

Nordic Ecolabelling for

## Supplies for microfibre based cleaning



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## Contact information

In 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers decided to introduce a voluntary official ecolabel, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. These organisations/companies operate the Nordic Ecolabelling system on behalf of their own country's government. For more information, see the websites:

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Ecolabelling Denmark  
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### **Finland**

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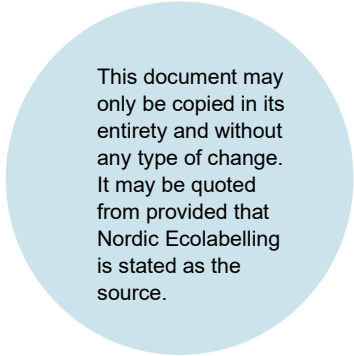
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## What is Nordic Swan Ecolabelled Supplies for microfibre based cleaning?

Nordic Swan Ecolabelled supplies for microfibre based cleaning have a reduced environmental impact throughout its life cycle and have a first-rate cleaning performance without the use of cleaning chemicals. There are requirements for textile fibres, for constituent materials of the cleaning tools, chemicals used in production of textiles, production of textile and circular aspects such as quality and material recycling. Also, the textile producers are committed to continuous improvements to ensure that production complies with UN's International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions on workers' rights.

The requirements promote a more circular economy, reduce climate impact and save resources: Supplies for microfibre based cleaning with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel must be durable (have a long service life) and have a high cleaning quality, which must be tested and documented. A high proportion of the textile fibres and of the materials in the cleaning tools must be of recycled origin or based on renewable resources. At the same time several of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel requirements support that the materials of the cleaning tool can be recycled in new resource loops after use.

Nordic Swan Ecolabelled supplies for microfibre based cleaning:

- Offer a first-rate cleaning performance without the use of cleaning chemicals.
- Are durable which promote a long service life and resource efficiency.
- Are tested for loss of fibre fragments (e.g., microplastic).
- Are gentle on the surface being cleaned.
- Minimum 25% of the polyester fibres are recycled or based on renewable resources complying with specific environmental requirements.
- Meet strict environmental and health requirements for chemicals used in textile manufacturing - this is important for wastewater, the people who manufacture the textiles and those who use them.
- Are manufactured at production sites that are committed to continuous improvements to ensure working conditions in line with national law and International Labour Organizations Conventions (ILO).

## Why choose the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

- The licensee may use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel trademark for marketing. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a very well-known and well-reputed trademark in the Nordic region.
- The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is a simple way of communicating environmental work and commitment to customers.
- The Nordic Swan Ecolabel clarifies the most important environmental impacts and thus shows how a company can cut emissions, resource consumption and waste management.
- Environmentally suitable operations prepare supplies for microfibre based cleaning for future environmental legislation.

- Nordic Ecolabelling can be seen as providing a business with guidance on the work of environmental improvements.
- The Nordic Swan Ecolabel not only covers environmental issues but also quality requirements since the environment and quality often go hand in hand. This means that a Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence can also be seen as a mark of quality.

## What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

Nordic Swan ecolabelled supplies for microfibre based cleaning includes cloths, mops, pads, and other cleaning products containing microfibres (e.g., fibres less than 1 decitex (Dtex) thick) that are designed for wet, damp and/or dry cleaning without the use of cleaning chemicals. There is no requirement for the amount of microfibre in a product, because fulfilment of the requirement for cleaning efficiency is the important part here. The product group includes both products for private and for professional use.

Supplies for microfibre based cleaning may contain textile fibres other than microfibres, both synthetic and natural fibres. The cleaning products must be washable.

Also cleaning tools to which the cleaning fabric are to be attached, such as mop handles and stands, are included but only if they are to be used and sold together with the microfibre product in the same packaging. It must be possible to remove the cleaning fabric from the cleaning tool. Cleaning tools cannot be ecolabelled separately.

Products that can be ecolabelled in accordance with other Nordic Swan Ecolabelling criteria are not covered by the Supplies for microfibre based cleaning. Most relevant are:

- Washable (durable) textile products with a cleaning purpose but not containing microfibres (criteria for textiles)
- Wet wipes for personal use (criteria for cosmetic products)
- Disposable products made from non-woven material that cannot be washed or reused, for example paper towels (criteria for tissue paper).

## How to apply

### Application and costs

For information about the application process and fees for this product group, please refer to the respective national web site. For contact info see first in this document.

### What is required?

The application consists of a web form and documentation showing that the requirements are fulfilled.

Each requirement is marked with the letter O (obligatory requirement) and a number. All requirements must be fulfilled to be awarded a licence.

The text describes how the applicant shall demonstrate fulfilment of each requirement. There are also icons in the text to make this clearer. These icons are:

- ✉ Enclose
- 📁 Upload
- 📄 State data in electronic application
- 📍 Requirement checked on site

All information submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling is treated confidentially. Suppliers can send documentation directly to Nordic Ecolabelling, and this will also be treated confidentially.

### Licence validity

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence is valid providing the criteria are fulfilled and until the criteria expire. The validity period of the criteria may be extended or adjusted, in which case the licence is automatically extended, and the licensee informed.

Revised criteria shall be published at least one year prior to the expiry of the present criteria. The licensee is then offered the opportunity to renew their licence.

### On-site inspection

In connection with handling of the application, Nordic Ecolabelling normally performs an on-site inspection to ensure adherence to the requirements. For such an inspection, data used for calculations, original copies of submitted certificates, test records, purchase statistics, and similar documents that support the application must be available for examination.

### Queries

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling if you have any queries or require further information. See first in this document for contact info. Further information and assistance (such as calculation sheets or electronic application help) may be available. Visit the relevant national website for further information.

## 1.1 Definitions

<b>Ingoing substances</b>	All substances in the chemical product regardless of amount, including additives (e.g., preservatives and stabilizers) in the raw materials. Substances known to be released from ingoing substances (e.g., formaldehyde, arylamine, in situ-generated preservatives) are also regarded as ingoing substances.
<b>Impurities</b>	Residuals, pollutants, contaminants etc. from production, incl. production of raw materials, that remain in the chemical product in concentrations less than 100 ppm. Impurities in the raw materials exceeding concentrations of 1000 ppm are always regarded as ingoing substances, regardless of the concentration in the chemical product. Examples of impurities are residues of the following: residues or reagents incl. residues of monomers, catalysts, by-products, scavengers, and detergents for production equipment and carry-over from other or previous production lines.

<b>Recycled material/fibres</b>	<p>Recycled material is defined in the requirement according to ISO 14021, which applies the following two categories:</p> <p>“Pre-consumer/commercial” is defined as material that is recovered from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Materials that are reworked or reground, or waste that has been produced in a process, and can be recycled within the same manufacturing process that generated it, are not considered to be pre-consumer recovered material.</p> <p>Nordic Ecolabelling considers reworked, reground or scrap material that cannot be recycled directly in the same process, but requires reprocessing (e.g., in the form of sorting, remelting, and granulating) before it can be recycled, to be pre-consumer/commercial material. This is irrespective of whether the processing is done in-house or externally.</p> <p>“Post-consumer/commercial” is defined as material generated by households or commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities in their role as end-users of a product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes materials from the distribution chain.</p>
<b>Nanomaterials</b>	<p>The European Commission's definition from 18 October 2011 (2011/696/EU):</p> <p>Nanomaterials: A natural, incidental, or purposely manufactured material containing particles, in an unbound state or as an aggregate or as an agglomerate and where, for at least 50% of the particles in the number size distribution, one or more external dimensions are in the size range of 1–100 nm.</p>
<b>Genetically modified organisms (GMO)</b>	Genetically modified organisms are defined in EU Directive 2001/18/EC.
<b>Textile finishing</b>	All the processes through which fabric is passed after bleaching and dyeing. Meaning processes such as printing, impregnating, or coating, as well as any other application of chemicals that change the property of the fabric (smoothness, drape, lustre, water repellence, flame retardancy or crease resistance etc.).
<b>Additive in polymers</b>	Chemical products added to improve the performance, functionality, and ageing properties of the polymer. Examples of additives are plasticisers, flame retardants, antioxidants, light/heat/thermal stabilisers, pigments, antistatic agents, and acid scavengers.

## 1.2 Description of the product and the production chain

The product, material composition, manufacturing process, suppliers, production chain etc. must be described to aid the assessment of which requirements need to be met.

### O1 Description of the product, material composition and limits

The applicant must submit the following information for each product:

- State product type (e.g., cloth, mop, pad), if cleaning tool is included, trade name/ item number, if the product is for consumer or professional market.
- Confirmation that the product is not a single-use product.
- If cleaning tool is included: Illustration/photo of the product and a description of how it is possible to remove the cleaning fabric from the cleaning tool.
- For textile part: State which of the textile parts that have undergone finishing such as printing, impregnating, or coating (see section 1.1 for definition) after dyeing or/and bleaching. Or declare no finishing for the textile.
- Overview of materials and composition of the textile part and the cleaning tool: Overview of all ingoing materials (e.g., polyester, cotton, aluminium, plastic etc.), including the following information for each material:
  - a) Trade name/item number and material type.

- b) Supplier/manufacturer of the material.
- c) State if the material is for the textile part or the cleaning tool.
- d) Specify which textile fibres are microfibres and the thickness in decitex (Dtex).
- e) State if material is recycled\* or biobased.
- f) For cleaning tool material: State if surface is treated or not, and type of surface treatment.
- g) Weight in g of the material in the product.
- h) % by weight of the material in the textile part and in the cleaning tool, respectively.

A material type that is present with a total amount of maximum 5% by weight of the product is exempt from the requirements\*\*.

Sewing thread, colour code tag, textile label (= washing instruction tag), finger loop (= attachment part) and binding band that are present with maximum of 5% by weight of the product is exempt from the requirements\*\* (even if the same fibre type is used in larger amounts).

Material types that are not subject to any requirements in these criteria may account for no more than total 5% by weight of product\*\*.

UHF (ultra-high frequency) and RFID (radio frequency identification) chips/tags are allowed and are not subject to any requirements in these criteria.

\* See definition in section 1.1.

\*\* Calculated separately for the textile part and for the cleaning tool, respectively.

🔗 Overview of the materials, which must include the information required above.

🔗 If cleaning tool is included: Illustration or photo of the product.

## O2 Description of the production chain and the manufacturing processes

The production and supply chain can be described using a flow chart, for example as shown in Appendix 1.

Manufacturing processes must be described. For each process the following information must be submitted:

- The manufacturing processes performed, e.g., textile fibre production, textile dyeing, textile finishing or powder coating
- The company name of the supplier who perform the process
- Production site (full address and country)

🔗 Submit a description of the production chain and the manufacturing processes (preferably in a flow chart), and state which suppliers perform each process. See the example in Appendix 1.

🔗 Submit an overview of manufacturing processes with information on the type of process, the company name, production location and contact person for each process performed. See the example in Appendix 1.

## 1.3 Textile

This section covers requirements regarding the fibres, chemicals, and production of textile parts.



### O3 Textiles certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel

If a textile part is certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel for textile, hide/skins, and leather (generation 5 or later), it is exempted from requirements in section 1.3.

If a textile part is certified with the EU Ecolabel for textile products (Commission's decision from 2014), it is exempted from:

- Requirement O7 and O9.
- Requirements in section 1.3.2, however not except from requirement regarding nanomaterials/-particles in O20.
- Requirements in section 1.3.3, however not except from requirement O23.
- Requirements in section 1.3.4, however not except from requirement O24.
- Requirements in section 1.3.5.

The textile must not have been treated with chemicals after certification.



Trade name and licence number for the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled or EU Ecolabelled textile.



Declaration from the applicant that the textile has not been treated with chemicals after certification.

#### 1.3.1 Textile fibres

The criteria cover the most common fibre types used in supplies for microfibre based cleaning.

A fibre type that is present with a total amount of maximum 5% by weight of the textile part is exempt from the requirements in section 1.3.1.

Textile fibres that are not subject to any fibre requirements in section 1.3.1 may account for no more than total 5% by weight of the textile part.

### O4 Recycled fibres: Synthetic fibre – fossil origin

The recycled material\* must not include recycled plastic from plants that are EFSA\*\* or FDA\*\*\* approved as food contact material or marketed as compatible with these.

The traceability of the recycled raw material must be documented with either a or b below:

- a) Global Recycled Standard certificate or Recycled Claim Standard certificate showing that the raw material is recycled, or other equivalent certification approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.
- b) By stating the producer of the recycled raw material and documenting that the feedstock used in the raw material is 100% recycled material, see definition in requirement.

\* See definition in section 1.1.

\*\* In line with Commission Regulation (EC) No 282/2008 of 27 March 2008 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods.

\*\*\* In line with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21: Food and Drugs, Part 177 – Indirect food additives: polymers.

- ☞ Declaration from the producer of the recycled raw material that the raw material is not EFSA or FDA approved, see requirement.
- ☞ a) Certificate from an independent certifier of the supply chain (e.g., Global Recycled Standard or Recycled Claim Standard).
- ☞ b) Documentation from the producer, showing that the feedstock used in the raw material is 100% recycled material, see definition in requirement.

## 05 Recycled fibres/raw materials: Test for harmful substances

This requirement does not apply to mops.

The end product or the recycled fibres/raw materials for fibre production shall not contain the following substances above the limits stated in the table below.

