



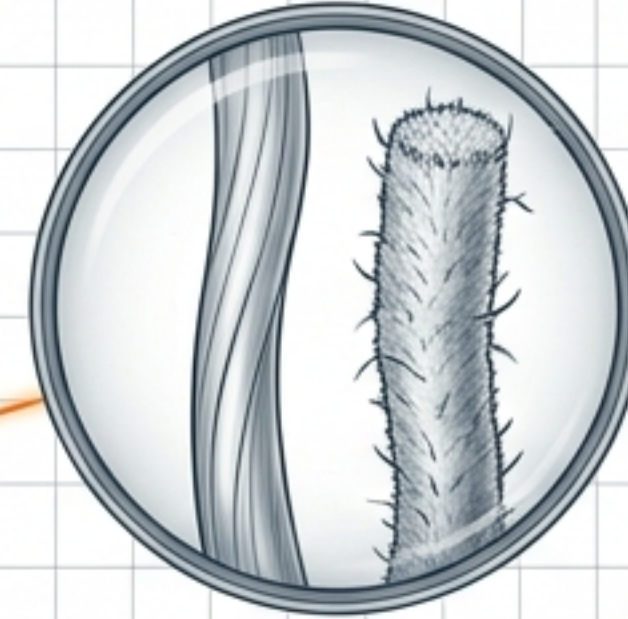
Field Guide to Fabric Classification

Decoding Coated, Uncoated, and
Special Woven Textiles under the HTS

Accurate classification requires precise forensic facts



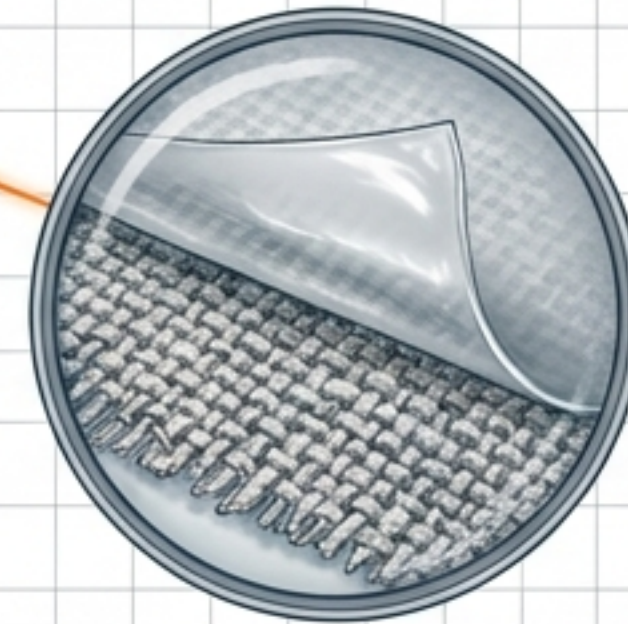
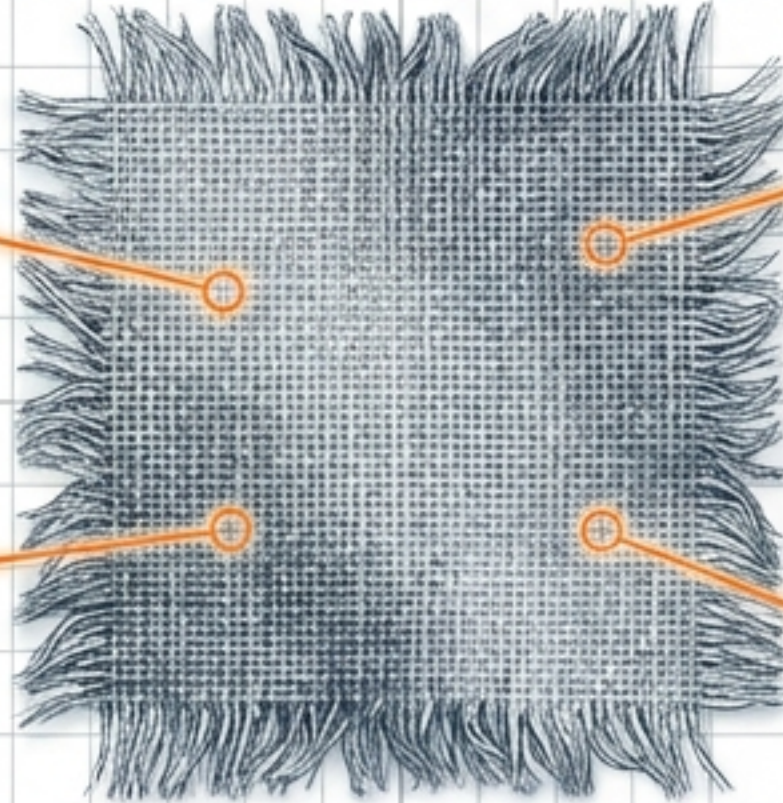
Weave Construction
(Identifying Plain, Twill, Jacquard, or Knit)



Fiber Composition
(Identifying Natural vs. Man-made, Filament vs. Staple, and exact % by weight)



Dye & Color
(Identifying if the fabric is uniformly dyed, bleached, or uses yarns of different colors)



Backing & Coatings
(Identifying acrylic, latex, cellular plastics, or lamination)

Classification is determined by observation and known facts. When manufacturer specifications are unreliable or incomplete, CBP laboratories provide the definitive technical analysis required to properly sequence a textile through the Harmonized Tariff Schedule.

Securing binding guidance through the eRuling process



Submit Prospective Samples

Limit to a maximum of 5 items of the same class or kind per submission. Rulings strictly apply to prospective shipments.



Laboratory Testing (If Required)

Complex structures (pile cuts, stitch counts, fiber blending) are automatically routed to CBP labs. This is a standard procedure to ensure accuracy, not a penalty.



