

## Triexta Established as New Generic Fiber

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has established “triexta” as a new generic subclass within the existing “polyester” category for fibers made from poly(trimethylene terephthalate) (“PTT”). An amendment to the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act permits the use of the name “triexta” as an alternative to the generic name “polyester” for a specific subclass of textile fibers defined in the amendment. The FTC determined that the establishment of this subclass does not create new obligations under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act but rather merely creates a fiber name and definition which covered companies may use to comply with the Act. The decision is effective March 26, 2009.

In 2006, a group of petitioners asked the FTC to establish the new generic fiber subclass based on tests which indicated that PTT fibers are superior to traditional polyester fibers with respect to durability, resiliency, stretch recovery and softness in carpet and apparel applications. The FTC determined that the petitioners’ evidence and arguments supported each of the four findings that the agency must make before establishing a new generic subclass designation, namely: (1) the fiber has the general chemical composition as an established generic fiber category; (2) the fiber has distinctive properties that make it suitable for uses for which other fibers under the established generic name would not be suited, or would be significantly less well-suited; (3) these properties are important to the general public; and (4) these properties are the result of a new method of manufacture or the fiber’s substantially differentiated physical characteristics.

**Link to:** [Federal Register](#)

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