

**50.02 - Raw silk (not thrown).**

This raw silk is obtained by reeling the filaments from cocoons. In practice, since the filaments (baves) forming each cocoon are very fine, the raw silk (grège) is obtained by combining several filaments (usually 4 to 20) during the reeling process; these filaments adhere together as they are reeled because of the gum (sericin) with which they are covered. The raw silk filaments are wrapped around themselves during reeling giving an even texture and section, assisting the drainage of surplus moisture and compensating for weaknesses in individual filaments; this operation frequently results in the filaments acquiring a certain twist. However, the twist is only very slight and raw silk at this stage should not be confused with the single thrown yarns of **heading 50.04**.

Raw silk is usually whitish, yellowish or sometimes greenish. It is also covered by this heading if discharged (i.e., the gum removed by hot soapy water, dilute alkalis, etc.) or dyed, but not if thrown. It is usually put up in long lengths either on conical bobbins, or in hanks (skeins) of varying weight and tied in a loose knot (slips).

Thrown silk is excluded (heading **50.04**).