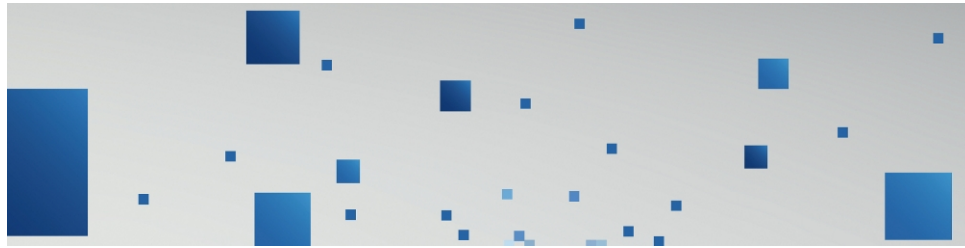


# bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product

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## 1 Purpose

This bluesign® criteria define the requirements for consumer goods with textile character for direct consumer use intended to be labeled with bluesign® product.

The trademark bluesign® approved fabric used in the past for consumer communication is still existent but will be phased out. For the interest of completeness Chapter 5 defines the requirements for articles labeled with this trademark.

Requirements for chemical products for direct consumer use, which can be labeled with the trademark bluesign® approved, are described elsewhere and not covered by this document.

Requirements for bluesign® approved chemical products and articles for industrial use (business to business operations) are also described elsewhere and not covered by this document.

Communication of bluesign® trademarks and rights of use are described in the *Communication Guidelines* and bilateral trademark agreements and are not subject of this document.

## 2 Scope of bluesign® product

The trademark bluesign® product applies to consumer goods with textile character manufactured for direct consumer use.

The following product categories are outside the scope of bluesign® product:

- Footwear
- Medical supply such as dressings and bandages
- Hygiene products
- Toys
- Food safe articles
- Furniture

## 3 Definitions

### 3.1 Article

The article, in this context, is a product with a well-defined manufacturing process and described with an article name / article code. It includes parts that can be easily detached from a product but are associated with its function such as a rain cover or a separate hood. Extras, that are not associated with the function of the article, are not considered as part of the article, e.g. give-aways or hangtags.

### 3.2 Component

Component, in this context, is a part of an article that can be distinguished according to the material composition, the functionality and/or the color and is easily, mechanically separated from the other components. Typically each item of a bill of material is considered to be a component.

Chemical products (e.g. glues) are not to be counted as components.



## 4 bluesign® product

### 4.1 Self-declaration principle

The labeling of consumer goods as bluesign® product is based on the principle of self-declaration by the trademark user. Only trademark users with a formal authorization issued by bluesign technologies ag are permitted to promote their products as bluesign® product within the defined product range.

Figure 4.1 shows the path from system partner agreement to first authorization for trademark use. Details are described in the following sections.



Figure 4.1: From system partner agreement to first authorization for trademark use.

The bluesign® assessment for brands is based on the document *bluesign criteria® for brands*.



## 4.2 Requirements for trademark users

To use the bluesign® product trademark, a trademark user must

- be a bluesign® system partner and have signed a bluesign® trademark agreement.
- be authorized with a formal authorization paper issued by bluesign technologies to declare articles as bluesign® products
- maintain a robust quality assurance system to manage the supply chain and verify the suppliers' qualification

## 4.3 Article requirements

The evaluation process for bluesign® product is explained in the flowchart in Figure 4.2.

The components of an article must meet the requirements described in Table 4.1

	Usage Range A + B apparel, sleeping bag ...	Usage Range C backpack, bag, tent, ...
Share of bluesign® approved accessories	≥ 30 %	≥ 20 %
Share of bluesign® approved fabrics	≥ 90 %	
Non bluesign® approved components	provided by a qualified supplier	

Table 4.1: Requirements for articles which shall be labelled with bluesign® product.

The evaluation of the shares mentioned in Table 4.1 should be performed on a representative article of medium size. Variations of +/- 5 % are acceptable.

A component is considered bluesign® approved when it achieves a valid bluesign® certificate, that means if the article number or the article name can unambiguously be identified in the bluesign® blueguide. It is the responsibility of a trademark user to verify the certification status of the component at the date of ordering.

