



## LABELLING REQUIREMENTS FOR SHOES

The *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act 1905* and *Commerce (Imports) Regulations 1940* set out the labelling requirements for certain goods imported into Australia. Customs administers this legislation.

Shoes require a trade description including the name of the country in which the goods were made or produced, and a true description of the goods.

The trade description must be in the English language, in prominent and legible characters, and on a principal label or brand affixed in a prominent position and in as permanent a manner as practicable to the goods.

### Additional labelling requirements for shoes

Regulation 15B of the *Commerce (Imports) Regulations* sets out additional labelling requirements for shoes, specifically in relation to composition labelling and positioning of labels. It requires that the trade description applied to shoes includes:

**where soles, uppers and quarter linings consist entirely of leather** - the words "all leather sole", "all leather upper" and "all leather quarter lining";

**where soles consist partly of leather** - a true statement of the materials composing the sole;

**where soles do not consist entirely or partly of leather** - the words "synthetic sole", or "non-leather sole";

**where uppers consist partly of leather** - a true statement of the material composing the upper;

**where uppers do not consist entirely or partly of leather** - the words "synthetic upper" or "non-leather upper";

**where quarter linings consist partly of leather** - a true statement of the materials composing the quarter lining; and

**where quarter linings do not consist entirely or partly of leather** - the words "synthetic quarter lining" or "non-leather quarter lining".

### Positioning of Labels

In the case of all shoes, the trade description must be impressed or embossed on the shoe in clearly legible letters not less than 2.5mm in height in one of the following positions:

- on the waist of the outer sole of the shoe;
- on the inside of the upper above the waist of the shoe;
- on the heel seat or waist area of the sock lining or, if there is no sock lining;
- on the heel seat or waist area of the inner sole;
- or on the tongue of the shoe.

If the material of the shoe does not reasonably allow the trade description to be impressed or embossed on it, the trade description must be impressed or embossed on a label of rubber, plastic, durable cloth or any other durable material, and attached to the shoe by vulcanisation, adhesion or any other secure means.

Any other information included on the label brand or packaging must not contradict or obscure the required trade description.

In addition, the *Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act* prohibits the importation of goods that bear a false trade description. A false trade description can be any description of goods that is false or misleading.

A trade description may also be false if information is omitted from the description and this misleads the consumer as to nature of the goods.

### Definitions

**shoes** means boots, shoes, sandals or other footwear but does not include socks, stockings or other hose or ski boots designed to fit ski bindings, being ski boots having moulded plastic uppers and rigid soles that do not have a replaceable sole section.

**sock lining** means the thin slip of leather, paper or material that is affixed to the upper surface of the inner sole.

**sole** in relation to a shoe, means all that part of the shoe (including the heel) which, when the shoe is worn by a person, is under the foot of the wearer other than:

- (a) the inner sole;
- (b) the sock lining; or
- (c) thread, wax, rivets, pegs, nails, toe plates, heel plates, heel tips or heel caps.

**upper** means the outer covering of the part of a shoe above the inner sole, but does not include any thread, lace, eyelet, buckle, button or other adornment.

### **What if my goods have a false description?**

The Commerce (Trade Descriptions) Act provides that goods imported in contravention of the Commerce (Imports) Regulations may be seized by Customs.

While Customs may permit the re-labelling of contravening goods where it is considered that the contravention was neither intentional nor reckless, we recommend that you ensure your goods comply with the legislation prior to their importation.

Where re-labelling is permitted, goods can only be released once the trade description is correct and all Customs formalities have been completed. You may also be asked to provide evidence that you have instructed your suppliers to correctly label goods in future.

### **For more information**

Click on the following links for information on related topics:

[Labelling Requirements for Exported Goods](#)  
[False Trade Descriptions](#)

If you would like further information about importing goods into Australia, go to the Customs website at [www.customs.gov.au](http://www.customs.gov.au)

Alternatively you can email your inquiry to [information@customs.gov.au](mailto:information@customs.gov.au) or phone the Customs Information and Support Centre on 1300 363 263.