Ruling Issuance

General turnaround is approximately 30 days. Rulings are published publicly to the Customs Ruling Online Search System (CROSS), though proprietary information can be protected upon request.

The structural divide between coated and uncoated textiles

Uncoated / Invisible Coating

**Chapters
50-53**
(Natural Fibers)

Chapter 54
(Man-made
Filaments)

Chapter 55
(Man-made
Staples)

Visibly Coated / Laminated

Chapter 59



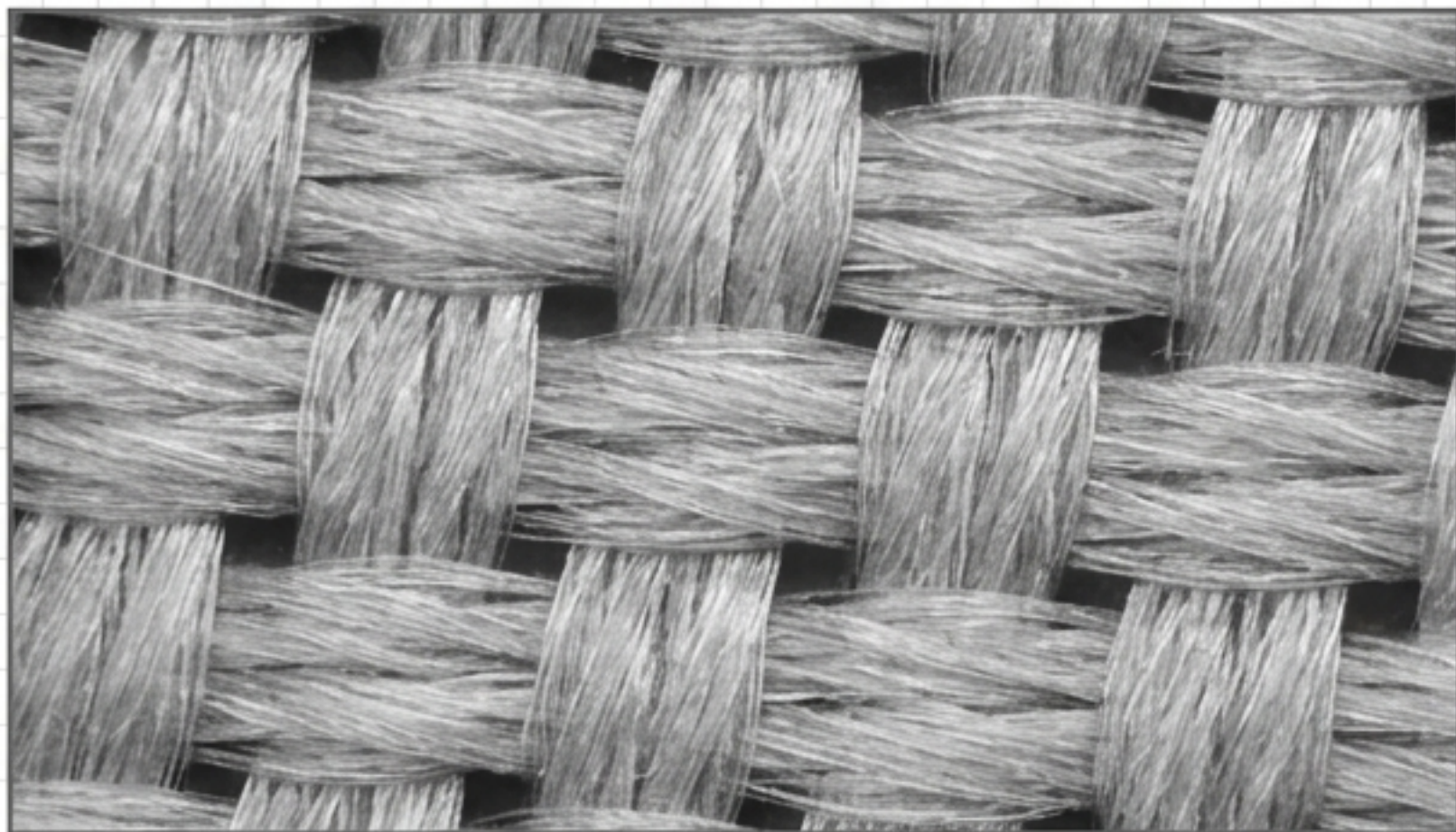
The Exceptions

Chapter 58
(Special Wovens)

Chapter 60
(Knits)

