

# ◆SPC&B Textile Report◆

A Newsletter for Clients of Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C.

December 10, 2010

## *Congress Passes Truth in Fur Labeling Act*



The “Truth in Fur Labeling Act” has been passed by both the House and the Senate and has been sent to President Obama for signature. (We expect that he will sign the legislation.)

**This legislation removes the \$150 exemption from fur labeling under the Fur Products Labeling Act, effective 90 days after enactment.** The only exempt fur products will be those obtained from an animal through trapping or hunting, sold in a face to face transaction by the person who trapped or hunted the animal.

The Fur Products Labeling Act applies to any article of clothing or covering for any part of the body and, therefore, includes wearing apparel, footwear, headwear, gloves, etc. The required label must provide the following information:

- Animal name of the fur(s)
- Statement that the fur is dyed, bleached, artificially colored and/or damaged if applicable
- Whether the fur is composed of pieces
- If the fur is not dyed, bleached or the like, a statement that the fur is “natural” fur
- Origin of the fur preceded by the phrase “Fur Origin” (this may differ from the origin of the entire product)

The placement and format of the fur product label is as follows:

- Label must be no smaller than 1 3/4 by 2 3/4 inches
- Font size must be no smaller than pica or 12 point with all information in equal sized letters
- Label must be sufficiently permanent to reach the consumer
- The required information must be in the following order
  - Whether the fur is natural or bleached, etc.
  - The fur animal name
  - Whether the fur is composed of pieces

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**Fur origin**

Any other labeling information

It is unclear from the legislation whether the 90-day effective date will apply to goods in inventory, or to goods manufactured after that date. We will follow up with the FTC after the law is enacted and keep you apprised of further developments. Nevertheless, importers need to take these new marking requirements into account for all new purchases.

*Reminder:* Certain states, including New York, Massachusetts and Delaware, also require a statement indicating whether a product is made with “real animal fur” or “faux fur.”

If you have any questions or concerns about the proper labeling of your fur products, whether real or faux, please contact Gail Cumins at [gcumins@spcblaw.com](mailto:gcumins@spcblaw.com) or Donna Shira at [dshira@spcblaw.com](mailto:dshira@spcblaw.com), or call us at 212-425-0055.