



The European eco-label for textile products



Commission Decision 2002/371/EC of 15 May 2002.

O.J. n° L 133 of 18.5.2002

Criteria valid until 31 May 2007

Previous criteria valid until 31 May 2003

Applies to all textile products including textile clothing and accessories, fibres, yarn and fabrics and interior textiles except wall and floor coverings.

The textile and clothing industry is facing new challenges following the globalisation of the world economy and the competition of fast-growing Asian markets. In order to stay in the business, companies have to look for differentiating factors by designing high-value textiles and clothing.

In an increasingly health- and environmental-conscious world, a product that is able to prove that it is better for the environment and health by a trustworthy label can help you to make a difference in the eyes of customers. By adding an

additional proof of quality, it may help you to compete on quality without necessarily increasing your costs.

Already, a number of companies and retailers use this label for household linen.

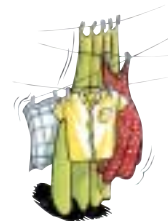
The European eco-label, which is the only sign of environmental quality both certified by an independent organisation and valid throughout Europe, presents a unique opportunity to satisfy your customers' expectations.

Putting the eco-label on your products means that they have the following assets:

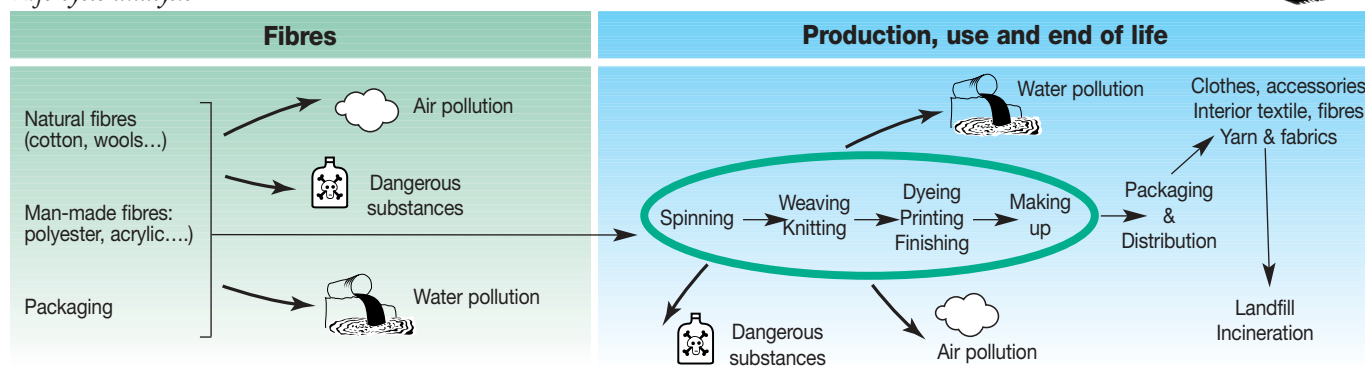
- Reduced water and air pollution during fibre production
- Limited use of substances harmful to the environment and in particular to the aquatic environment and health
- Guarantee of shrink resistance during washing and drying
- Guarantee of colour resistance to perspiration, washing, wet and dry rubbing and light exposure
- Whole production chain covered

**GIVE YOUR PRODUCT A CREDIBLE SIGN OF ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE ...
APPLY NOW FOR THE EUROPEAN ECO-LABEL.**

To receive the EU eco-label, textile products must meet the following ecological and performance criteria



Life cycle analysis



ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA

Limitation of toxic residues in fibres

- Acrylic: Acrylonitrile < 1.5 mg/kg.
- Cotton: residues of certain pesticides < 0.05 ppm.
- Elastane and polyurethane: no organotin compounds.
- Greasy wool and other keratin fibres: limitations of certain pesticides.
- Man-made cellulose: AOX < 250 ppm.
- Polyester: Antimony < 260 ppm.
- Polypropylene: no lead based pigments.