This requirement applies to the end product or all recycled fibres – both synthetic and natural and must be documented with either a) or b):

- a) an Oeko-Tex standard 100 class II certificate
- b) test report showing that the requirement is complied with.

The following are exempted from this requirement:

- Material from PET bottles originally approved for food contact.
- Fibres from chemically recycled polymers, if it can otherwise be documented that the process ensures, that the requirement limits are complied with.
- Fibres used in the production of regenerated cellulose.
- Fibres, where it can be documented that they originate from type I (according to standard ISO 14024) eco-labelled products.

The requirement must be documented when applying and, if any recycled fibre/materials are changed, after application.

Substance/substance group	Max. limit	Test method
<b>Extractable metals</b>		Atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) or ICP. The metals are extracted by use of artificial acidic sweat solution according to ISO 105-04 (testing solution II).
Chromium total	2.0 mg/kg	
Lead	1.0 mg/kg	
Mercury	0.02 mg/kg	
Cadmium	0.1 mg/kg	
Antimony	30.0 mg/kg	
<b>Phthalates</b>		Extraction of the testing material with an organic solvent. The extract is analysed by gas chromatography (MS detection).
BBP, DBP, DEP, DMP, DEHP, DMEP, DIHP, DHNUP, DCHP, DHxP, DIBP, DIHxP, DIOP, DINP, DIDP, DPrP, DHP, DNOP, DNP and DPP	Total 0.05 weight%	
<b>PAHs (Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)</b>		Extraction of the testing material with an organic solvent. The extract is analysed after clean-up by gas chromatography

		with mass selective detection (MSD).
Naphthalene, Acenaphtene, Acenaphtylene, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Fluorene, Fluoranthene and Pyrene	Each 1 mg/kg	
<b>Flame retardants</b>		Extraction of the testing material with an organic solvent. The extract is analysed then by LC/MS/MS respectively GC/MS/MS.
Brominated and chlorinated flame retardants	Total 50 mg/kg	
<b>For elastane, polyurethane, and polyamide</b>		
DMAc	0.05 weight% solvent residue	Extraction of the testing material with an organic solvent. The extract is analysed by gas chromatography with mass selective detection (MSD).
<b>If recycled raw materials originate from textiles:</b>		
<b>Dyes: Cleavable arylamines classified as carcinogenic Cat. I</b>	Total 20 mg/kg	EN 14362-1 EN 14362-3
4-Aminobiphenyl / 4-Aminodiphenyl		
Benzidine / Benzidine		
<b>Dyes: Classified as carcinogenic</b>	Each 50 mg/kg	EN 14362-1 EN 14362-3  The identification and quantification of dyes extracted with an organic solvent is made by means of chromatographic methods.
C.I. Acid Red 26		
C.I. Acid Red 114		
C.I. Basic Blue 26 (with > 0.1 % Michler's ketone or base)		
C.I. Basic Red 9		
C.I. Basic Violet 3 (with > 0.1 % Michler's ketone or base)		
C.I. Basic Violet 14		
C.I. Direct Black 38		
C.I. Direct Blue 6		
C.I. Direct Blue 15		
C.I. Direct Brown 95		
C.I. Direct Red 28		
C.I. Disperse Blue 1		
C.I. Disperse Orange 11		
C.I. Disperse Yellow 3		
C.I. Solvent Yellow 1 (4-Aminoazobenzene / Aniline Yellow)		
C.I. Solvent Yellow 3 (o-Amino azobenzene / o-Amino azotoluol)		
C.I. Pigment Red 100 (lead chromate molybdate sulphate red)		
C.I. Pigment Yellow 34 (Lead sulfo chromate yellow)		

- ☞ Test reports or Oeko-Tex 100 class II certificate showing fulfilment of the requirement.
- ☞ When using chemically recycled polymers documentation showing that the recycling process ensures that the requirement is complied with.
- ☞ When using the exemption for material from PET bottles, this must be documented by the fibre supplier.
- ☞ When using an exemption for fibres from earlier type I ecolabelled textiles, this must be documented by the fibre supplier.

## 06 Synthetic fibre: Bio-based origin

Synthetic fibres from bio-based origin must contain at least 90% bio-based raw material, documented by testing in accordance with ISO 16620, ASTM D6866 or equivalent standard.

Raw materials used in the production of bio-based polymer fibres (e.g., polyester and polyamide) must meet the following requirements:

### **Palm oil and soy**

Palm oil, soybean oil and soy flour must not be used for bio-based polymer fibre in the textile.

### **Sugar cane**

The raw materials must meet either a) or b):

- a) Waste\* or residual products\*\* defined in accordance with (EU) Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001. There must be traceability back to the production / process where the residual production occurred.
- b) Sugar cane must not be genetically modified\*\*\*. Sugar cane must also be certified to Bonsucro standard, version 5.1 or later version or certified according to a standard that meets the requirements in Appendix 3.

The producer of the bio-based polymer must have a chain of custody (CoC) certification according to the standard by which the raw material is certified. Traceability must at least be ensured by mass balance. Book and claim systems are not accepted.

The producer of the bio-based polymer must document its purchase of certified raw materials for polymer production, for example in the form of specifications on an invoice or delivery note.

### **Other raw materials**

The name (in Latin and a Nordic or English) and supplier of the raw materials used must be stated.

The raw materials must meet either c) or d):

- c) Waste\* or residual products\*\* defined in accordance with (EU) Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001. There must be traceability back to the production/process where the residual production occurred.
- d) Primary raw materials (e.g., corn), not genetically modified\*\*\*. Here geographical origin (country/state) must be stated.

\* *Waste as defined by EU Directive 2018/2001/EC.*

\*\* *Residual products as defined by EU Directive 2018/2001/EC. Residues come from agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry, or they can be processing residues. A processing residual product is a substance that is not one of the end products that the production process directly strives for. Residues must not be a*

*direct target of the process and the process must not be changed to intentional production of the residual product. Examples of residual products are e.g., straw, husks, pods, the non-edible part of maize, manure, and bagasse. Examples of processing residues are e.g., raw glycerine or brown lye from paper production. Palm Fatty Acid Distillate (PFAD) from palm oil is not considered a residual/waste product and can therefore not be used.*

\*\*\* See definition in section 1.1.

- ☞ Test according to ISO 16620, ASTM D6866 or equivalent standard showing content of bio-based raw material.
- ☞ Declaration by the producer of the polymer, that palm oil (incl. PFAD (Palm Fatty Acid Distillate)) soybean oil and soy flour are not used as raw materials for the bio-based polymer.
- ☞ For waste and residual products: Documentation from the polymer producer which shows that the requirement's definition of waste or residual products is met, as well as traceability which shows where the waste or residual product comes from.
- ☞ Sugar cane: Indicate which certification system sugar cane is certified for. A copy of a valid CoC certificate or a certificate number. Documentation such as an invoice or delivery note from the producer of the bio-based polymer, showing the purchase of bio-based polymer from certified raw material in at least the same annual quantity as is used in the production of the bio-based polymer. Declaration stating that the sugar cane has not been genetically modified.
- ☞ For primary raw materials: Declaration by the producer of the polymer stating that raw materials have not been genetically modified according to the definition in the requirement. Name (in Latin and English) and geographical origin (country/state) of the primary raw materials used.

## O7 Polyamide

Polyamide must meet either a) or b):

- a) For nylon 6 and nylon 6,6 the emissions to air of N<sub>2</sub>O during monomer production, expressed as an annual average, must not exceed 9,0 g N<sub>2</sub>O/kg.
- b) Minimum 20% by weight of the polyamide fibres must comprise of recycled material (see definition of recycled material in O4).

Recycled material must also fulfil requirement O4 and O5.

- ☞ a: A declaration from the producer of the polyamide fibre or a test report (test method: ISO 11564 or equivalent method) showing that the requirement for max. 9.0 g N<sub>2</sub>O/kg as an annual average is fulfilled. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

or

- ☞ b: Documentation as described in requirement O4 and O5. And calculation showing that minimum 20 wt% of the polyamide fibres are recycled.

or

- ☞ Alternatively, a valid certificate for EU Ecolabel (Commission's decision from 2014) or Blue Angel (DE-UZ 154, 2017) may be used as documentation.

## O8 Polyester

Minimum 25% by weight of the polyester fibres must either be composed of recycled material\* (see definition of recycled material in O4) or be bio-based. Recycled material must fulfil requirement O4 and O5. Bio-based material must fulfil requirement O6.

For the remaining part of the polyester fibres the amount of antimony in the polyester fibre must not exceed 260 ppm.

☞ Recycled fibres: Documentation as described in requirement O4 and O5.

☞ Bio-based fibres: Documentation as described in requirement O6.

☞ A declaration from the producer of the polyester fibre that antimony is not used or a test report showing that the antimony requirement is fulfilled. Test method: Direct determination by atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) or equivalent test method. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

## O9 Polypropylene

The use of lead-based pigments is prohibited.

☞ A declaration from the producer of the polypropylene fibre that lead-based pigments is not used.

## O10 Polyurethane

The fibres must comprise of 100% recycled material (see definition in O4) and must fulfil requirement O4 and O5.

Exception:

For fibres that are STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX (annex 4 class II) certified, an exception is given for up to 10% polyurethane fibres in the textile part.

☞ See requirement O4 and O5.

☞ If exception is used: STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX (class II) certificate for the polyurethane fibres.

## O11 Cotton

The requirement applies if cotton and other natural seed fibres of cellulose are included with more than 10% by weight in the textile part.

Cotton and other natural seed fibres of cellulose (including kapok) shall not come from GMO (genetically modified organisms)\* and must be one of the following or a combination (where the different types of certified cotton must add up to 100%) of:

- recycled\*
- organically cultivated\*\*
- cultivated according to standard BCI (Better Cotton Initiative)
- cultivated according to standard CmiA (Cotton made in Africa)
- cultivated according to standard Fairtrade for cotton

The proportions of the different types of certified cotton must add up to 100% and all documentation shall reference the Control Body or certifier of the different standards.

Documentation that BCI cotton does not contain material from GMO shall be documented with either a) or b):

- a) A yearly test of the raw cotton in accordance with test method ISO/IWA 32:2019 or equivalent.
- b) Only for countries where genetically modified cotton varieties are forbidden to grow documented traceability back to the cultivation and a declaration that no genetically modified cotton varieties have been cultivated.

*Cotton certified via CmiA and Fairtrade cotton does not need to be tested, as long as these schemes exclude the use of genetically modified cotton.*

*\* See definition in section 1.1.*

*\*\* Organic cotton means cotton fibre that is certified as organic or transitioning to organic according to a standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards, such as Regulation (EU) 2018/848, USDA National Organic Program (NOP), APEDA's National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), China Organic Standard GB/T19630. Also approved are GOTS, OCS 100, OCS blended (shares that are not organic must meet other relevant requirements in this criteria) and DEMETER and certification as "transitioning to organic cultivation". The certification body must have the accreditation required for the standard, such as ISO 17065, NOP or IFOAM.*

☞ Recycled fibres: Fulfilment of the requirement is documented for recycled fibre with either a) and/or b) below:

a) Certificate showing that the raw material is 100% recycled (post- and/or pre-consumer) with Global Recycled Standard certificate 4.0 (or later versions), Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) or other equivalent certification approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.

b) Present documentation demonstrating that the recycled fibre was purchased as 100% recycled (post- and / or pre-consumer) and state the supplier.

☞ Organic cotton: Valid certificate showing that the cotton in the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product was organically cultivated in line with the standards in the requirement. If the supplier is the holder of GOTS certification, the requirement must be documented with a transaction certificate showing that the goods supplied are GOT certified.

☞ BCI, CmiA or Fairtrade cotton: Documentation showing that the cotton is grown within one of the three standards BCI, CmiA or Fairtrade cotton. All documentation shall reference the Control Body or certifier of the different forms of cotton and be documented:

- on an annual basis for purchased cotton with transaction records and/or invoices, or
- on a final product basis (by weight) measured at spinning and/or fabrication.

☞ Yearly test report showing that the BCI raw cotton does not contain material from genetically modified cotton and procedure demonstrating that how a yearly test is done.

☞ Alternative to test for BCI cotton: Declaration that cotton originates from countries with a ban on genetically modified cotton as well as documentation showing that the purchased cotton can be traced back to the BCI farmers.

## O12 Regenerated cellulose fibre: Recycled textile fibre

The requirement applies if regenerated cellulose fibres are included with more than 10% by weight in the textile part.

Raw materials for regenerated cellulose fibres must meet either requirement O12 for recycled textile fibre or O13 for wooden fibre materials, respectively. A fibre which is based on raw materials from a combination of requirements O12 and O13 can also be approved if the different raw materials each meet their own requirements.

Recycled raw materials for the production of new regenerated cellulose fibres must be pre-consumer or post-consumer\* cellulosic material.

It must be documented that 100% is recycled material.

The traceability of the recycled raw material must be documented with a certificate from either the Global Recycled Standard (version 4 or later) or the Recycled Claim Standard (version 2 or later).

\* See definition in section 1.1.

☞ Certificate from either Global Recycled Standard (version 4 or later) or Recycled Claim Standard (version 2 or later) documenting, that the raw material has been recycled.

☞ Documentation showing that 100% of the raw material has been recycled.

☞ When using a mixture of virgin and recycled raw material: Documentation which shows that 100% of the raw material meets either requirement O12 or O13.