The ultimate litmus test for coatings relies on the naked eye

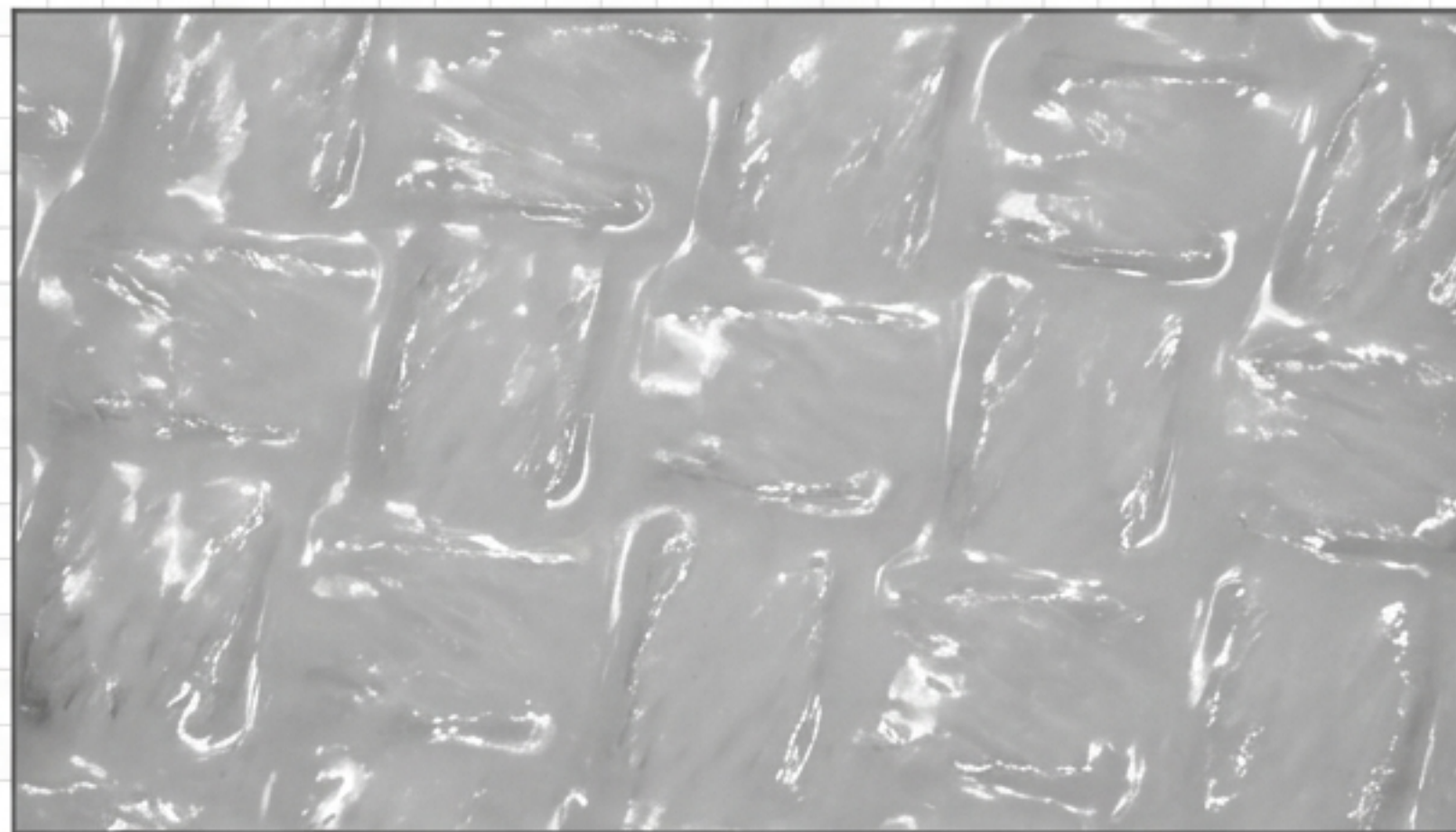
Stays Uncoated



Invisible Coating

If you need a microscope to see the coating, the fabric is treated as uncoated and remains in its base fiber chapter (e.g., Ch 54/55).

Moves to Ch 59

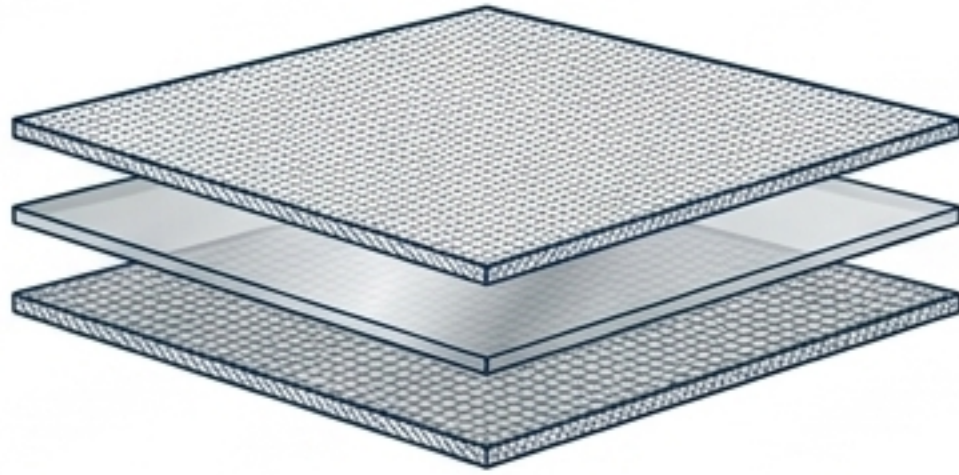


Visible Coating

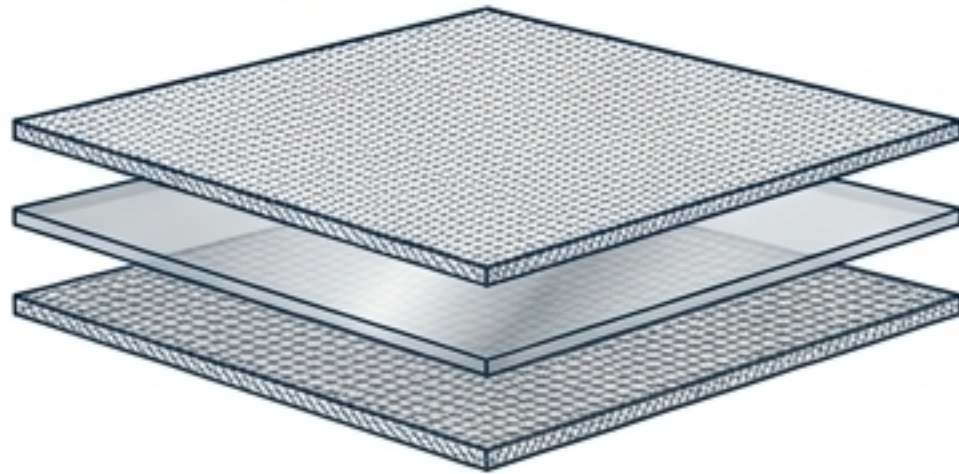
If the plastic or rubber coating is visible to the naked eye without magnification, the fabric is reclassified into Chapter 59.

