

EU Flower Eco-Label

Application Process Criteria

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by

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Who can apply?



- European or non-European countries producing or selling products that fall within one of the product groups under the EU Eco-label scheme
- Manufacturers, importers, service providers, retailers, traders
- Application from outside EU must be made to member state where product is to be sold

Application: Step 1



- Select product group
- Contact national competent body
 - Independent and neutral
 - In country where product is made or
 - In country where product is to be sold

Application: Step 2a



- Building up a dossier
 - Obtain relevant documents and application forms from CB
 - Find out what tests are required and how they should be carried out
 - Use manual for declarations
 - From applicant / producer
 - From supplier (can send directly to CB)
 - Send all information to CB and keep records
 - Pay fee

Application: Step 2b



- Product testing
 - Laboratory must be certified under ISO 17025 or equivalent
 - Laboratory must be accepted by the CB
 - All relevant information on laboratory must be sent to CB
 - Test method criteria must be met
- Test method
 - Use method provided in criteria
 - Other method can be used if substantiated that it is equivalent to the required method
 - No specific test method – principles and sensitivity of test method must be supplied

Application: Step 2b cont



- Test period and frequency
 - For most criteria applications only one test is required
 - Must show continuous compliance and frequency of sampling must be explained
 - For tests requiring “annual average” to be less than a certain threshold results must be based on 3 tests

Application: Step 2c



- Verification process
 - Ecological and performance criteria are checked
 - More information requested if required
 - Visit to manufacturing facility may be undertaken to verify compliance
 - CB notifies EU who registers the contract

Application: Step 3a



- Receiving the Eco-label
 - CB concludes a contract
 - Eco-label can be used on products
 - Fee payable for marketing by CB and for use of eco-label

Application – Step 3b



- Compliance monitoring
 - Factory inspections and tests may be carried out by CB at any time
 - Products must be in continuous compliance
 - Tests may need to be carried out regularly
 - Records of these tests must be kept
- If product no longer complies:
 - CB must be informed
 - reasons provided for non-compliance
 - CB decides consequence

Application contract



- All trade names and id / ref numbers of products
- All chemicals used
- Contract will specify range of products and chemicals permitted
- Limit number of chemicals and suppliers as far as possible to ease application process

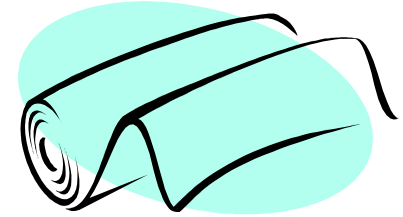
Extension of product range



- Extension with new id/ref numbers which don't affect criteria can be done without informing CB
- Must inform CB if:
 - New types of products or new brand names
 - New chemicals
 - New suppliers

- One of the first product groups
 - Bed linen and T-shirts
- Criteria developed April 1996
- First review in February 1999
 - Clothing and interior textiles
- Second review 2002
- Third review 2009
 - Changes to some criteria

Textile Criteria



Product groups

- 90% by weight must be textiles
 - down, feathers, membranes and coatings do not need to be taken into account
- Textile clothing and accessories
 - e.g. scarves, bags, belts etc.
- Interior textiles
 - excluding wall and floor coverings
- Fibres, yarns and fabrics
 - For use in above products

Fibre types



- Acrylic
- Cotton and other natural cellulosic seed
- Elastane
- Flax
- Greasy wool and other keratin fibres
- Man-made cellulose fibres
- Polyamide, polyester, polypropylene
- Others except mineral, glass, metal, carbon or other inorganic fibres
- If less than 5% of total weight criteria not relevant or if of recycled origin
- Minimum of 85% of fibre must meet criteria

Application procedure



- User manual and application forms provided
- Part A:
 - General Form
- Part B:
 - 39 criteria
 - Declaration forms
 - Tables

Important Note



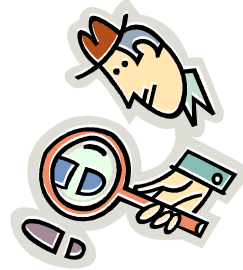
- Criteria 27: Wastewater discharge from wet processing
 - If no wastewater treatment is taking place prior to discharge to surface water then application cannot be approved
 - Treatment can be on or off-site
 - COD, pH and temperature limitations

