

DIA Garment Alert 12 July 2022

This white, polyester dress with flocking was cleaned by an experienced drycleaner.

The label on the dress said Dry Clean Only which did not conform to AS/NZL Care Labelling Legislation as there were no symbols and no prohibitive instructions.

After being cleaned the flocking on the dress fell off.

Damage:



Description of issue:

The frock is polyester with 2 layers of under skirt, and an over layer of tulle (three layers). The top and bottom layer of tulle is unadorned, and the middle layer of tulle has a pattern. The three layers are joined together in a wide hem at the bottom of the dress. The pattern seemed to be a flock pattern glued on to the tulle material.

The frock was processed in a Bowe P540, with perchloroethylene in a light load with one other dress on the following programme:

- * Programme 12-
- * 4-minute Prewash
- * 12-minute Filtration cycle
- * 50 second milling
- * 12-minute Drying and deodorise cycle

The problem is relatively common and has been around for over 50 years although it is not as common as it used to be. The problem is that one layer of the fabric has had a pattern applied to it by a process called FLOCKING.

This is where a design is placed on the fabric with an adhesive, the fabric then goes through a process where fine particles of fibre are blown onto the fabric, sticking to the adhesive on the fabric to form the pattern.

The adhesive that has been used is not to stand up to dry cleaning solutions and so during the dry cleaning cycle the glue has solubilised allowing all the fibres that made up the design to fall off.

This is a manufacturer's fault and not the dry cleaner's fault.

The following TABS also assist in dealing with this type of issue:

- TABS316 - Synthetic Flock Velvet & Suede
- TABS411 - Loss of Embossed Design
- TABS412 - Flock Print Design Damage