

Damage:



Description of issue: Two Saba suits of the same design were drycleaned by a member in New South Wales back in December 2021 and just this month in May in Perth, Western Australia. Saba have previously told the drycleaner in New South Wales that they have had no issues with this suit but it is interesting to note that a drycleaner on the other side of the country has now had the same issue.

The DIA will be writing to Saba to raise this issue.

This problem has been around for many years and can show in two ways - firstly the spandex yarns have stretched out or broken and protrude from the surface of the fabric or secondly the stretch spandex yarns have lose their colour and appear gold or tan. In both cases the end result is that the garment now appears fuzzy or looks like it has lint or takes on the appearance of tiny bits of spaghetti poking out.

In either situation the dry cleaner is not at fault and both conditions are caused by an incompatibility of the chosen elastane used in the garment to the dry cleaning solvent. There are many elastane's that dry clean well with no problems, obviously this is not one of them.

The suit is care labelled correctly according to Australian standard AS/NZL 19957-1998. The label states dry clean in P - this is designated perchlorethelene solvent, the strongest solvent but it also means it can be cleaned in any of the solvents available in Australia.

In this instance we provided both members with a TABs bulletin supporting the above analysis and it was recommended that a DLI report also be done (at the cost of around \$33 AUD) to help support the drycleaners case that they are not at fault.

The relevant TABs was:

Tab 310 Fuzzy spandex