



This woman's jacket (Linda Allard for Ellen Tracy) was examined by the Houston Shatnez laboratory.

The US labeling law requires listing all fibers greater than 5% of the garment; any fibers serving a structural purpose such as spandex or nylon; and specifically wool in any amount. However, the law does not require listing fibers which constitute the threads holding the garment together, any trimmings, decoration, or applique. The label shows a combination of wool and silk with small amounts of nylon and spandex, and testing showed it to be accurate...as far as it goes!



Although there was no linen inside the garment, it turned out the problem was in plain site: the sleeve turn-ups, pocket flap backing, and collar backing were all pure linen. Since these constitute “trimmings,” linen did not have to be listed on the fabric content label.