### O13 Regenerated cellulose fibre: Limitation of tree species

The requirement applies if regenerated cellulose fibres are included with more than 10% by weight in the textile part.

Raw materials for regenerated cellulose fibres must meet either requirement O12 for recycled textile fibre or O13 for wooden fibre materials, respectively. A fibre which is based on raw materials from a combination of requirements O12 and O13 can also be approved if the different raw materials each meet their own requirements.

The requirement only applies to virgin wood fibres and must be documented either by the manufacturer of regenerated fibres or the manufacturer of the dissolving pulp and the manufacturer of regenerated fibres.

Nordic Ecolabelling's list of tree species\* consist of virgin tree species listed on:

- a) CITES (Appendices I, II and III)
- b) IUCN red list, categorized as CR, EN and VU
- c) Rainforest Foundation Norway's tree list
- d) Siberian larch (originated in forests outside the EU)

Tree species listed on a) CITES (Appendices I, II and III) are not permitted to be used.

Tree species listed on either b), c) or d) may be used if it meets all the following requirements:

- the tree species does not originate from an area/region where it is IUCN red listed, categorized as CR, EN or VU.
- the tree species does not originate from Intact Forest Landscape (IFL), defined in 2002 <http://www.intactforests.org/world.webmap.html>.
- the tree species shall originate from FSC or PEFC certified forest/plantation and shall be covered by a valid FSC/PEFC chain of custody certificates documented/controlled as FSC or PEFC 100% through the FSC transfer method or PEFC physical separation method.



- Tree species grown in plantation shall in addition originate from FSC or PEFC certified forest/plantation, established before 1994.

**Exemption:**

- Eucalyptus and Acacia are exempted from the list. Eucalyptus / acacia must be at least 50% certified and come from forests/plantations managed in accordance with sustainable forestry management principles that meet the requirements of FSC or PEFC. The remaining share must be from controlled sources (FSC controlled wood or PEFC controlled sources).

\* The list of tree species is located on the website: <http://www.nordic-ecolabel.org/certification/paper-pulp-printing/pulp-paper-producers/forestry-requirements-2020/>

☞ Details Declaration from the applicant/manufacture/supplier that tree species listed on a-d) are not used,

or

**If species from the lists b), c) or d) is used:**

☞ The applicant/manufacture/supplier are required to present a valid FSC/PEFC Chain of Custody certificate that covers the specific tree species and demonstrate that the tree is controlled as FSC or PEFC 100% through the FSC transfer method or PEFC physical separation method.

☞ The applicant/manufacture/supplier are required to document full traceability back to the forest/certified forest unit thereby demonstrating that:

- the tree does not originate from an area/region where it is IUCN red listed, categorized as CR, EN or VU;
- the tree species does not originate from Intact Forest Landscape (IFL), defined in 2002 <http://www.intactforests.org/world.webmap.html>;
- For plantations, the applicant/manufacture/supplier are required to document that the tree species does not originate from FSC or PEFC certified plantations established after 1994.

☞ For pulp of eucalyptus / acacia: valid traceability certificate from the pulp producer and documentation showing that the certification requirement of a minimum of 50% is fulfilled and that the remaining share comes from controlled sources.

## O14 Regenerated cellulose fibre: Traceability and certified raw materials

The requirement applies if regenerated cellulose fibres are included with more than 10% by weight in the textile part.

The manufacturer of regenerated fibre or the manufacturer of the dissolving pulp must state the name (species name) of the raw material used in its production.

The manufacturer of regenerated fibre or the manufacturer of the dissolving pulp must have Chain of Custody certification under the FSC or PEFC schemes.

Manufacturers who only use recycled material are exempt from the requirement for Chain of Custody certification.

Certification of the fibre raw materials in regenerated fibres, on an annual basis:

1. At least 50% of the raw materials must originate from forest managed according to sustainable forestry management principles that meet the requirements set out by FSC or PEFC chain of custody schemes  
or
2. At least 70% of the fibre raw material must be recycled material\*  
or
3. A combination of certified and recycled fibres, calculated using the following formula:  
Requirement for the percentage of fibre raw material from certified forestry in the pulp (Y):  
$$Y (\%) \geq 50 - 0.67 x$$
where x = percentage of recycled material.

The remaining percentage of wood / bamboo raw materials must be covered by the FSC/PEFC compliance schemes (FSC Controlled Wood / PEFC Controlled Sources).

The requirement must be documented as purchased raw material/fibre on an annual basis (volume or weight) by the producer of regenerated fibre or the manufacturer of the dissolving pulp.

Producers of dissolving pulp must be specified. If several pulps are mixed, the certification percentage must be met for the finished pulp that is used.

\* See definition in section 1.1.

- ☞ The manufacturer of regenerated fibres or the manufacturer of the dissolving pulp shall describe name (species name) on the fibre raw material used.
- ☞ Valid Chain of custody certificate from manufacturer of pulp or regenerated cellulose or link to certificate holders' valid certificate information in FSC/PEFC databases covering all wood and bamboo fibre raw materials used (e.g., via link to the website).
- ☞ Producers that only use recycled fibres from cardboard and paper shall show that the recycled fibres are covered by EN 643 delivery notes. In the case of recycled fibres from other sources, the supplier must be stated, and it must be shown that the fibres are recycled according to the definition.
- ☞ If the requirement for certification percentage is documented by the manufacturer of dissolving pulp (s) must be specified. The pulp producer must document that the pulp contains a minimum of 50% certified raw material on an annual basis by enclosing accounts which show the proportion of certified wood raw material in production, and that the rest of the raw material is from controlled sources.
- ☞ If the requirement for certification percentage is documented by the manufacturer of regenerated cellulose, the supplier (s) of the dissolving pulp must enclose documentation for the proportion of certified fibre in the various pulps purchased and that the average certification percentage is met on an annual basis. Documentation must be attached, e.g., invoice or delivery note, for delivery between pulp producer and producer of regenerated cellulose which shows that purchased pulp contains a minimum of 50% certified wood raw material or bamboo.
- ☞ Alternatively, the claim can be documented by the next link (purchaser of the regenerated cellulose fibres) purchasing FSC/PEFC marked regenerated

cellulose fibre or with a claim with 50% certification. Nordic Ecolabelling may request further documents to examine whether the requirements are fulfilled.

#### O15 Regenerated cellulose fibre: Bleaching with chlorine gas

Chlorine gas\* must not be used when bleaching cellulose mass or cellulose fibres.

\* *Residual amounts of chlorine gas formed during the production of chlorine dioxide from chlorate are excluded.*

- ☞ A declaration from the cellulose mass and regenerated cellulose manufacturers that the requirement is fulfilled or a valid EU Ecolabel licence in accordance with the Commission's decision from 2014.

#### O16 Regenerated cellulose fibre: Process

The requirement applies if regenerated cellulose fibres are included with more than 10% by weight in the textile part.

Fibre production must be based on "closed loop"\* processes such as the lyocell process, direct spinning of cellulose (the Spinnova process) or similar closed processes.

\* *"Closed loop" is defined here as processes with a high degree of recycling of chemicals that are included (>99%) or processes without release of chemicals.*

- ☞ Documentation showing that the production of the regenerated cellulose fibres is produced with "closed loop" processes in accordance with the requirement.

### 1.3.2 Textile chemicals: General requirements

The requirements in this chapter apply to all chemical products used in wet processes during the production of textiles (excluding fibre production), as well as chemical products used for finishing. Examples of chemicals include softeners, solvents, bleaching agents, pigments and dyes, stabilisers, dispersants, enzymes, and other auxiliary chemicals. Examples of processes covered by the requirements are washing, bleaching, and dyeing as well as finishing. Examples of finishing processes are printing, impregnating, or coating. The requirements apply regardless of whether it is the textile producer or their supplier that uses the chemicals.

Chemical products used in water treatment plants or for the maintenance of production equipment are exempted from the requirements.

#### O17 Overview of chemical products

All chemical products shall be stated and documented with a safety data sheet. A combined list or separate lists shall be drawn up for each production process and/or supplier, including finishing such as printing on textiles and products.

The following information shall be submitted for each chemical product:

- trade name
- the function of the chemical
- the process step in which the chemical product is used
- the supplier/producer using the chemical product

- ☞ List of chemical products for every production process and/or supplier.

- ☞ Safety data sheet in English (or Scandinavian) language for every chemical product, in line with Annex II of REACH 1907/2006.

## O18 Classification of chemical products

Chemical products shall not be classified as any of the hazard categories set out in the table below.

CLP Regulation 1272/2008		
Hazard class	Hazard category	Hazard code
Toxic to aquatic life	Aquatic Acute 1	H400
	Aquatic Chronic 1	H410
	Aquatic Chronic 2	H411
Hazardous to the ozone layer	Ozone	H420
Carcinogenicity*	Carc 1A or 1B	H350
	Carc 2	H351
Germ cell mutagenicity*	Muta. 1A or 1B	H340
	Muta. 2	H341
Reproductive toxicity*	Repr. 1A or 1B	H360
	Repr. 2	H361
	Lact.	H362
Acute toxicity	Acute Tox 1 or 2	H300, H310, H330
	Acute Tox 3	H301, 311, 331
Specific target organ toxicity with single or repeated exposure	STOT SE 1	H370
	STOT RE 1	H372
Sensitising on inhalation or skin contact	Resp. Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	H334**
	Skin Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	H317**

\* Including all combinations of stated exposure route and stated specific effect. For example, H350 also covers the classification H350i.

Note that responsibility for correct classification lies with the manufacturer.

\*\* Non-disperse dyes are exempt from the prohibition of H334 and H317, provided that non-dusting formulations are used or that automatic dosing is used. If manual filling of automatic dosing systems is used, the manual handling must be carried out using the correct personal protective equipment in accordance with the safety data sheet (SDS) and/or using technical measures such as local extraction/ventilation.



Declaration from the chemical product manufacturer/supplier that the requirement is fulfilled.



For exempted non-disperse dyes: Declaration that non-dusting formulations of these are used or that automatic dosing is used. The dyehouse must send routines for the use of personal protective equipment when manually handling dusty colours or a description of technical measures.

## O19 Prohibition of CMR substances

Chemical products shall not contain any ingoing substances\* that have any of the classifications in the table below.

\* See definition in section 1.1.

CLP Regulation 1272/2008		
Hazard class	Hazard category	Hazard code
Carcinogenicity*	Carc. 1A or 1B	H350
	Carc. 2	H351
Germ cell mutagenicity*	Muta. 1A or 1B	H340
	Muta. 2	H341

Reproductive toxicity*	Repr. 1A or 1B Repr. 2 Lact.	H360 H361 H362
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\* Including all combinations of stated exposure route and stated specific effect. For example, H350 also covers the classification H350i.



Declaration from the chemical product manufacturer/supplier, that the requirement is fulfilled.

## O20 Prohibited substances

The following substances shall not be an ingoing substance\* in chemical products:

\* See definition in section 1.1.

- Substances on the Candidate List (<https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>). Siloxanes D4, D5 and D6 have their own documentation requirement, see requirement O23.
- Substances that are PBT (Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic) or vPvB (very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative) as set out in the criteria of REACH Annex XIII
- Potential or identified endocrine disruptors according to any of the EU member state initiative "Endocrine Disruptor Lists", List I, II and III\*\*. See the following links:
  - <https://edlists.org/the-ed-lists/list-i-substances-identified-asendocrine-disruptors-by-the-eu>
  - <https://edlists.org/the-ed-lists/list-ii-substances-under-eu-investigation-endocrine-disruption>
  - <https://edlists.org/the-ed-lists/list-iii-substances-identified-asendocrine-disruptors-by-participating-national-authorities>
- Flame retardants (e.g., short chain chlorinated paraffins)
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), e.g., PFOA and PFOS
- Nanomaterials/-particles\*\*\*
- Heavy metals\*\*\*\*
- Metal complex dyes
- Azo dyes that may release carcinogenic aromatic amines (see Appendix 4)
- Phthalates
- Chlorinated solvents and carriers, including chlorotoluene, chlorophenols and chlorobenzenes
- Alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) and other alkylphenol derivatives
- Organotin compounds
- Linear alkylbenzene sulphonates (LAS)
- Quaternary ammonium compounds such as DTDMAC, DSDMAC and DHTDMAC
- EDTA (ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid) and DTPA (diethylene triamine pentaacetate)

\*\* A substance which is transferred to one of the corresponding sub lists called "Substances no longer on list", and no longer appears on any of List I-III, is no longer excluded. The exception is those substances on sub list II which were evaluated under a regulation or directive which doesn't have provisions for identifying EDs (e.g., the Cosmetics Regulation, etc.). For those substances, ED

*properties may still have been confirmed or suspected. Nordic Ecolabelling will evaluate the circumstances case-by-case, based on the background information indicated on sub list II.*

*\*\*\* The definition of nanomaterial follows the European Commission's definition of nanomaterial of 18 October 2011 (2011/696/EU). Pigments are exempted from the requirement.*

*\*\*\*\* Heavy metals are the metals listed in point 1 below. Exemptions from the requirement are granted for:*

1. *Metal impurities in dyes and pigments up to the amounts set out in ETAD, Annex 2 "Heavy metal limits for dyes": antimony (50 ppm), arsenic (50 ppm), cadmium (20 ppm), chromium (100 ppm), chromium VI (10 ppm), lead (100 ppm), mercury (4 ppm), zinc (1500 ppm), copper (250 ppm), nickel (200 ppm), tin (250 ppm), barium (100 ppm), cobalt (500 ppm), iron (2500 ppm), manganese (1000 ppm), selenium (20 ppm) and silver (100 ppm)*
2. *Exception for iron used for colour depigmenting before printing.*

☞ Declaration from the chemical product manufacturer/supplier that the requirement is fulfilled.