The 2022 legislative update redefines laminated textiles

Pre-Jan 2022



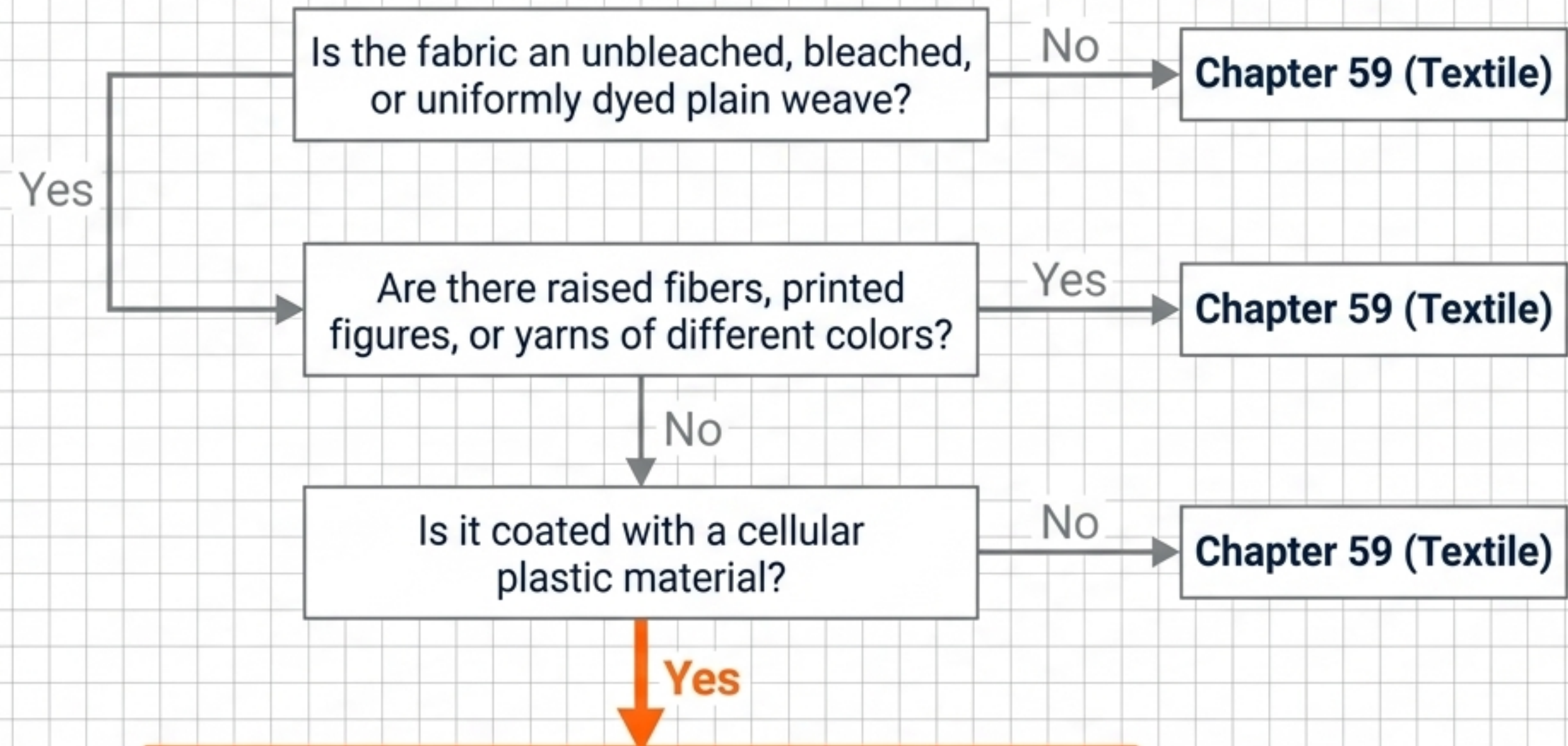
Post-Jan 2022 Note 3 to Ch. 59



The New Rule: Textile fabrics laminated with plastics now mean products made by assembling one or more layers of fabric with a pre-existing sheet or film of plastic.

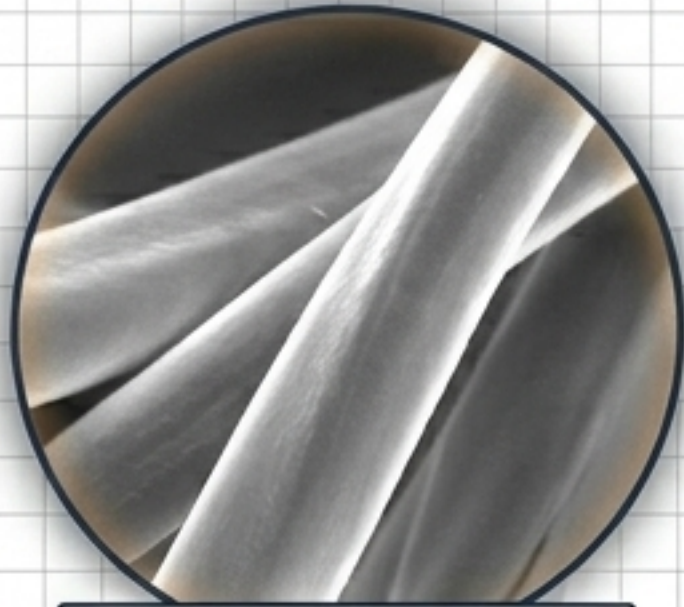
Critical Shift: These assemblies are classified as laminated in Chapter 59 whether or not the plastic sheet or film is visible to the naked eye in the cross-section.