Part A: General Application



- Information on applicant
- Information on product
- Information on application
- Declaration of undertaking
- Declaration for setting of fees

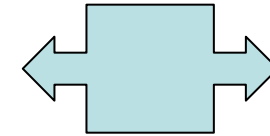
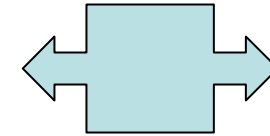
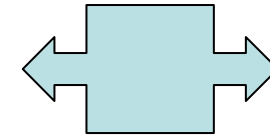
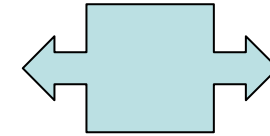
Part B: Detailed information



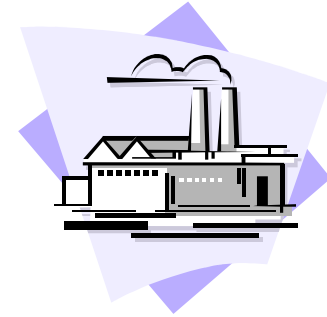
- 5 Chapters
 - Chapter 1: general information
 - Chapter 2: textile fibre criteria
 - Chapter 3: process and chemical criteria
 - Chapter 4: fitness for use criteria
 - Chapter 5: information appearing on eco-label
- Limits that must be met
- Declaration forms and tables
- Test methods

1. General information

- Product description
- Process flow diagram
- List of chemicals used
- List of suppliers
- Declaration from manufacturer
- Declaration from chemical suppliers



2. Fibre criteria



- For each fibre type
- Addresses aspects such as:
 - Air emissions during manufacture
 - Pesticides used (cotton and wool)
 - Wastewater requirements (for wool)
 - Heavy metals
- Documentation required:
 - Declaration forms
 - Test reports

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT AND SEND TO COMPETENT BODY

Date _____ lot n° _____

DECLARATION 2-(1,11): ACRYLIC FIBRE

FIBRE MANUFACTURER'S DECLARATION

I/We manufacturer of **acrylic fibre** declare that:

the residual acrylonitrile content in raw white fibres leaving the fibre production plant is less than 1.5 mg/kg

Acrylonitrile content in the fibres _____ mg/kg

Test method Extraction with boiling water and quantification by capillary gas-liquid chromatography.
Test report from test laboratory, including description and sensitivity of the test method attached
Test laboratory accredited according to ISO 17025 or its equivalent YES/NO

I/We manufacturer of **acrylic fibre** declare that:

the emission to air of acrylonitrile (during polymerisation and up the solution is ready for spinning), expressed as an annual average, is less than 1 g/kg of fibre produced

polymer modification with biocides and/or biostatics has not taken place

I/we will keep and update the necessary documentation to demonstrate compliance with the above mentioned criterion for the purpose of being supplier of acrylic fibres for ecolabelled products

Test reports from test laboratory, including description and sensitivity of the test method attached
Test laboratory accredited according to ISO 17025 or its equivalent YES/NO

<p>FIBRE MANUFACTURERS SIGNATURE</p> <p>Name _____ (Block Capitals)</p> <p>Signed* _____</p> <p>Position** _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Tel _____ Fax _____</p>	<p>Date: _____</p> <p>Company Stamp or Seal: _____</p>
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* to be signed by "Senior Corporate Officer"
 ** specify

3. Processes and chemicals



- Applies to all stages in production including fibre production
- Criteria 10 to 33 apply
- Aspects considered:
 - Auxiliary and finishing agents for fibres and yarns
 - Auxiliary chemicals
 - Information on dyes and pigments
 - Information on various finishes and coatings
 - Wastewater discharge
 - Energy and water use
- Documents required
 - Declarations from manufacturer and suppliers
 - Test reports
 - MSDS

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT AND SEND TO COMPETENT BODY.

