

Product data sheet for storage unit: guidelines for filling

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In November, in our Newsletter, we have already dealt with the topic of “instructions for use” in the furniture sector; this month we will go into the specifics, talking about storage furniture, also giving you a **practical example of “product data sheet”**.



In Italy, the Consumer Code (Legislative Decree No. 206/2005) is the Italian legislative tool that harmonises the regulations concerning the purchasing and consumption processes, in order to ensure a high level of protection for the safety and health of consumers on the national territory. Within its Part II, which concerns education, information, commercial practices and advertising, Title II deals with the minimum content of information that must always be present in accompanying the product, including instructions for the use.

Information to the consumer, whoever it comes from, must be relevant to the communication technique used and **expressed in a clear and understandable way**, also considering the procedures for concluding the contract or the characteristics of the sector, **to ensure consumer awareness**.

The same mandatory content must therefore contain **at least the following information** which can be found on the packaging, on the labels or on the accompanying illustrative documentation:

- the legal or product name of the merchandise;
- the name or company name or trademark and the registered office of the manufacturer or an importer established in the European Union;
- the country of origin if located outside the European Union;
- reference to the possible presence of materials or substances that could cause damage to humans, property or the environment;
- the materials used and the processing methods where these are decisive for the quality or commodity characteristics of the product;
- the instructions, any precautions and intended use, where useful for the purposes of use and safety of the product.



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Failure to provide this information involves **an administrative sanction** variable, determined by the list price of each product and the number of units offered for sale.

In the field of **storage unit** for domestic use, the EN 14749: 2016 standard whose purpose is to specify their safety requirements, contains, in point 6 of the **guidelines** of the minimum contents of the product, information **aimed at satisfying the last point of the previous list**, assuming they are applicable:

- *for furniture to be fixed to a building*, it is necessary to advise that the installation must be performed according to the manufacturer's instructions to avoid dangerous situations such as overturning;
- *in the presence of extensible elements without limit switches*, it is necessary to communicate the potential risks related to the exit from the unit;
- *for "self-assembly" furniture*, the following additional information is required:
 - list of parts supplied;
 - list of tools needed;
 - diagram of the hardware and fastening elements to be used.



Other standards such as, EN 16121: 2012 (safety and performance tests for non-domestic use) and UNI 11663: 2017 (performance tests for domestic use) require that the information also includes **instructions for care and maintenance of the furniture as well**; therefore, *they should be implemented in the product information sheet*.

Moreover, in case the furniture foresees **maximum declared capacities** for drawers, shelves, trays or anything else, *it is important to report them and make them easily understandable* for the end user.



To offer a **practical and complete example**, we decided to draw up an illustrative documentation of a purely invented cabinet, with a system for fastening it to a wall, with an intended use in the bedroom.

Product data sheet, [click here!](#)

Any references to products, warnings or sample descriptions in the facsimile of the product sheet are purely coincidental

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