Diagnosing mere reinforcement separates plastics from textiles



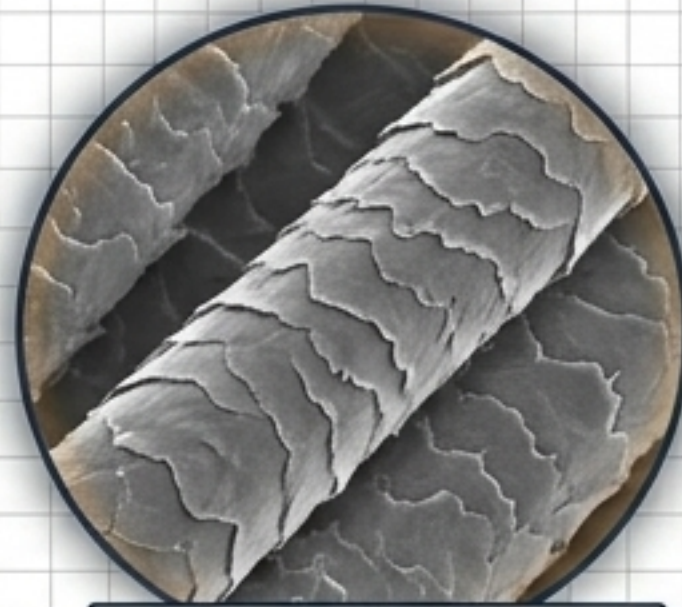
The textile serves merely for reinforcing purposes.
It is entirely excluded from Section 11 textiles.
Classify in Chapter 39 (Plastics).

Natural fiber classifications depend heavily on lab-verified abrasion resistance



Silk (Ch 50)

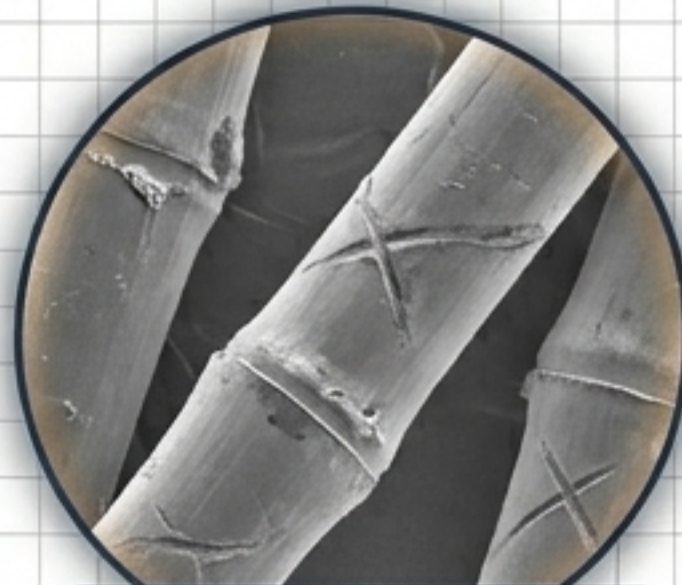
Resource heavy: Requires 5,500 silkworms to produce just 1kg of raw silk.



Wool (Ch 51)



Cotton (Ch 52)



Linen (Ch 53)

The Wool Upholstery Test

- **The Stakes:** Importers seek tapestry/upholstery classification for wool to drop the duty rate from 25% down to 7%.
- **The Requirement:** CBP labs must test for surface abrasion resistance to flat rubbing contact.
- **The Threshold:** To qualify for the 7% rate, the wool fibers must have an average diameter not exceeding **18.5 microns**.

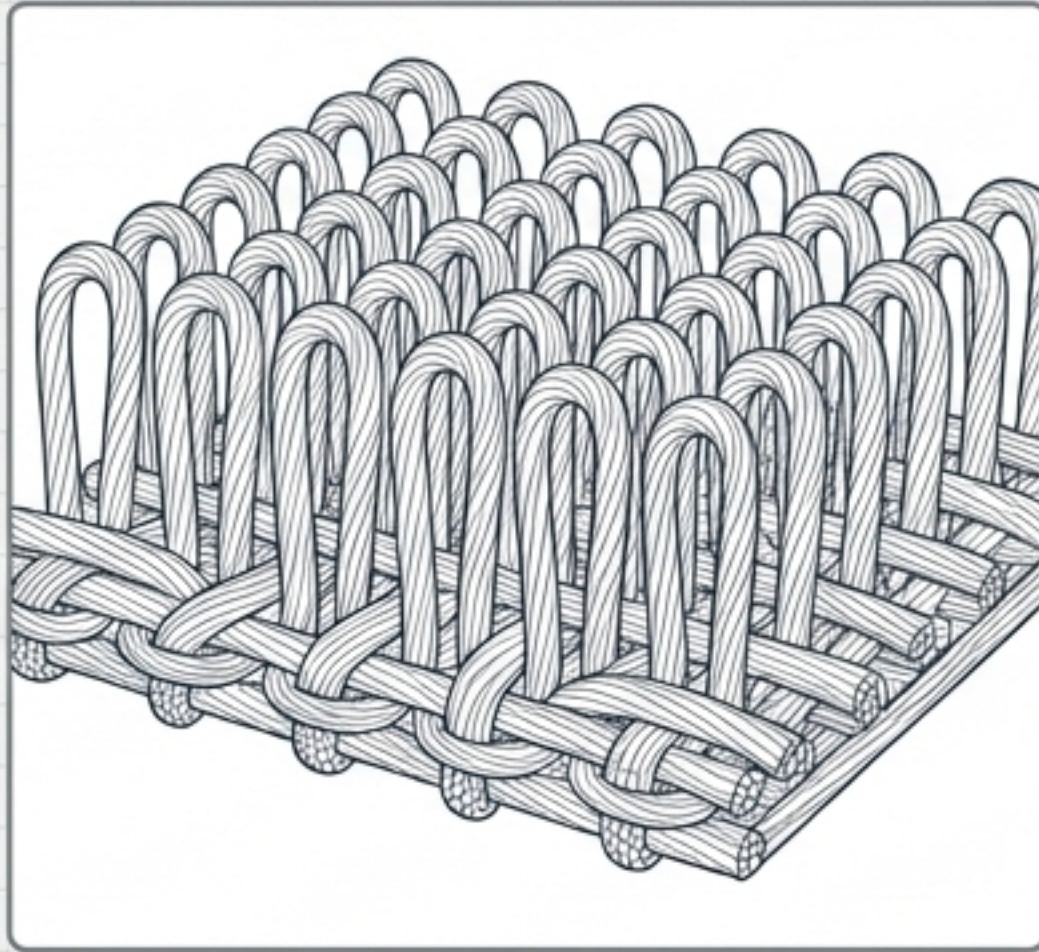
Diagnosing man-made fibers requires mapping composition against coating visibility