### 1.3.3 Textile chemicals: Specific requirements

These requirements concern groups of chemical products used under specific wet processes. For instance, detergents used for cleaning processes.

The chemical products must also fulfil requirements in chapter 1.3.2.

#### O21 Degradability of detergents, softeners, and complexing agents

Chemical products that are used as detergents, softeners and complexing agents shall be either readily aerobically biodegradable or inherently aerobically biodegradable, in accordance with test methods OECD 301 A-F, OECD 310, OECD 302 A-C or equivalent test methods.

Softeners and complexing agents referred to as "chelating agents" and "sequestering agents" are also covered by the requirement.

☞ The chemical product manufacturer/supplier must submit safety data sheets, in line with Annex II of REACH 1907/2006, or test reports showing fulfilment of the requirement.

#### O22 Bleaching agents

Chlorinated substances shall not be used as bleaching agents. The requirement applies to bleaching of the textile.

☞ Declaration from the dyehouse that the requirement is fulfilled.

#### O23 Chemicals containing silicone

D4 (CAS no. 556-67-2), D5 (CAS no. 541-02-6) and D6 (CAS no. 540-97-6) shall only be present in the form of residues from the raw material production, and each shall only be present in amounts up to 1000 ppm in the silicone raw material (the chemical).

☞ Test from the chemical product manufacturer/supplier showing that the requirement is met. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

### 1.3.4 Textile chemicals: Additional requirements on finishing processes

These requirements concern all chemicals used in finishing processes, meaning the processes after bleaching/dyeing of the fabric, such as printing, impregnating, or coating, as well as any other application of chemicals that change the property of the fabric (smoothness, drape, lustre, water repellence, flame retardancy or crease resistance etc.).

The chemicals must also fulfil requirements in chapter 1.3.2.

#### O24 Biocides and antibacterial substances

The following substances, which may have a biocidal and/or antibacterial effect in the textile, are not permitted:

- Antibacterial substances (incl. silver ions, nano silver, and nano copper), and/or
- Biocides in the form of pure active ingredients or as biocidal products.

*Naturally occurring antibacterial effects in materials are not subject to the prohibition.*

☞ Declaration from the chemical product manufacturer/supplier that the requirement has been fulfilled.

#### O25 Polymers and their additives in finishes

Halogenated polymers are prohibited (e.g., PVC (polyvinylchloride) in finishes such as impregnation and coatings.

Additives\* in polymers (e.g., added in master batch) used in finishes such as impregnation and coatings must meet the following requirements:

- O18 Classification of chemical products,
- O19 Classification of ingoing substances,
- O20 Prohibited substances

\* See definition in section 1.1.

☞ Declaration from the manufacturer of the textile with finishes such as impregnation or coatings that halogenated polymers are not used.

☞ Declaration from the chemical/additive manufacturer or supplier, as described in requirement O18, O19 and O20.

### 1.3.5 Textile production

#### O26 Wastewater from wet processes

Discharges of COD (chemical oxygen demand) in wastewater from wet processes which is discharged to surface water after treatment shall not exceed 150 mg/L. Wastewater that is sent to municipal or other regional treatment plants is exempted.

Test method: COD content shall be tested in accordance with ISO 6060 or equivalent.

The pH value of the wastewater released to the surface water shall be between 6 and 9 (unless the pH value in the recipient lies outside this interval).

The temperature of the wastewater released to the surface water shall be lower than 40°C (unless the temperature in the recipient is higher).

A test report shall be submitted with the application. Thereafter, the applicant must have a procedure in place for annual testing in line with the requirement and for ensuring compliance with the requirement. Nordic Ecolabelling must be informed if the requirement is not fulfilled.

- ☞ Report submitted with application, showing average monthly calculations of COD, pH and temperature for at least three of the past 12 months. (For COD, measurement of PCOD, TOC or BOD may be used if a correlation to COD is evident).
- ☞ Description of how the wastewater from the wet process is treated and if the wastewater is sent to municipal or other regional treatment.
- ☞ A written procedure showing how an annual test is performed in line with the requirement, along with in-house checks of compliance with the requirement.

### 1.3.6 Polyurethane foam (PU foam)

#### O27 Blowing agents

CFC, HCFC, HFC, methylene chloride or other halogenated organic compounds shall not be used as blowing agents in the production of the material.

- ☞ Declaration from the foam manufacturer/supplier about which blowing agent has been used.

#### O28 Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)

This requirement applies only to cloths and other products that are used by hand.

The content of each individual PAH stated in the requirement shall be below 0.5 mg/kg.

The requirement concerns the following PAHs:

Substance name	CAS-no
Benzo[A]Pyrene	50-32-8
Benzo[E]Pyrene	192-97-2
Benzo[A]Anthracene	56-55-3
Dibenzo[A,H]Anthracene	53-70-3
Benzo[B]Fluoranthene	205-99-2
Benzo[J]Fluoranthene	205-82-3
Benzo[K]Fluoranthene	207-08-9
Chrysene	218-01-9

Test method: Determination of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) using gas chromatography with mass selective detection (MSD).

Alternatively, a certificate for GS-mark Category 1 or Oeko-Tex 100 class II can be used.

- ☞ Test report showing that the requirement is fulfilled. Alternatively, a GS-Mark certificate Category 1 according to AfPS GS 2019: 01 PAK<sup>1</sup> standard can be used or a certificate from Oeko-Tex 100 class II.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.baua.de/DE/Aufgaben/Geschaefsfuehrung-von-Ausschuessen/AfPS/pdf/AfPS-GS-2019-01-PAK-EN.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile&v=4](https://www.baua.de/DE/Aufgaben/Geschaefsfuehrung-von-Ausschuessen/AfPS/pdf/AfPS-GS-2019-01-PAK-EN.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4)



## O29 Additives and treatments

This requirement applies only to cloths and other products that are used by hand.

PU foam must not be added or treated\* with:

- Substances on the REACH Candidate List. Link to the REACH Candidate List: <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/candidate-list-table>
- PVC (polyvinylchloride)
- Organic chlorinated compounds
- Flame retardants (e.g., short chained chlorinated paraffins)
- Halogenated bleaching chemicals
- Aziridines and polyaziridines
- Carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic compounds (categories 1A, 1B and 2 in accordance with CLP Regulation 1272/2008)
- Phthalates
- Fluorinated organic compounds such as PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid and its salts/esters), PFOS (perfluorooctane sulphonate and its compounds), and PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene), etc.
- Organotin compounds
- Biocides or biocidal products intended to add a disinfecting or antibacterial effect in the product.

\* See the definition of impurities and ingoing substances in section 4.2 Definitions.

☞ Declaration from the producer/supplier of the PU material showing that the requirement is fulfilled.

## 1.4 Cleaning tools

This section covers requirements for cleaning tools to which the cleaning fabric are to be attached, such as mop handles, stands and other fixtures.

Cleaning tools cannot be ecolabelled separately. However, if cleaning tools are used and sold together with the microfibre product in the same packaging, they can be part of the ecolabelling and must fulfil requirements in section 1.4.

It must be possible to remove the cleaning fabric from the cleaning tool.

### 1.4.1 Materials used in cleaning tools

A material type that is present with a total amount of maximum 5% by weight of the cleaning tool is exempt from the requirements in chapter 1.4.1.

Material types that are not subject to any requirements in chapter 1.4.1 may account for no more than a total of 5% by weight of the cleaning tool.

If a material type account for more than a total of 5% by weight of the cleaning tool and are not subject to any requirements in chapter 1.4.1, Nordic ecolabelling can be contacted for assessment of whether the material and requirements for it shall be included in the criteria.

### O30 Material recovery

It must be possible to separate different types of materials (incl. different types of plastic) from each other for recycling (not applicable to surface treatments). This must not require the use of special tools.

It must be possible to remove the cleaning fabric from the cleaning tool.

☞ Specification by the applicant of how materials can be separated from each other and description of how it is possible to remove the cleaning fabric from the cleaning tool.

### O31 Aluminium: Recycled content

The requirement applies if aluminium is included with more than 30% by weight in the cleaning tool.

A minimum of 50% by weight of aluminium must be recycled\*.

The supply chain must be specified, and there must be traceability through the supply chain from the smelter to the finished product, so that the amount of recycled aluminium is secured through the supply chain.

\* See definition in section 1.1.

☞ The proportion of recycled aluminium in the product must be stated.

☞ The producer of aluminium must declare the amount of recycled aluminium in the production. Annual average for production is approved. The traceability of the supply chain must be documented, e.g., in the form of a flow chart, so that the amount of recycled aluminium is secured through the supply chain. This can be done e.g., by information on invoices or accounts from the supplier of Al which shows the amount of recycled that is purchased and how much is sold. The requirement can be documented with a valid Hydro Circal certificate.

### O32 Plastic: Information on polymer type and surface treatment

For each plastic part please state:

- Polymer type.
- Whether the polymer is fossil or bio-based.
- Whether the plastic raw material is recycled\*.
- Whether the plastic part has a surface treatment.

\* See the definition in section 1.1.

☞ An overview of the polymer materials used, including the information set out in the requirement.

### O33 Plastic: Polymer types and plastic composites – Ban

The following polymer/plastic types and blends must not be present in the cleaning tool:

- Chlorinated plastic, e.g., polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and polyvinyl dichloride (PVDC).
- Biodegradable plastic.
- Oxo-degradable plastic.
- Plastic composites\*. Calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) is allowed in plastic in quantities so that the density of the plastic does not exceed 0.995 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

\* Plastic composites are here defined as plastic mixed with/added to other substances or materials that are insoluble in the plastic and that disturb/"contaminate" today's Nordic plastic recycling systems, e.g., wood fibres or bamboo.

☞ Declaration from the cleaning tool manufacturer that the requirement is fulfilled.

### O34 Plastic: Marking for recycling sorting

Plastic parts heavier than 100 g must be clearly marked in compliance with the ISO 11469 and ISO 1043 standards.

☞ Declaration from the cleaning tool manufacturer that the requirement is fulfilled.

### O35 Plastic: Recycled contents

The requirement applies if plastic is included with more than 10% by weight in the cleaning tool.

At least 30 wt% of the plastic in the cleaning tool must consist of recycled plastic\*.

The recycled plastic must not be PVC or PVDC.

\* See definition in section 1.1.

☞ Manufacturer of recycled must be stated.

☞ Description and documentation from manufacturers of recycled raw materials showing that the plastic is recycled in compliance with the requirement's definition or has Global Recycle Standard certification or EuCertPlast certification, showing that the raw materials are recycled, or other equivalent certification approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.

☞ Calculation that shows that the proportion of recycled plastic is met.

### O36 Plastic: Chemicals in recycled plastic

Recycled plastic must not contain:

- brominated and chlorinated flame retardants
- phthalates
- cadmium
- lead
- mercury
- chromium (VI)
- arsenic

Impurities up to 100 ppm are permitted.

In addition, there must be a procedure in place to ensure that the recycled plastic does not risk exceeding the limit value in future deliveries.

☞ Documentation in the form of a test report (method XRF, X-ray) from the supplier of the recycled plastic, showing that the requirement is fulfilled. The analysis laboratory / test institute must meet the requirements in Appendix 2. Alternatively, the requirement can be documented by traceability to the source, showing that these substances are not present.

☞ Description/procedure indicating how it is ensured that the recycled plastic does not risk exceeding the limit value in future deliveries.

### O37 Plastic: Raw materials for bio-based polymers

If bio-based plastic is used the raw materials used in the production of bio-based polymers must meet the following requirements.

## Palm oil and soy

Palm oil, soybean oil and soybean flour must not be used as raw materials for bio-based polymers.

## Sugar cane

Raw materials from sugar cane must meet either a) or b):

- a) Raw materials from sugar cane shall be waste\* or residual products\*\*. There must be traceability to the production/process where the residual production occurred.
- b) Sugar cane must not be genetically modified (GMO)\*\*\*.

Sugar cane must also be certified to Bonsucro standard, version 5.1 or later version or certified according to a standard that meets the requirements in Appendix 3.

The manufacturer of the bio-based polymer must be traceability certified (CoC, Chain of Custody Certified) according to the standard sugar cane is certified according to. Traceability must as a minimum be ensured by mass balance. Book- and Claim systems are not accepted.

The producer of the bio-based polymer must document that certified raw materials have been purchased for the polymer production i.e., in the form of a specification on the invoice or delivery note.

## Other raw materials

The name (in Latin and a Nordic or English language) and supplier of the raw materials used must be stated.

The raw materials must meet either c) or d):

- c) Be waste\* or residual products\*\*. There must be traceability to the production /process, where the residual production occurred.
- d) Primary raw materials i.e., maize must not be genetically modified (GMO)\*\*\*. Geographical origin (country / state) must be stated.

