and use

to the benefit of both dry cleaning workers and the customer. Therefore, the responsibility for any damage that can be shown to have arisen directly out of carrying out this tumble drying phase must clearly lie with the manufacturer.

GARMENT PROBLEM

Following recommended dry cleaning, there is clear evidence of the development of light coloured lint-like filaments on the fabric surface throughout both parts of the suit, but particularly on the jacket. These filaments are clearly the elastane component of the fabric itself, which is labelled as 4%



elastane, which have broken out of the fabric structure.

Elastane is the elastomeric component of the fabric that gives the garment its inherent stretch and recovery characteristics. This effect, where the elastane filaments appear on the fabric surface, is known by various terms, including 'grin-through', referring to the elastomeric component breaking out of the fabric structure and 'fuzzy spandex' from the U.S generic term for elastomeric fibres.

RESPONSIBILITY

This problem of the elastomeric component of the fibre blend, breaking out of the fabric structure can develop very quickly as a result of a new garment's initial first, second or third dry cleaning treatments, where the garment itself is clearly unserviceable to the mechanical effects of the dry cleaning treatment.

Alternatively, it can develop gradually over time as a result of the combined effects of normal use and wear and repeated dry cleaning treatments, and, eventually, in much older garments, it can simply be considered to be indicative of the garment nearing the end of its wearable life.

In either case, the dry cleaner has almost no control of any of the significant factors that cause this effect, which are usually related to manufacturing, normal wear and use conditions or previous repeated care treatment conditions. In any of these circumstances, the dry cleaner cannot be held responsible for causing this problem.

IFI/DLI TABS-310

FUZZY SPANDEX applies to this problem and it states that manufac-



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urers have a clear responsibility to ensure that the fabrics selected for use in their garments are fully serviceable to use and wear, and, particularly to the initial and repeated effects of the care treatments stipulated on the care labelling attached to their garments.

APPROPRIATE ACTION

The manufacturer is responsible for causing this problem and the customer should be encouraged to

return the suit to the original point of purchase, along with a copy of the **IFI/DLI TABS-310 Fuzzy Spandex**, in order to receive appropriate redress for the suit being unfit for the purpose for which it was purchased.

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