Filament = Long continuous strands.
Staple = Chopped filaments.

	Invisible Coating	Visible Coating
Majority Filament Fiber (Ch 54)	Stays in Chapter 54	Overrides to Chapter 59
Majority Staple Fiber (Ch 55)	Stays in Chapter 55	Overrides to Chapter 59

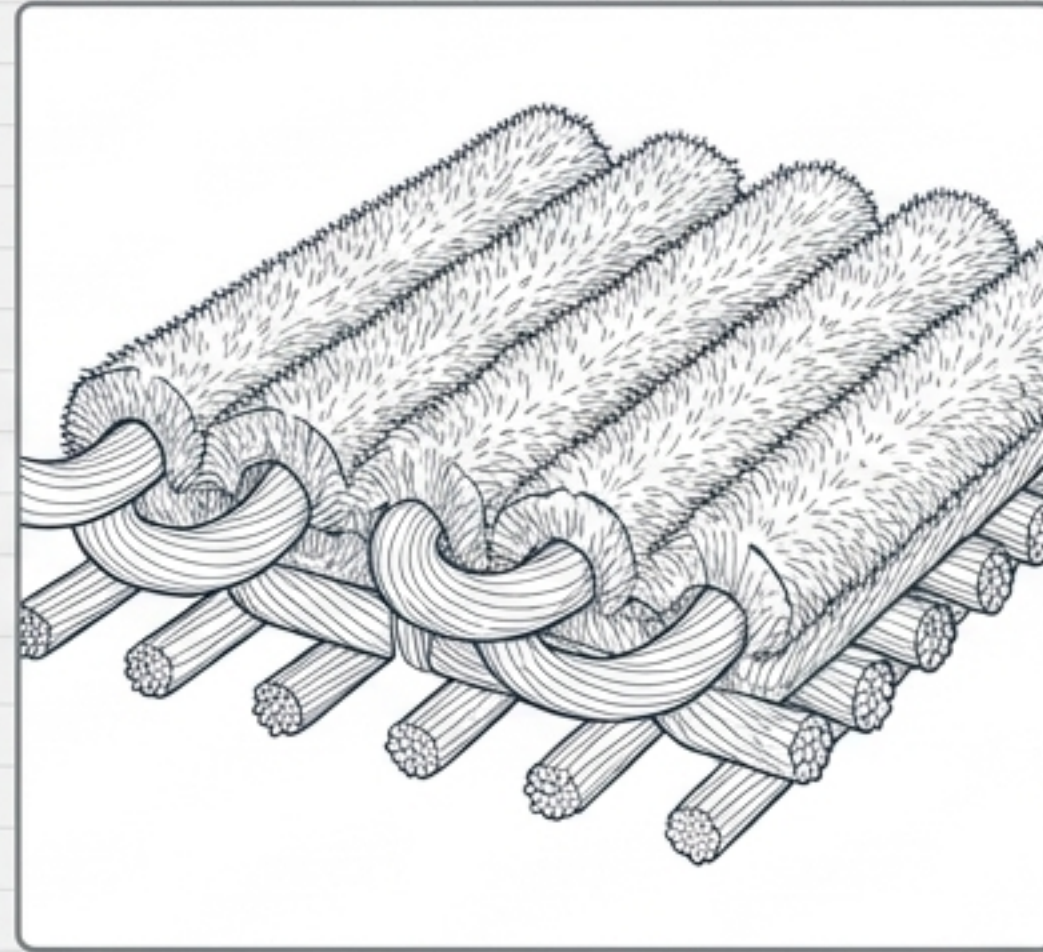
When the coating is invisible, the fabric is classified by the fiber type that provides the greatest percentage of weight.