\* *Waste in accordance with EU Directive 2018/2001/EC.*

\*\* *Residual products as defined in EU Directive 2018/2001/EC. Residual products come from agriculture, aquaculture, fishing and forestry, or there may be treatment of residues. A treatment of residual product means a substance that is not the end product(s) that a production process directly seeks to produce; it is not a primary aim of the production process, and the process has not been deliberately modified to produce it. Examples of residual products are, for example, straw, bait, the non-edible part of maize, livestock manure and bagasse. Examples of processing residues are, for example, raw glycerol or brown lye from paper production. PFAD (Palm Fatty Acid Distillate) from palm oil is not considered a residual product and can therefore not be used.*

\*\*\* *Genetically modified organisms are defined in EU Directive 2001/18/EC.*

☞ Declaration by the polymer manufacturer that palm oil (incl. PFAD (Palm Fatty Acid Distillate)), soybean oil and soybean flour are not used as raw materials for the bio-based polymer.

☞ For waste and residual products: Documentation from the polymer producer, which shows that the requirement's definition of waste or residual products is followed, as well as traceability which shows where waste or residual product comes from.

☞ For sugar cane: Indicate which certification system sugar cane is certified according to. Copy of valid CoC certificate or certificate number for the current traceability standard. Documentation as an invoice or delivery note from the

producer of bio-based polymer which shows that certified raw material has been purchased for the production of the polymer. Declaration that sugar cane is not genetically modified.

- ☞ For primary raw materials: Declaration from the polymer manufacturer that raw materials have not been genetically modified according to the definition in the requirement.

## 1.4.2 Chemicals used on and in cleaning tools

The requirements apply to chemicals used on and in materials that make up more than 5% by weight of the cleaning tool.

Requirements O38 and O39 apply for surface treatment of the cleaning tool, regardless of the materials it consists of. In addition, for surface treatment of metals requirement O40 applies and for surface treatment of plastics requirement O41 applies.

Requirement O42 applies to additives in plastic.

### O38 Surface treatment: Antibacterial substances

Chemical products and nanomaterials\* with antibacterial or disinfectant properties must not be used in surface treatment.

The term antibacterial means chemical products that prevent or inhibit growth of microorganisms, such as bacteria or fungi. Silver ions, silver nanoparticles, gold nanoparticles and copper nanoparticles are considered antibacterial substances.

*\* In accordance with the definition of a nanomaterial adopted by the European Commission on 18 October 2011 (2011/696/EU), see definition in section 1.1.*

- ☞ A declaration from the manufacturer of the cleaning tool stating that no chemical products and nanomaterial with antibacterial or disinfectant properties have been used on the surface of the finished cleaning tool.

### O39 Surface treatment: Nanomaterials

The chemical product used for surface treatment must not have nanomaterials\* as ingoing substances\*.

Exemption is made for pigments\*\*.

*\* See definition in section 1.1.*

*\*\* This exception does not include pigments added for purposes other than colour.*

- ☞ A declaration from the chemical manufacturer that the chemical product does not include nanomaterials as ingoing substance.

### O40 Surface treatment of metals: Coating / plating / galvanizing

Metals must not be coated / plated / galvanized with cadmium, chromium, lead, nickel, zinc, or compounds of these.

- ☞ A declaration from the manufacturer of the cleaning tool.

### O41 Surface treatment of plastic

No surface treatment is allowed.

- ☞ A declaration from the manufacturer of the cleaning tool.

## O42 Additives in plastic

Additives\* in the list below must not be added to plastic (both virgin and recycled plastic). The requirement applies to additives actively added to the polymer raw material in the master batch or compound in production of plastic.

- Pigments and additives based on lead, tin, cadmium, chromium VI and mercury, and their compounds
- Halogenated organic compounds with the following exception:
  - Halogenated organic pigments that comply with the Council of Europe recommendation "Resolution AP (89) 1 on the use of colorants in plastic materials coming into contact with food", point 2.5
- Phthalates
- Bisphenols

\* See section 1.1 Definitions

🔒 A declaration from the plastic producer.

## 1.5 Quality and performance requirements

The requirements in this section apply for the finished textile part.

### O43 Dimensional changes after washing and drying

The textile part must not change more than 6% in dimension after washing and drying.

Test method: EN ISO 6330, combined with ISO 5077: Three washes at the temperature specified on the product and tumble drying after each wash cycle unless the product specifies another method of drying.

🔒 Test report and results according to requirement. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

### O44 Colour fastness to washing

Colour fastness to washing shall at a minimum be level 3-4 for change in colour and at least level 3-4 for staining. Tests shall be performed on the colour(s) in a series that are anticipated to be least colour fast. This requirement does not apply to uncoloured and/or white products.

Test method: ISO 105-C06.

🔒 Test report and results according to requirement. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

### O45 Durability

The textile part must be durable and have a long service life. This means that after the number of washes stated below the product must still be effective and live up to requirement O46 and if relevant requirement O47.

- Products for professional use - durable after at least 300 washes.
- Products for domestic use - durable after at least 100 washes.
- If claimed that the product is durable after more washes than stated above, the applicant must document how the durability results were reached.

Test method: Washing and reporting according to guideline in Appendix 5. Hereafter documentation according to requirement O46 and if relevant requirement O47.

☞ Report according to Appendix 5.

☞ Declaration from the applicant that the washed products are those that are sent to testing according to requirement O46 and if relevant requirement O47.

#### O46 Removal of dust and dirt

Removal of dust and dirt after at least 300/100 washes\* must be at least:

- For microfibre mop: 70%.
- For microfibre cloth, pad, or other products: 85%.

The use method (wet, damp, or dry use) of the product shall be used when testing. If a product is designed for several use methods, its performance must be tested for them all. No cleaning or disinfectants chemicals must be used.

\* *Numbers of washes according to requirement O45.*

Test method: See recommendations on testing in Appendix 7. Standard INSTA 800 or EN 13549 may, for example, be used as a starting point for designing tests. Washing according to requirement O45.

☞ Test report and results according to requirement. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

#### O47 Assessment of hygienic conditions (measurement of quantities of micro-organisms)

This requirement applies only to products marketed as possessing the ability to reduce the presence of micro-organisms under various conditions.

It must be demonstrated that the product reduces the amount of micro-organisms by at least 95% (cfu = colony forming units) after at least 300/100 washes, see requirement O45.

The use method (wet, damp, or dry use) of the product shall be used when testing. If a product is designed for several use methods, its performance must be tested for them all. No cleaning or disinfectants chemicals must be used.

Test method: See recommendations on testing in Appendix 7. Standard INSTA 800, EN 13549 or EN 16615 may, for example, be used as a starting point for designing tests. Washing according to requirement O45.

☞ Test report and results according to requirement. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

#### O48 Abrasion

The product, when used as recommended, must not cause any type of damage to the cleaned surface.

The qualitative results of gloss measurements must not exceed the following gloss differential limits:

- Semi-hard and hard surfaces: < 30 gloss differential
- Soft and fragile surfaces: < 20 gloss differential

Test method: According to ISO 12947-1 and gloss measurement according to DIN 67530 or ISO 2813, or equivalent test methods.

Or guarantee that the use of the supplies for microfibre based cleaning does not cause surface damage during recommended usage. The information about the guarantee shall be presented on the packaging, instruction, or product data sheet.

☞ Test report and results according to requirement. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

or

- ☞ Copy of information on the packaging, instruction or product data sheet that guarantees that the product will not cause surface damage during recommended usage.

#### O49 Absorption

This requirement applies only to products that are marketed for uses requiring absorption properties, for example wet cleaning.

The test shall be performed on the newly produced microfibre textile.

If several different types of microfibre textile are contained in the end product, then the requirement is to be met by the particular type of microfibre intended for use in absorption.

The absorption capacity of the microfibre textile shall be expressed as:

DAC (Demand absorption capacity) in g/g – minimum 2.50 g/g and MAR (Maximum absorption rate) in g/s – minimum 0.6 g/s.

Test method: According to EN ISO 9073-12, or equivalent test methods.

- ☞ Test report and results according to requirement. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

#### O50 Loss of fibre fragments

Cleaning textiles consisting of at least 90% by weight of synthetic fibres, shall be tested for loss of fibre fragments according to the test method in Appendix 6.

The cleaning textile must achieve a minimum rating of A on the MLC-Index® (see Appendix 6).

- ☞ Test report showing that the requirement is fulfilled. The analysis laboratory must fulfil the requirements in Appendix 2.

## 1.6 Labelling

The requirements of this section apply to the final product that are sold to the customer.

#### O51 Labelling

The following information must be supplied together with the product:

- Information about that the product should be used without cleaning chemicals.
- Information about that the product contain microfibre materials.
- Information on the surfaces for which the product is designed.
- Laundry instructions with directions regarding care as well as recommended and maximum washing temperatures.

- ☞ Copy of the information according to the requirement which are supplied together with the product.

## 1.7 Human Rights Due Diligence in the Supply Chain

The requirements in this section are meant to prevent and address adverse impacts across the value chain of licensed products. The requirements are grounded in key international standards on human rights due diligence adopted by the UN and the OECD. These soft law standards are referenced in the draft



due diligence obligation in the EU, meant to ensure coherence for companies across existing and proposed EU initiatives on responsible business conduct.

The requirements are also in step with existing practice in the sector, including the risk-based approach to tackle the most salient risks to people. Licensees are given a broad range of approaches to manage sustainability risk, and for the Nordic Ecolabelling to assess compliance, rather than a heavy reliance on contractual assurances and audits/verifications.

## O52 Human Rights Due Diligence

The licensee shall employ ongoing risk-based due diligence in line with the methodology and expectations in the UN Guiding Principles and the OECD Guidelines, which includes the fundamental ILO Conventions, for all dyeing plants and cut-make-trim (CMT) factories (e.g., sewing factories), see specific requirements in O53 and O54.

The licensee shall inform suppliers what is expected of them, including a commitment to support supplier's compliance by engaging in responsible purchasing practices.

The licensee is responsible for engaging with the suppliers to remediate any labour issues that may arise during production and for taking commercially reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with the UN Guiding Principles and OECD Guidelines, and local labour and safety laws.

The licensee shall strive for a 'responsible exit' where human rights impacts are severe and the licensee lacks leverage to address them. Before ceasing business, the licensee shall consider any additional human rights consequences of such termination.

The Nordic Ecolabel may withdraw the license as a last resort, if the licensee cannot show evidence that they are engaging to influence the relevant entities that are causing harm.

See Appendix 8 for resources to develop a human rights due diligence policy.

☞ Signed application form.

☞ Nordic Ecolabelling may request copies of written efforts to engage, influence, support, reward and verify improvements at sites if needed, as per Compliance Action Plans (CAPs) from audits, certification or multi-stakeholder initiatives or other social compliance and safety monitoring programmes.

## O53 Preventive safety measure

The licensee shall, in countries or regions where it is available, commit to only source products/services from sites participating in the International Accord for Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry.

☞ Signed application form to join the International Accord if relevant to source from sites in countries or regions covered by the Accord.

## O54 Assessment of safety and labour conditions

The licensee shall conduct regular risk assessment of the supply chain, updated whenever significant new risks arise, at least every 12 months, that includes:

- Desk-based assessment of the latest human right and environment-related context in the region or country, sector, and production type, and any indicators of risk at the sites; and
- Initial onsite assessment of the actual situation at sites\*.

\* Exemption: Where the desk-based assessment shows low country, sector and supplier risk, the initial onsite assessment can be made by contacting the relevant local trade union for an assessment of the conditions on site. This should include a contact person at the licensee, so that the trade union may engage the licensee if workers raise any concerns.

The licensee need to consider their own potential contributions to adverse impacts (for example their own purchasing practices) and whether there are adequate incentives for a supplier to share rather than hide problems from them.

See Appendix 9 for resources for a desk-based assessment. See Appendix 10 for guidance on measures to verify compliance and respect for human rights onsite.

The onsite assessment can be done through either a), b) or c):

- a) Reviewing a report from a recent (past 3 months) assessment by the multi-stakeholder initiative programme. See Appendix 11 for approved programmes.
- b) Reviewing a social audit from another buyer from the same supplier/site, provided it meets the audit methodology requirements, see below.
- c) Commissioning a social audit. Nordic Ecolabelling will accept audits conducted using SLCP (Social and Labor Convergence Program) or SMETA (based on the ETI Base Code). SA8000 (first year) or a BSCI audit (first year) will be accepted if the report is provided in full (as well as the certificate) and if the audit has been conducted within the last year.

☞ Submit the site(s) initial assessment or monitoring report(s) of actual site labour conditions (options a-c above).

☞ If the exemption is applicable, submit the desk-based risk assessment together with verification of contact with a relevant trade union.

## 2 Licence maintenance

The purpose of the licence maintenance is to ensure that fundamental quality assurance is dealt with appropriately.

### O55 Control and assessment of suppliers

The licensee shall do an annual follow-up of its own suppliers, who perform relevant processes (e.g., textile dyeing, textile finishing, surface treatment of tool) during the textile and cleaning tool production. The follow-up shall be documented in writing and shall contain the following, as a minimum:

- List of used suppliers, who perform relevant processes.
- Check that the supplier's responsible person is familiar with Nordic Ecolabelling's requirements and understands how the supplier can ensure compliance with these.
- Check that procedures at the supplier have been implemented to ensure that changes are only made to the production of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product (e.g., changes to raw materials) once the licensee has obtained approval from Nordic Ecolabelling.
- If any of the requirements in the criteria are documented via certification schemes (e.g., Oeko-Tex 100, Global Recycled Standard certificate, EU

Ecolabel or similar) or yearly tests, checks are to be carried out to ensure that certificates and tests are up to date and remain valid.