Reduction of air pollution during fibre process

- Acrylic: acrylonitrile < 1g/kg.
- Elastane and polyurethane: aromatic diisocyanates < 5 mg/kg.
- Man-made cellulose: S < 120g/kg (filament) and 30g/kg (staple).
- Polyamide: N₂O < 10g/kg polyamide 6 and < 50g/kg polyamide 6.6.
- Polyester: VOCs < 1.2g/kg.

Reduction of water pollution during fibre process

- Flax and other bast fibres: COD/TOC from water retting reduced by at least 75% (hemp) and 95% (flax, other).
- Viscose: Zn < 0.3g/kg.
- Cupro: Cu < 0.1 ppm.
- Greasy wool and other keratin fibres: COD < 60g/kg, 75% reduction of COD, off-site treatment. If on-site treatment, COD < 5g/kg, 6 < pH < 9 and temperature < 40 °C.

AOX: chlorinated compounds.

COD: Chemical Oxygen Demand.

VOC: Volatile Organic Compounds.

Limitation of the use of substances harmful for the environment in particular aquatic environment and health

- 90% of carding and spinning oil, lubricants and finishes for primary spinning and 95% of sizing preparations, detergents, fabrics softeners and weight complexing agents shall be sufficiently biodegradable or eliminable.
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PaH) in mineral oils < 1%.
- No cerium compounds, halogenated carriers.
- No heavy metals and formaldehyde in stripping and depigmentation.
- No APEOs, DSDMAC, DHTDMAC, EDTA, LAS, DTPA, chrome mordant dyeing.
- AOX emissions from bleaching agents < 40 mg Cl/kg (100 mg in certain cases).
- Level of impurities in dyes (in ppm):
Ag < 100. Ba < 100. Co < 500. Se < 20. Fe < 2500.
As < 50. Cd < 20. Cr < 100. Cu < 250. Hg < 4. Ni < 200.
Pb < 100. Sb < 50. Sn < 250. Zn < 1500. Mn < 1000.
- Level of impurities in pigments (in ppm):
As < 50. Cd < 50. Cr < 100. Hg < 25. Pb < 100. Sb < 250. Zn < 1000.
Ba < 100. Se < 100.
- No chlorophenols, PCB and organotin compounds during transportation or storage.
- No biocidal or biostatic products active during use phase.
- Discharge to the water of metal complex dyes based on Cu, Cr or Ni: max. 20% (cellulose dyeing), 7% (other dyeing process). After treatment: Cu < 75 mg/kg (fibre, yarn, fabric), Cr < 50 mg/kg, Ni < 75 mg/kg.
- No azo dyes that cleave to a list of aromatic amines.
- No dyes classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction according to Dir. 67/548/EEC.
- No potentially sensitising dyes if fastness to perspiration > 4.
- Printing pastes < 5% VOCs. No plastisol based printing.
- Formaldehyde < 30 ppm for products in direct contact with the skin, 300 ppm for others.
- COD from wet-processing < 25g/kg. If on-site treatment, 6 < pH < 9 and temperature < 40°C.
- No flame retardants or finishing substances containing > 0.1% of substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction and dangerous for the environment according to Directive 67/548/EEC.
- Shrink resistant finishes only allowed for wool slivers.
- Coatings, laminates and membranes: no plasticizers or solvents assigned a list of R-phases according to Directive 67/548/EEC.

PERFORMANCE AND DURABILITY CRITERIA

The following tests shall be carried out either on dyed yarn, final fabrics or final product:

- Dimensional changes during washing and drying: 8% for knitted products, 8% for terry towelling, 6% for other woven products, 2% removable and washable curtain and furniture fabric.
- Colour fastness to perspiration (acid, alkaline), washing, wet rubbing, dry rubbing, light (see criteria).



This fact sheet is for general information only. For more detailed information on the criteria as well as information on who to contact in your country in order to apply for the label, please consult the web site:

<http://europa.eu.int/ecolabel>



European Commission