Special woven fabrics demand structural verification at the yarn level



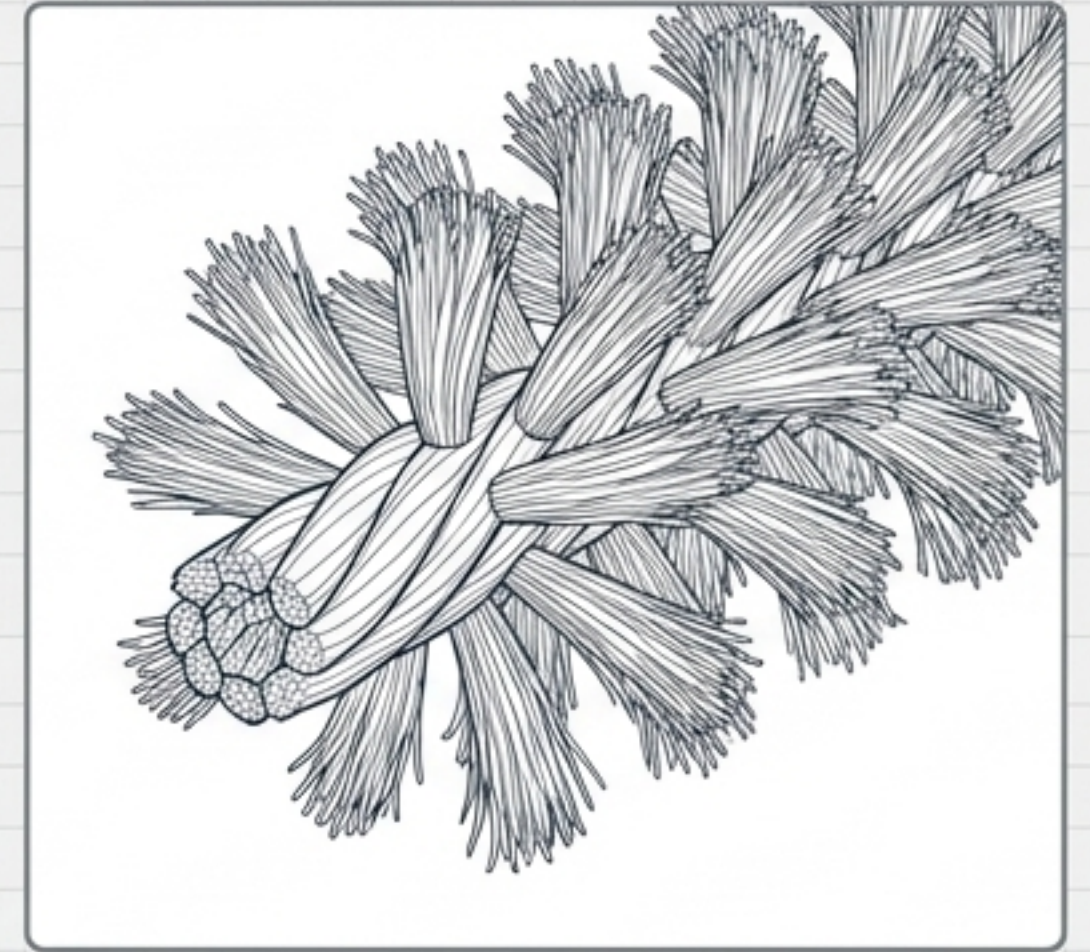
Warp Cut Pile

Yarns deliberately produced to stand vertically away from the surface.



Weft Cut Pile

Extra weft floats are slit horizontally to stand up.



Chenille Yarn

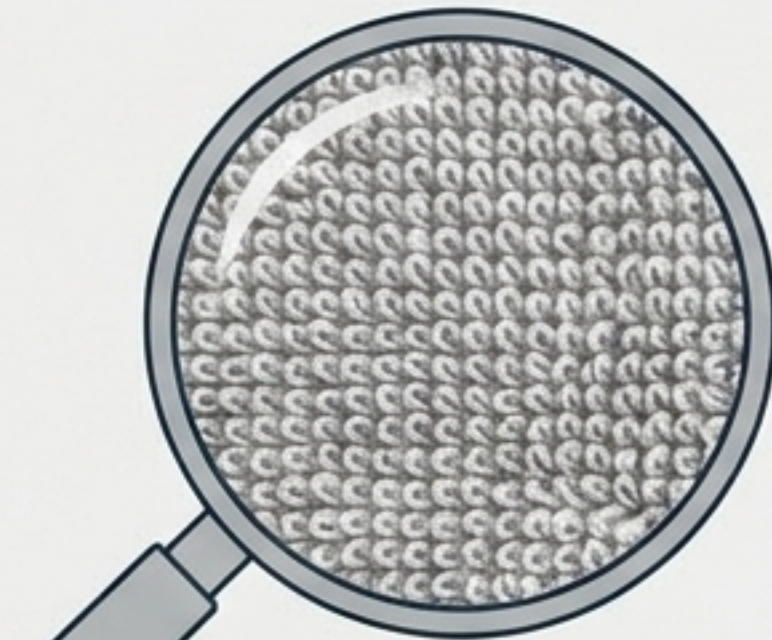
A central core yarn with short tufts of pile protruding completely around it.

Field Test (The Fingernail Trick): To verify true chenille vs. a standard fancy yarn, rub your fingernail against the yarn. If it is genuine chenille, small fibers will easily pull out of the core.