Changes in the production such as replacement of suppliers or additional suppliers, fibre raw materials or chemicals shall be approved by Nordic Ecolabelling before the change is initiated in production.

If deviations are found at the annual follow-up, the Nordic Ecolabelling must be contacted.

The licensee shall keep written documentation for each year of the validity of the license. If requested documentation must be send to Nordic Ecolabelling.

☞ A draft of the annual follow-up document, which shows how it is set up. The document shall show which points for each supplier are going to be followed up, how it can be seen when they have been checked and how they have been assessed (e.g., approved, not approved). For each suppliers the name of the company and which process they preform must also be stated.

☞ Confirmation that follow-up of suppliers will be done each year of the validity of the license.

### O56 Customer complaints

The licensee must guarantee that the quality of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product does not deteriorate during the validity period of the licence. Therefore, the licensee must keep an archive over customer complaints.

Note that the original routine must be in one Nordic language or in English.

☞ Upload your company's routine for handling and archiving customer complaints.

### O57 Traceability

The licensee must be able to trace the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled products in the production. A manufactured / sold product should be able to trace back to the occasion (time and date) and the location (specific factory) and, in relevant cases, also which machine / production line where it was produced. In addition, it should be possible to connect the product with the actual raw material used.

You can upload your company's routine or a description of the actions to ensure traceability in your company.

☞ Please upload your routine or a description.

## Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products

When the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is used on products the licence number shall be included.

More information on graphical guidelines, regulations and fees can be found at [www.nordic-ecolabel.org/regulations/](http://www.nordic-ecolabel.org/regulations/)

## Follow-up inspections

Nordic Ecolabelling may decide to check whether supplies for microfibre based cleaning fulfils Nordic Ecolabelling requirements during the licence period. This may involve a site visit, random sampling, or similar test.

The licence may be revoked if it is evident that supplies for microfibre based cleaning fulfils does not meet the requirements.

Random samples may also be taken in-store and analysed by an independent laboratory. If the requirements are not met, Nordic Ecolabelling may charge the analysis costs to the licensee.

## Criteria version history

Nordic Ecolabelling adopted version 3.0 of the criteria for Supplies for microfibre based cleaning on 14 November 2022. The criteria are valid until 1. December 2027.

On 27 June 2023 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to adjust requirement O49, which was divided into three requirements (O49-O51) and appendix 8-11 were added. By this adjustment more explanation and help are added for the applicants regarding fulfilment of the requirements for Human Rights Due Diligence in the Supply Chain. On 12 September 2023 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to adjust appendix 5 so that recommended washing temperature can also be used under certain conditions. The new version is called 3.1.

On 5 December 2023 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to adjust requirement O1 by exempt specific small parts, requirement O5 so that test must not be done each year and mops are exempted, adding PU foam as an material and requirements for PU foam (O27-O29) and adding option B for testing in Appendix 5. On 19 December 2023 Nordic Ecolabelling decided to adjust requirement O45 (O42 in version 3.1) by allowing other documentation than according to Appendix 5 when claiming higher durability than 100/300 washes. The new version is called 3.2.

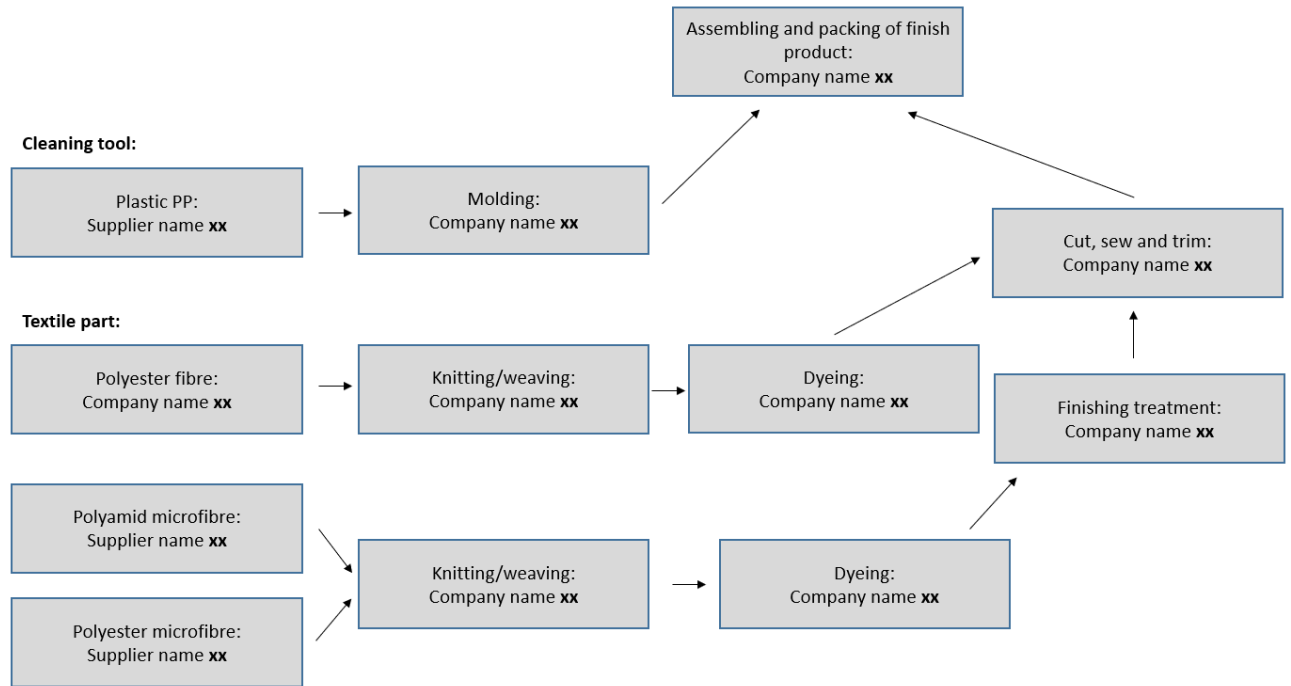
## New criteria

In the next generation of the criteria, it is possible that the following areas i.e., will be revised or included:

- Specific requirements for energy and water consumption during textile production
- Amount of recycled textile fibres in the product
- Amount of loss of fibre fragments from the product

## Appendix 1 Manufacturing process and suppliers

Example of flow chart:



Suppliers:

Company name	Production site (Full address)	Contact person (Name, email, and phone)	Manufacturing process (e.g. dyeing, surface treatment, etc.)

## Appendix 2      Laboratories for testing, sampling, and analysis

### General requirements

The laboratory/institute must be competent and impartial.

The laboratory used shall fulfil the general requirements of standard EN ISO 17025 or have official GLP status.

The applicant's own laboratory can be approved if it is accredited and complies with the requirements of the standard EN ISO 17025.

When testing quality and performance properties, the applicant's own laboratory can be approved even if it is not accredited. The following applies:

- testing, sampling, and analysis is monitored by the authorities, or
- the manufacturer's quality assurance system covers testing, analyses and sampling and is certified to ISO 9001, or
- the manufacturer can demonstrate agreement between a first-time test conducted at the manufacturer's own laboratory and testing carried out in parallel at an independent test institute, and the manufacturer takes samples in accordance with a fixed sampling schedule.

## Appendix 3 Guidelines for standard, renewable commodities

Nordic Ecolabelling sets requirements on the standards to which cultivated commodities are certified. These requirements are described below. Each individual national sustainability standard and each certification system is reviewed by Nordic Ecolabelling to ensure that the requirements are fulfilled.

### Requirements on standards

- The standard must balance economic, ecological, and social interests and comply with the Rio Declaration's principles, Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles, and respect relevant international conventions and agreements.
- The standard must contain absolute requirements and promote and contribute towards sustainable cultivation. Nordic Ecolabelling places special emphasis on the standard including effective requirements and that the requirements protect the biodiversity.
- The standard must be available to the public. The standard must have been developed in an open process in which stakeholders with ecological, economic, and social interests have been invited to participate.

The requirements related to the sustainable standards are formulated as process requirements. The basis is that if stakeholders agree on the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the standard, this safeguards an acceptable requirement level.

If a sustainability standard is developed or approved by stakeholders with ecological, economic, and social interests, the standard may maintain an acceptable standard. Accordingly, Nordic Ecolabelling requires that the standard balances these three interests and that representatives from all three areas are invited to participate in development of the sustainable standard.

The standard must set absolute requirements that must be fulfilled for the certification. This ensures that the agriculture management fulfils an acceptable level regarding the environment. Since Nordic Ecolabelling requires that the standard must promote and contribute towards sustainable cultivation, the standard must be assessed and revised regularly for process improvement and successively reduce environmental impact.

### Requirements on certification system

- The certification system must be open, have significant national or international credibility and be able to verify that the requirements in the sustainable standard are fulfilled.

### Requirements on certification body

- The certification body must be independent, credible, and capable of verifying that the requirements of the standard have been fulfilled. The certification body must also be able to communicate the results and to facilitate the effective implementation of the standard.

- The certification system must be designed to verify that the requirements of the standard are fulfilled. The method used for certification must be repeatable and applicable so the requirements can be verified. Certification must be in respect to a specific sustainable standard. There must be inspection prior to certification.

### **Requirements on Chain of Custody (CoC) certification**

- Chain of Custody certification must be issued by an accredited, competent third party.
- The system shall stipulate requirements regarding the chain of custody that assure traceability, documentation, and controls throughout the production chain.

### **Documentation**

- Copy of cultivation standard, name, address, and telephone number to the organisation who has worked out the standard and audit reports.
- References to persons who represents stakeholders with ecological, economic, and social interests who have been invited to participate.

Nordic Ecolabelling may request further documents to examine whether the requirements of the standard and certification system in question can be approved.



## Appendix 4 Azo dyes and aromatic amines

Carcinogene aromatic amines	CAS no
4-aminodiphenyl	92-67-1
Benzidine	92-87-5
4-chlor-o-toluidine	95-69-2
2-naphthylamine	91-59-8
o-amino-azotoluene	97-56-3
2-amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8
p-chloraniline	106-47-8
2,4-diaminoanisol	615-05-4
4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane	101-77-9
3,3'-dichlorbenzidine	91-94-1
3,3'-dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4
3,3'-dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7
3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane	838-88-0
p-cresidine	120-71-8
4,4'-oxydianiline	101-80-4
4,4'-thiodianiline	139-65-1
o-toluidine	95-53-4
2,4-diaminotoluene	95-80-7
2,4,5-trimethylaniline	137-17-7
4-aminoazobenzene	60-09-3
o-anisidine	90-04-0
2,4-Xylidine	95-68-1
2,6-Xylidine	87-62-7
4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloro-aniline)	101-14-4
2-amino-5-nitroanisole	97-52-9
m-nitroaniline	99-09-2
2-amino-4-nitrophenol	99-57-0
m-phenylenediamine	108-45-2
2-amino-5-nitrothiazole	121-66-4
2-amino-5-nitrophenol	121-88-0
p-aminophenol	123-30-80
p-phenetidine	156-43-4
2-methyl-pphenylenediamine; 2,5diaminotoluene	615-50-9
2-methyl-pphenylenediamine; 2,5diaminotoluene	95-70-5
2-methyl-pphenylenediamine; 2,5diaminotoluene	25376-45-8
6-chloro-2,4-dinitroaniline	3531-19-9

## Appendix 5      Guideline for washing and report

This guideline shall be used for washing of the products.

The washing and reporting may be performed by the applicant, the manufacture of the product, a laundry, or an analysis laboratory.

It is possible to do the washing according to either option A or option B below.

### **Option A:**

#### **Washing machine types:**

Washing machine designed for professional washing or according to EN ISO 6330 must be used.

#### **Washing detergents:**

Use detergents with a pH between 4 and 10. Use detergents without soap and zeolites.

Dose according to specified for the detergent used and according to the water hardness used for washing.

Do not use fabric softeners.

#### **Tumble drying:**

Tumble drying between washing cycles may be used but is not a requirement.

#### **Washing procedure:**

Wash at the maximum temperature specified for the product. However recommended washing temperature can also be used, if the recommended washing temperature is public and easily accessible e.g., on care label, in technical datasheet or similar.

Use a washing program which include minimum 20 minutes of washing followed by minimum 3 rinsing cycles with spin drying between each.

- Products for professional use: 300 washing cycles.
- Products for domestic use: 100 washing cycles.
- If claimed that the product is durable after more washes than stated above: The number of washes claimed.

#### **Reporting:**

A report must be submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling containing:

- Information about who has performed the washing.
- The trade name/ item number of the washed products.

- Confirming the use of washing machine type for professional washing or according to EN ISO 6330.
- Information about the detergent used and the dosage.
- State if tumble drying has been used or not.
- Describe the washing procedure including information about washing temperature and washing programme. If recommended washing temperature is used instead of maximum temperature, please state where information about recommended washing temperature can be found by the end user.
- State the numbers of washing cycles.

**Option B:****Washing machine type:**

Washing in accordance with ISO 23231 accelerated machine.

**Washing detergents:**

Use detergents with a pH between 4 and 10. Use detergents without soap and zeolites.

Dose according to specified for the detergent used and according to the water hardness used for washing.

Do not use fabric softeners.

**Tumble drying:**

Tumble drying between washing cycles may be used but is not a requirement.

**Washing procedure:**

Washing temperature: 60 °C +/- 2°C.