DECLARATION 3-26 FORMALDEHYDE

MANUFACTURERS DECLARATION

- I/we responsible for the candidate products declare that the amount of free and partly hydrolysable formaldehyde in the final fabric does not exceed 30 ppm for products that comes directly into contact with the skin, and 300 ppm for all other products

The product in question:

- comes directly into contact with the skin
 is an other product

The product have been tested and the amount of free and partly hydrolysable formaldehyde have shown to be:

_____ ppm

Test method: EN ISO 14184-1.

Test report from test laboratory attached

Test laboratory accredited according to ISO 17025 or its equivalent YES/NO

MANUFACTURERS SIGNATURE

Name _____ (Block Capitals)

Signed* _____

Position** _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Date:
Company Stamp or Seal

* Signed from "Senior Corporate Officer"

**Specify

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT AND SEND TO COMPETENT BODY.

DECLARATION 3-27.1 – LABORATORY TEST REPORT FOR ORGANICS TO WATER

MANUFACTURERS DECLARATION

I/We declare that the content of COD in waste water have been found to be _____ g COD/kg of textile product after treatment which is less than 25 g/kg, expressed as an annual average

Test method ISO 6060

Test report from test laboratory and reduction calculations attached

Test laboratory accredited according to ISO 17025 or its equivalent YES/NO

CALCULATIONS FOR DIRECT DISCHARGE TO SURFACE WATER (Fill in according to type of treatment)

- C _____ mg/l ⇒ COD concentration in water discharged to surface waters after treatment
- V _____ m³ ⇒ Volume of water discharged in the period
- P _____ ton ⇒ Tonnage of production in the period

For on site treatment: $(C/1000) \times (V \times 1000) / (P \times 1000) =$ _____ COD g/kg

CALCULATIONS FOR DISCHARGE TO SEWERS (Fill in according to type of treatment)

- C _____ mg/l ⇒ COD concentration in water discharged into the sewer
- V _____ m³ ⇒ Volume of waste water discharged in the period
- P _____ ton ⇒ Tonnage of production in the period

For off site treatment: COD content before treatment: $(C/1000) \times (V \times 1000) / (P \times 1000) =$ _____ COD g/kg

Efficiency of the off site waste water treatment plant:

- Proportion of COD reduced by treatment plant _____ %. **Declaration including calculation from treatment plant manager attached**

MANUFACTURERS SIGNATURE

Name _____ (Block Capitals)

Signed* _____

Position** _____

Address _____

Tel _____ Fax _____

Date:
Company Stamp or Seal

* Signed from "Senior Corporate Officer"

**Specify

4. Fitness for use



- Applies to dyed yarn, final fabric(s) or final product
- Criteria for:
 - Dimensional changes in washing and drying
 - Colour fastness
 - Washing, perspiration, wet and dry rubbing, light
- Documentation
 - Declarations
 - Test reports

5. Eco-label Information

- Box 2 on the eco-label must declare:
 - Reduced water pollution
 - Hazardous substances restricted
 - Whole production chain covered
 - Encouraging use of sustainable fibres
 - Durable and high quality
- Documentation
 - Sample of product packaging showing the label
 - Declaration of compliance



NCPC

NATIONAL CLEANER PRODUCTION CENTRE

— SOUTH AFRICA —

EUROPEAN UNION ECO-LABEL



Awarded to goods or services which meet the environmental requirements of the EU-eco-labelling scheme

Licence registration number:

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*

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Box 1

Box 2

Time lines



- Obtaining documentation (declarations and test reports)
 - Product description: 1 week
 - Process description: 2 weeks
 - Fibre information: 2 to 6 weeks
 - Process and chemicals: 12 to 24 weeks (could be more)
 - Fitness for use: 2 weeks
- Review: 4 to 8 weeks
- If no objections, approved after 33 days of final submission

Fees



- Applicant must pay for all tests
- Application fee depending on size of company
- Annual fee for use of label

Summary

- Application process can be time consuming
- Detailed information required
- Need co-operation from suppliers
- Assistance provided:
 - Manual (updated 2009)
 - NCPC
- Worthwhile if selling products on the EU market

QUESTIONS