Knit and crocheted pile classifications hinge on exact stitch counts



Long Pile Knit

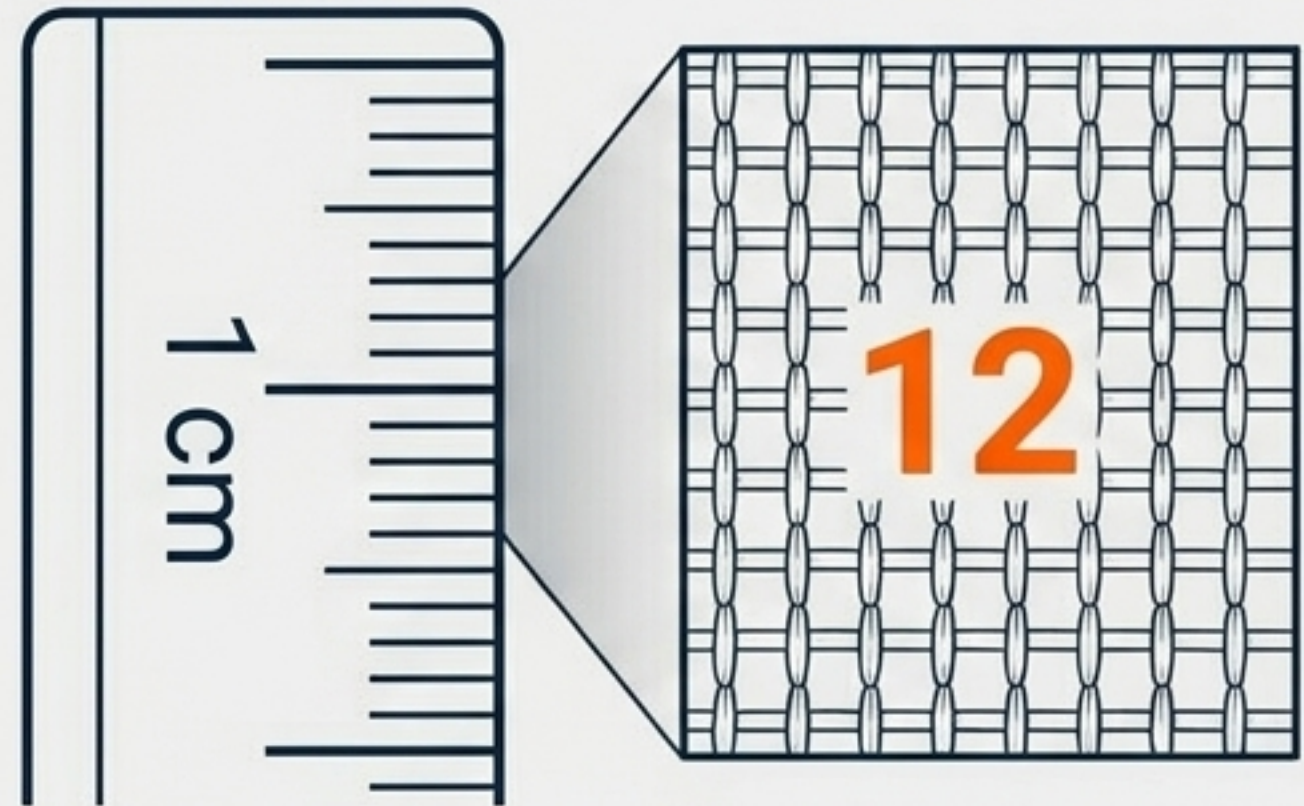


Loop Pile Knit



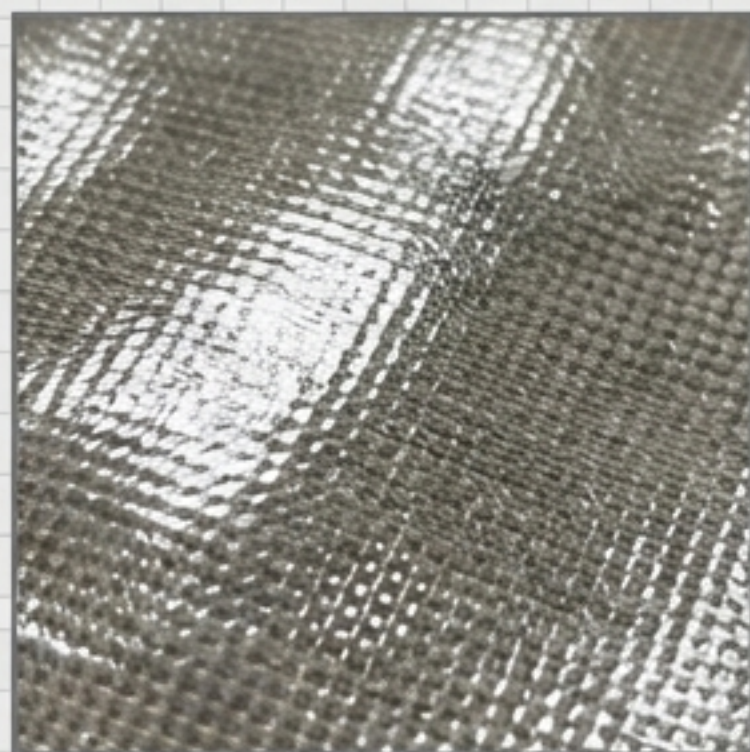
Cut Pile Knit

The Velour Test

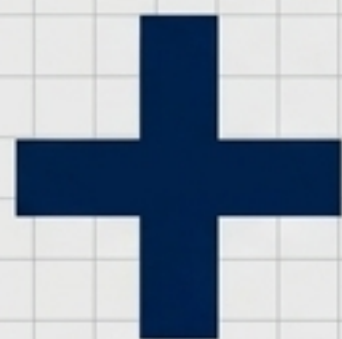


To be legally classified as velour under specific statistical reporting numbers (6001.92.0010 or 6001.92.0030), lab analysis must prove the fabric contains **12 or more stitches per centimeter** in the vertical direction.

Special weaves absolutely override visible coating rules



Visibly Coated Backing



Pile/Chenille Face



**STAYS IN
CHAPTER
58 or 60**

The Golden Exception: By virtue of Note 1 to Chapter 58 and Note 1C to Chapter 60, woven or knit pile fabrics are never classified in Chapter 59. The special weave entirely overrides the coating, regardless of how visible or thick the plastic layer may be.

The standard protocol for evaluating a physical fabric sample

1.

Construction Check: Determine base structure (Woven vs. Knit) and identify any special weaves (Pile, Chenille, Terry) that would trigger Chapter 58/60 overrides.

2.

Composition Check: Calculate fiber composition by weight. Differentiate between continuous filaments and chopped staple fibers.

3.

Visibility Check: Inspect backing for liquid/spray coatings. Apply the naked eye rule without magnification.

4.

Lamination Check: Ascertain from the manufacturer if the fabric was bonded to a pre-existing sheet or film of plastic (invoking the 2022 Note 3 update).

5.

Protection Check: When submitting to eRuling, actively request confidentiality to protect proprietary factory or dye information from public CROSS databases.

Authoritative resources and official ruling databases

CBP eRuling Website

Direct portal for binding, prospective requests.

CROSS (Customs Ruling Online Search System)

Database for researching historic precedent and headquarter rulings.

ICPS (Informed Compliance Publications)

Definitive CBP handbooks on textile thresholds.

Integrity. Vigilance. Service to Country.