Use a washing program (Quick-Wash Program 3) with a wash cycle with an agitation time (min/sec) of 2:45, 3 rinsing cycles with an agitation time (min/sec) of 1:00, drying time 6 min and spin time 0.35 min/sec.

- Products for professional use: 30 washing cycles
- Products for domestic use: 10 washing cycles
- If claimed that the product is durable after more washes than 300 washes for products for professional use and 100 washes for products for domestic use:
  - claimed 500 washes: Do 50 washing cycles
  - claimed 700 washes: Do 140 washing cycles
  - claimed 1000 washes: Do 200 washing cycles

**Wet Scrub resistance after washing:**

After above washing the below wet scrub resistance must be preformed:

Linear-Abrasion/Wiping-Test (DIN EN ISO 11998) 25.000 Cycles

Mount cleaning textile to sample holder, Prewet with 4g $\pm$  0,5g dest. water, scrubbing against Reference Tile V&B.

Stroke length (300  $\pm$  10) mm und (37  $\pm$  2) scrubbing cycles/min.

**Reporting:**

A report must be submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling containing:

- Information about who has performed the washing.
- The trade name/ item number of the washed products.
- Confirming the use of washing machine type for accelerated washing (ISO 23231).
- Information about the detergent used and dosage.
- State if tumble drying has been used or not.
- State the numbers of washing cycles.
- Information of the abrasion test parameters: Machine type, stroke length, scrubbing cycles/min. and used type of reference tile.

## Appendix 6      Testing description to evaluate microplastic release

### **Testing description to evaluate microplastic release from cleaning textiles based on life cycle simulation in accordance with ISO 23231 (developed by the Weber & Leucht laboratory)**

#### **a) Scope of testing procedure:**

The aim of the test program is to determine the release of microplastic particles from textile products that are intended for cleaning hard surfaces and can be reused several times.

Reuse requires that the products are subjected to a washing and abrasion simulation. This is necessary so that the lifetime-related microplastic release of a product can be evaluated. For this purpose, this test program describes test scenarios corresponding to the lifetime simulation, measurement methods of microplastic release and a possible classification by the MLC-Index®. Since cleaning textiles can differ greatly in type and structure, the test is preferably carried out on ready-made end products.

#### **b) References:**

- ISO 23231:2008-09 Textiles - Determination of dimensional change of fabrics - Accelerated machine method
- AATCC 20A: Test Method for Fiber Analysis: Quantitative
- AATCC TM212-2021, Test Method for Fiber Fragment Release During Home Laundering
- AATCC 135, Test Method for Dimensional Changes of Fabrics after Home Laundering
- EN ISO 6330:2022-03 Textiles - Domestic washing and drying procedures for textile testing (ISO 6330:2021)
- VDA 19 Inspection of Technical Cleanliness - Particulate Contamination of Functionally - Relevant Automotive Components
- DIN CEN ISO/TR 21960:2021-02 Plastics - Environmental aspects - State of knowledge and methodology
- EN ISO 4484-1:2021-11- Draft- Textiles and textile products - Microplastics from textile sources - Part 1: Determination of material loss from fabrics during washing (ISO/DIS 4484-1:2021); German and English version prEN ISO 4484-1:2021
- EN ISO 4484-2:2021-07 - Draft - Textiles and textile products - Microplastics from textile sources - Part 2: Qualitative and quantitative evaluation of microplastics (ISO/DIS 4484-2:2021); German and English version prEN ISO 4484-2:2021
- EN ISO 5077:2008-04 Textiles - Determination of dimensional change in washing and drying

#### **c) Test program:**

- The test program includes the following elementary procedures:

- Sample preparation
- Life cycle simulation according to ISO 23231 or alternative methods
- Determination of microplastic release
- Calculation of the MLC-Index®
- Protocol/Reporting

#### Sample preparation:

End products or ready-made test samples consisting of the textile layers used (if necessary, also foam layers) with have identical structure of the end product but on a reduced scale can be tested. The reduced scale is to be adapted to the selected testing method in such a way that the samples can be tested realistically in the selected life cycle simulation method. A picture documentation of the final product and the reduced test specimen shall be prepared.

#### Dimensions of test specimens for ISO 23231 with 5-chamber model:

1 cloth with minimum size 150 x 150 +/- 10 mm up to maximum size 300 x 300 +/- 10 mm per chamber or 2 wipe covers/pad samples with 100 x 100 +/- 10 mm per chamber.

Note: The selected fabrication technique has a significant influence on the result, therefore the identical product design must be used for scaled test specimens. The conformity with the final product needs to be checked for scaled samples and deviations should be noted in the test report.

The exact dimensions of each individual sample must be determined in accordance to EN ISO 5077 before treatment, so that the MLC-Index® in relation to the total area of the cleaning fabric can be calculated later (length/L and width/W).

#### Life cycle simulation according to ISO 23231:

In each case 5 samples are treated according to ISO 23231. The accelerated washing procedure consists of washing and drying according to ISO 23231 and must be repeated 20 times (20 complete washing and drying cycles) in order to calculate the MLC-Index®.

Washing program number 3 (see program table of instrument manual). Program 3 represents the equivalent of AATCC 135: 5 home laundries.

The simulation takes place without detergent. However, detergent may be used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations (type and dosage must be noted in the test report). The washing temperature to be used is 60°C +/- 2°C.

All 5 chambers are filled with one type of sample (each of the same product). This is therefore a 5-specimen-determination, whereby the entire treatment water from treatment run 1 to 20 is collected and examined.

To determine the microfiber loss, complete washing liquor must be collected and subjected to subsequent filtration. A suitable requirement and information for the implementation can be taken from AATCC TM212-2021. Deviating filtration

systems shall be described in the test report and the filtration performance with respect to particle size classes shall be documented.

#### Determination of microplastic release:

The determination of the microplastic release includes all 20 reversing washing cycles. At least two measurement methods are combined for the determination:

- Fiber Fragment Release according to AATCC TM-212-2021 or prEN ISO 4484-1.
- Estimated determination of microplastic release according to VDA 19, AATCC TM-20A, EN ISO 4484-2 or other equivalent imaging and spectroscopic coupling methods of the filters from AATCC TM-212-2021 or prEN 4484-1.

Both measurement results allow the calculation of the microplastic release from textile source, which is given in g per sample. The imaging method allows a percentage estimation of the microplastic release related to the identified fiber types as well as residual dirt particles. The percentage filter coverage as well as the classification can be carried out, for example, by means of VDA 19.

#### Calculation example:

Mean value g/sample acc. to AATCC TM 212: 0,25 g

Percentage estimate of all detectable components:

85.2% PET (5.2 µm to 1,002 µm)

10,8% PA (24,5 µm to 504,9 µm)

2.0% Cotton

2.0% Residual dirt

Percentage total identified microplastics from textile source: 96 %

Estimated total mass of microplastics from textile source:

$$(0,25\text{g} / 100) * 96 = \mathbf{0.24\text{ g (mL)}}$$

#### **d) Calculation of MLC-Index®:**

The MLC-Index® describes the microplastic release in mg/m<sup>2</sup> cleaning textile surface during a lifetime simulation of 20 treatment cycles (ct) according to ISO 23231 (accelerated test of abrasion as well as washing resistance).

#### Calculation of the MLC-® index:

MLC-Index®:

Microplastic (M) loss (L) of cleaning textiles (C) of one square meter of the cleaning textile surface:

$$\text{MLC-Index} = \frac{m_L}{L \times W \times c_t}$$

$m_L$	Micropolymer weight loss total after $c_t$
$L$	Length of cleaning textiles
$W$	Width of cleaning textile
$c_t$	Total tested cleaning/laundry cycles (25 cycles accelerated testing ISO 23231)

Result: MLC-INDEX®: \_\_\_\_ mg/m<sup>2</sup>

### e) Report:

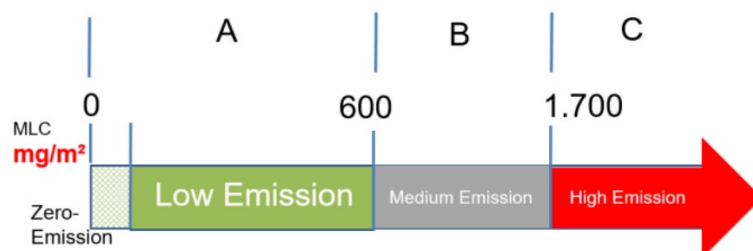
The test report should include the following information:

- Image documentation of the tested samples
- Sample name
- Test date
- Information on the inspection body and responsible persons
- If necessary, deviations from the final product in the case of manufactured and scaled sample specimens.
- Indication of all reference standards used for lifetime simulation and determination of microplastic release from textile source.
- Measurement results of all specimens of length, width, and calculated specimen surfaces
- Estimated total mass of microplastic release from textile source (mL in g)
- Calculated MLC-Index® in mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Comprehensible information on the basis of calculation
- Estimation of the measurement uncertainty
- Information on the calibration of the measuring device and the recovery rate of the selected filtration system and the coupled detection method
- Information of particle range and limit of detection of used microplastic detection method
- Deviations from reference standards

### f) Rating / Interpretation of MLC-Index®:

This rating scale is from class A to class C, whereby A indicates low-emission cleaning textiles and C covers textiles with rather above average emissions.

#### Rating Scale:





## Appendix 7      Removal of dust and dirt and measurement of reduction in micro-organisms

### Removal of dust and dirt

The Nordic cleaning standard “INSTA 800” or the European standard “EN 13549 Cleaning services Basic requirements and recommendations for quality measuring systems” may, for example, be used as a starting point for designing tests.

- Measurement of degree of dust and dirt removal shall be performed with a test instrument, e.g., Dust Detector (or similar instrument with equivalent scale and accuracy). The instrument must be calibrated in accordance with the supplier’s instructions.
- Measurements shall be performed on a suitable test service. The applicant must state the test surface that has been used and specify why this test surface has been chosen.
- If the supplies for microfibre based cleaning are designed for several use methods (wet, damp and/or dry use), their performance regarding dust and dirt removal must be documented for all use methods. Only water may be used, no cleaning or disinfectant chemicals.
- The test results must be presented for each surface category and the date of testing stated.
- A representative quantity and composition of dirt for the floor or surface shall be used in testing. The applicant shall describe and justify the type and quantity of dirt that is used.
- A relevant test method must be used, such as wiping/mopping with 50% overlap. The applicant shall describe and justify the test method that is employed.
- The reproducibility of results must be documented.

### Measurement of quantities of micro-organisms

The Nordic cleaning standard “INSTA 800”, the European standard “EN 13549 Cleaning services Basic requirements and recommendations for quality measuring systems” or “EN 16615 Chemical disinfectants and antiseptics – Quantitative test method for the evaluation of bactericidal and yeasticidal activity on non-porous surfaces with mechanical action employing wipes in the medical area (4- field test) – Test method and requirements (phase 2, step 2)” may, for example, be used as a starting point for designing tests.

- Hygiene measurements shall be used to measure the quantity of micro-organisms on all flat, hard, and semi-hard surfaces. The purpose of testing is to check that the cleaning result is acceptable regarding hygiene requirements.
- Measurements only apply to total bacteria counts (number of colonies of microorganisms that develop through cultivation of a swab or impression

sample on tryptone-glycose-yeast extract agar). If the applicant wishes to measure the type and number of a specific type of microorganism, the method and limit value must be justified.

- Measurement shall be performed using contact plate or agar strips with nutrient (TGA) or equivalent. Other growth cultures may be used.
- Measurements shall be performed on a suitable test service. The applicant must state the test surface that has been used and specify why this test surface has been chosen.
- If supplies for microfibre based cleaning are designed for several use methods (wet, damp and/or dry use), their performance in reducing the presence of micro-organisms must be documented for all use methods. Only water may be used, no cleaning or disinfectant chemicals.
- The test results must be presented for each surface category and the date of testing stated.
- The reproducibility of results must be documented.

## Appendix 8 Due Diligence Policy resources

Many companies in the textile/apparel industry are part of multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) that provide practical trainings and guidance on how to do human rights due diligence on supply chains in the sector. These include the Ethical Trading Initiatives (ETIs) of UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Fair Wear Foundation (Dutch based), the amfori BSCI, the US based Social Accountability Intl (SA8000) and Fair Labour Association (FLA).

- For resources on responsible purchasing practices, see the Common Framework for Responsible Purchasing Practices (CFRPP, the Common Framework), available at <https://www.cfrpp.org/>, including a summary of available training, available at <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/601a4cf430876663b0f9c870/t/62de57432fbbd85a1ffca83a/1658738504465/Summary+training+LIC.pdf>.
- For specific guidance on how textile companies can undertake human rights due diligence, see the Fair Wear Foundation's "Brand Performance Check Guide", available at <https://api.fairwear.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Brand-performance-check-guide-2022.pdf> or see the ETIs website, available at <https://www.ethicaltrade.org/issuesdue-diligence/resources-human-rights-due-diligence>.
- For policy statement guidance and sectoral guidance, see OCED Due Diligence Guidance for garment and footwear, available at <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/oecd-due-diligence-guidance-garment-footwear.pdf>, section 1.1. and 3.2.1 respectively.
- For a model template for a human rights policy, see Building Blocks for Schedule P, (P, as in Policy), available at [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/human\\_rights/contractual-clauses-project/schedulep.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/human_rights/contractual-clauses-project/schedulep.pdf), or, for practical examples, see Appendix B Examples of Policy Commitments to the 2016 report Doing Business with Respect for Human Rights: A Guidance Tool for Companies, by the Global Compact Network Netherlands, Oxfam and Shift, available at [https://shiftproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/business\\_respect\\_human\\_rights\\_full-1.pdf%20](https://shiftproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/business_respect_human_rights_full-1.pdf%20).
- For multilanguage versions of a supplier code of conduct, founded on the ILO Conventions, see the ETI Base Code, available at <https://www.ethicaltrade.org/resources/eti-base-code-poster>, see SAI (SA8000), available at <https://sa-intl.org/resources/sa8000-standard/sa8000-translations/>, or see Fairwear's Code of Labour Practices (CoLP) <https://www.fairwear.org/about-us/labour-standards>.
- For a guide on identifying salient risks, see the 2017 UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework, a collaboration between the Shift Project (the leading centre of expertise on the UN Guiding Principles) and the international accounting firm, Mazars LLP, available at <https://www.ungpreporting.org/>.
- For guidance on how to calculate and benchmark wages, see the Anker methodology, available at <https://globallivingwage.org/about/anker-methodology/>, or see the Asia Floor Wage, available at <https://asia.floorwage.org/living-wage/calculating-a-living-wage/>, or use a process such as ACT membership, Fair Wear Foundation Fair Wage Ladder, Fairtrade Textile Standard, or FLA's Fair Compensation Scheme.

## Appendix 9 Human rights and environmental risk assessments

### Assess the country and sector risk

Licensees are asked to assess the latest human rights and environment-related context, to consider whether compliance with the fundamental ILO conventions (and assessing for that) at the sites is possible.

- For an overview of ratifications by country of fundamental ILO Conventions, see <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11001::NO::>. For example consult the list of countries that have not ratified the Convention No. 98 concerning right to organise and collective bargaining, see [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11310:0::NO:11310:P11310\\_INSTRUMENT\\_ID:312243:NO](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11310:0::NO:11310:P11310_INSTRUMENT_ID:312243:NO), and see overview of ratifications of fundamental instruments by number of ratifications, available at [https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:10011:0::NO::P10011\\_DISPLAY\\_BY,P10011\\_CONVENTION\\_TYPE\\_CODE:2,F](https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:10011:0::NO::P10011_DISPLAY_BY,P10011_CONVENTION_TYPE_CODE:2,F).
- For a rank of countries' respect for workers' rights, see the latest edition of the International Trade Union Confederation Global Rights Index, available at <https://www.ituc-csi.org/2022-global-rights-index-en>.
- For country-specific human rights reviews, see Human Rights Watch's reports, available at <https://www.hrw.org/countries>, and see Amnesty International's reports, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/>.
- For updates with focus on textile and apparel manufacturing, see FairWear Foundations' country reports, available at <https://www.fairwear.org/programmes/countries> and see ETI's country risk reports, available at <https://www.ethicaltrade.org/blog>. ILO Better Work has occasional country apparel sector labour conditions reports, available at <https://betterwork.org/>.
- For resources on modern slavery risks, see the US State Department and Verité's responsible sourcing tool, available at <https://www.responsible sourcing tool.org/workerprotection>, see the US Department of Labor's list of goods and their source countries which it is reason to believe is produced by child labour or forced labour, available at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods>; see the US State Department's yearly Trafficking in Persons Report, available at <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022trafficking-in-persons-report/>; see the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) global data hub on human trafficking, available at <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>, and the most recent global and regional estimates on forced labour, including high risk countries and regions on pp. 52-57, available at [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms\\_854733.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipecc/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf).
- For proposed legislation to prohibit products made with forced labour from the EU market, see the European Commission, Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament of the Council on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market, 14 September 2022, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/COM\(2022\)453\\_0/090166e5f14084e6?rendition=false](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/COM(2022)453_0/090166e5f14084e6?rendition=false), and the

- issued guidance p. 5 on country risk factors for forced labour, available at [https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/july/tradoc\\_159709.pdf](https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/july/tradoc_159709.pdf).
- For US restrictions on supply chains and investment links to Xinjiang, China, see the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, available at <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/forced-labor/UFLPA>, and see the US State Department's Xinjiang Supply Chain Business Advisory, available at <https://www.state.gov/xinjiang-supply-chain-business-advisory/>.
  - For datasets summarising views on the quality of governance of countries, see the Worldwide Governance Indicators, available at <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi>.

### Assess the supplier risk

This guide lists sector MSI (multi-stakeholder initiative) resources you can use for free:

- Licensees can engage trade unions in their home country or in a sourcing country to ask about working conditions, and if there have been any reports of human rights issues from the sourcing supplier.
- Licensees can check if other brands or MSIs are buying from, and hence may be social auditing, assessing or training factories in labour standards and open to brand collaboration, by checking the Open Apparel Registry/Open Supply Hub, available at <https://staging.openapparel.org/> and <https://opensupplyhub.org>.
- Some larger suppliers may also be found in the Business Human Rights Resource Centre database search engine of companies, available at <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/companies/>.
- For factories over 100 employees, check if a supplier already has an update on the Social Labour Convergence Programme (SCLP) data collection tool, available at <https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360023740474-Data-Collection-Tool-1-4>.
- For sites in countries covered by the ILO Better Work programme, consult the Transparency Portal to verify that the factory has no outstanding salient risks of harm, available at <https://portal.betterwork.org/transparency/compliance>.
- For China, consult the China Labour Bulletin, available at <https://clb.org.hk/>, and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute report website, available at <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale>, to verify that the factory is not reported for conditions that strongly suggest forced labour.
- In general, consult Worker Rights Consortium, available at <https://www.workersrights.org/our-work/factory-investigations/>, and manufacturing assessments by Fair Labour Association (FLA), available at [https://www.fairlabor.org/accountability/assessments/assessments-manufacturing/?report\\_type=workplace-monitoring%7Cthird-party-complaint](https://www.fairlabor.org/accountability/assessments/assessments-manufacturing/?report_type=workplace-monitoring%7Cthird-party-complaint), to see if the supplier site(s) are listed. FLA ongoing report on breaches of workers' rights under the ILO conventions.
- If a factory indicates it has SA8000 certification, this can be checked at <https://sa-intl.org/sa8000-search/>. SAI have indicated they are launching a Buyer Engagement Tool, whereby buyers can see issues found, and be supported to engage the supplier to help influence and reward remediation improvements needed.

- For emissions data from 70 000+ individual sources and countries, see the Climate Trace database, available at <http://www.climatetrace.org/map>. For environmental risk, see the pollution databases (water and air) of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPA) for relevant Asia sites, available at [http://wwwen.ipe.org.cn/AirMap\\_fxy/AirMap.html?q=1](http://wwwen.ipe.org.cn/AirMap_fxy/AirMap.html?q=1).

### **Workforce profile of supplier site(s)**

Licensees are advised to gather employment site details as part of an initial desk-based assessment of vendor or site risks, with

- numbers of workers, and % line workers, including numbers and sources of any foreign migrant or contract workers, or in large countries, i.e., China and India, domestic migrants
- the languages spoken on site with by how many employees
- gender breakdown
- about unions active onsite

If the site has migrant workers (domestic or foreign), heightened due diligence (including consulting experts such as MSIs listed above) and monitoring, will be needed.

Useful resources:

- Current good practice is to follow guidance from the Transparency Pledge, available at <https://transparencypledge.org/>, and disclose supply chain information at the open Data Standard, available at <https://odsas.org/>.

## Appendix 10 Measures to verify compliance/human rights at sites

To avoid unnecessary costs, and varying audit quality and the failure to resolve systemic issues, Nordic Ecolabelling encourages Licensees to take part in multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) that guides improvements and deliver ongoing monitoring and collaboration.

Where MSIs are not easily available, suppliers assessed for labour standards might have been audited frequently, also some may have engaged in improvement trainings or initiatives. To help reduce duplicative audit fatigue, or even training fatigue, check if sites have had recent trainings or ongoing programmes.

If another buyer has recently assessed the site, consider brand collaboration to reduce duplication. Suppliers have an incentive to help with contact between buyers, as company resources would be saved with social compliance monitoring. Also sharing audit reports with other brands can influence supplier improvements on salient risks. Other shared benefits include verification funding for follow-up audits using all buyer codes. It could also be possible to fund an independent worker helpline service or jointly promote and deliver trainings.

### **Resources on the growing consensus of ineffectiveness of private regulation:**

See Research Brief by Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations on unreliable data in audits, <https://theconversation.com/why-apparel-brands-efforts-to-police-their-supply-chains-arent-working-136821> and <https://cornell.app.box.com/s/swgaexrjs1bne4tk4magraf14894hpr7>. Researchers found that over 50% of the 31,652 factory audits conducted in China and India over a seven-year period were based on falsified or unreliable information.

Another investigation by South China Morning, see [https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3118683/bribes-fake-factories-and-forged-documents-buccaneering?module=perpetual\\_scroll\\_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3118683](https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3118683/bribes-fake-factories-and-forged-documents-buccaneering?module=perpetual_scroll_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3118683), shows that more than 90 percent of factories audited on the amfori BSCI platform in 2020 had falsified records.

Also Human Rights Watch comment on insufficient third-party auditing for human rights issues, at <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/05/30/human-rights-supply-chains/call-binding-global-standard-due-diligence>; also <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/07/social-audit-reforms-and-labor-rights-ruse>, also <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/08/germany-paved-way-revamping-social-audits-italy-should-follow>, and there are limits with audits to detect sexual harassment and other gender-based violence, including limitations of on-site interviews - <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/02/12/combating-sexual-harassment-garment-industry>.

The SA8000 standard provides guidance on delivering good working conditions, and there are various SAI run programmes to assist factory learning and improvement. However, research has shown social certification programmes can cause sites to not disclose the true status of human rights conditions.

Suppliers who genuinely gain high standards certifications such as SA8000 should be rewarded. However, certification as a business requirement for a large deal, may place greater stress on supply chain partners and lower the chances of buyer awareness of any adverse human rights impacts of social compliance. There have been alleged risks of falsification of these certificates and corruption. See the 2018 article SA8000: The “Gold Standard” for Failing Workers? by the Worker-Driven Social Responsibility Network, on SAI’s SA8000 certification programme, available at <https://wsr-network.org/resource/sa8000-the-gold-standard-for-failing-workers/>. It goes through studies showing lack of empirical evidence to support that SAI and SA8000 deliver meaningful change for workers in global supply chains. It states SA8000 is seen as ineffective due to its “voluntary compliance, dependence on flawed social audits, failure to address price pressure, and lack of worker participation.” Better mechanisms with binding and enforceable agreements between worker organizations and global corporations, e.g., the International Accord, is needed.

Programmes such as ILO Better Work with its extensive factory training calendar acknowledge that many factories don’t know how to fix all problems identified. Collaboration is needed.



## Appendix 11 Approved multi-stakeholder initiative (MSIs) programmes

Nordic Ecolabelling asks Licensees to use approved multi-stakeholder initiative programmes, brand collaboration on audit/report sharing, or commissioning a social audit for baseline assessments of sites.

### Approved multi-stakeholder initiative (MSI) programmes:

- If the site participates in the ILO Better Work programme or has SA8000 certification, the Licensee should purchase the Better Work or SA8000 monitoring access, see <https://sa-intl.org/>, and use this to first assess and engage the supplier on compliance, then after approval, review reports of their compliance monitoring visits, and engage as needed towards sustained compliance

ILO Better Work run country programmes in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and Vietnam. The programme provides long-term support of worker rights and transparent ongoing monitoring of factories, by building local government capacity in labour standards monitoring, see <https://betterwork.org/>.

SA8000 or other certification of labour conditions is not discouraged but should only be accepted as supplier assessment as part of the requirements to take appropriate measures to identify actual and potential adverse human rights impacts arising from supply chains\*.

*\* For background, see Appendix 10 Measures to verify compliance/human rights at sites.*

- If the site has in the past year been audited by a Fair Wear or Fair Labor Association member, then the Licensee is encouraged to request social audit report sharing, to align any needed non-compliance remediation (i.e., brand collaboration).
- If a factory is in the Fairtrade Textile Programme, the Licensee should gain site social assessment report from Fairtrade, see <https://www.fairtrade.net/about/the-fairtrade-textile-programme>.
- For factories with over 100 employees, the Licensee should check if the supplier already has had an assessment in the past year per the Social Labour Convergence Programme data collection tool, available at <https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360023740474-Data-Collection-Tool-1-4>. If yes, the Licensee needs access to reduce social audit duplication. The SLCP and Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) also coordinate assessment of support facilities such as sub-contracted laundries, printing, embroidery, etc. See <https://openapparel.org/> to find sites already assessed by SAC standards (search in contributor “Higgs”).

- As BSCI, Sedex and WRAP do not have worker representative leadership, the Licensee can use a social audit to BSCI or Sedex or WRAP standard from the past year *if* additional monitoring is initiated, such as to use a relevant trade union in the country or region to report worker issues and/or a locally run independent worker helpline service that reports to the Licensee.
- For apparel factories in Leicester, UK, assessments by Fast Forward will be accepted.

Some factories may run under other monitoring and improvement programmes by ILO Score, Impact, Verite, ReAssurance, or other dedicated experts on labour conditions.

Licensees who wish to have these or other labour standards improvement programmes or partners considered, should find out which buyer introduced these, if they can gain access to the programme reports and support them.

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling to discuss whether these can be approved.