Classification of components into the category 'fabric' or 'accessory' can be derived from the Supplement.

### 4.3.1 Fabrics

90 % of the inner and outer surface area of the article must be bluesign® approved.

Use % by weight if the evaluation of the surface area is not applicable (e.g. ropes).

See section 4.3.4 for guidance on how to treat the remaining 10 %.

### 4.3.2 Accessories

Target for the share of bluesign® approved accessories is 100 %. At the moment availability of bluesign® approved accessories is limited, therefore the actual minimum share of bluesign® approved accessories is at least 30 % for usage range A or B and 20 % for usage range C articles (compare Table 4.1).

The minimum requirements for bluesign® product labeling will be increased stepwise after reviewing the availability of suitable accessories. Changes will be announced timely and will be combined with the appropriate transition periods.

Accessories are counted by item or type. An item is defined as an article coming from the same supplier, with the same function, the same composition and the same color. Typically each position on a bill of material is counted as one item.

For the remaining components which are not bluesign® approved see section 4.3.4.

See section 4.3.5 for guidance on how to treat out-of-scope accessories.



for details see chapter

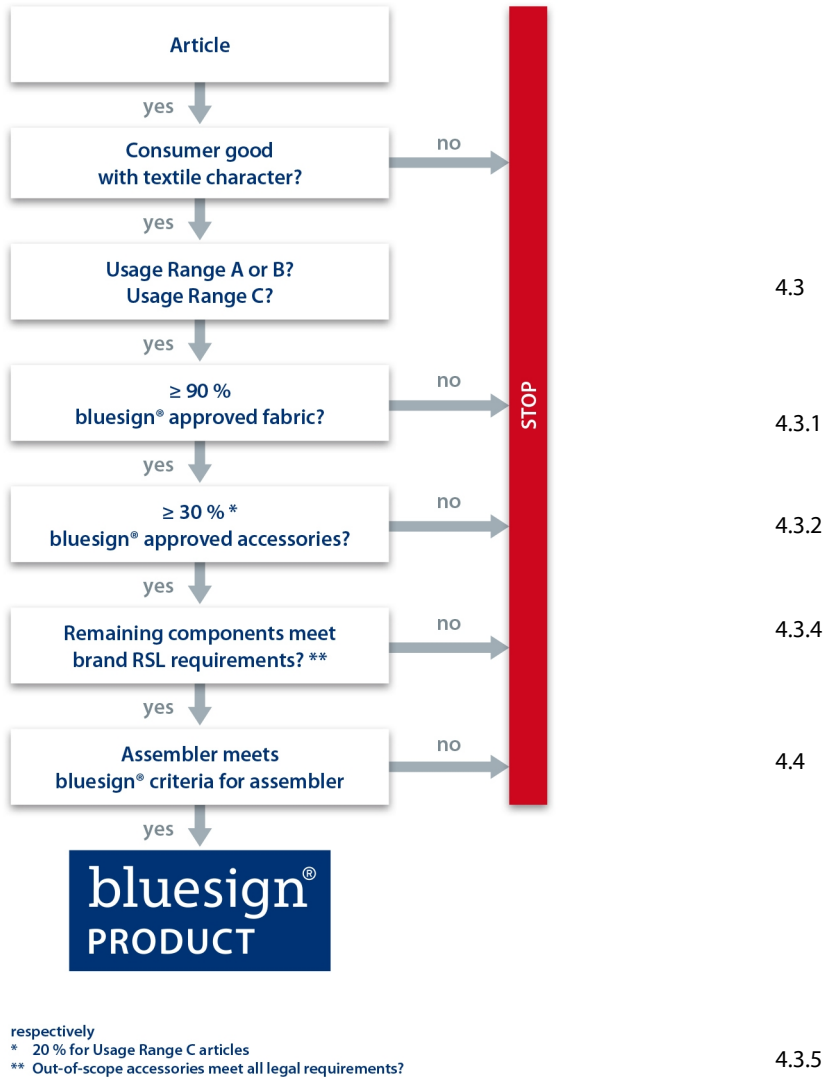
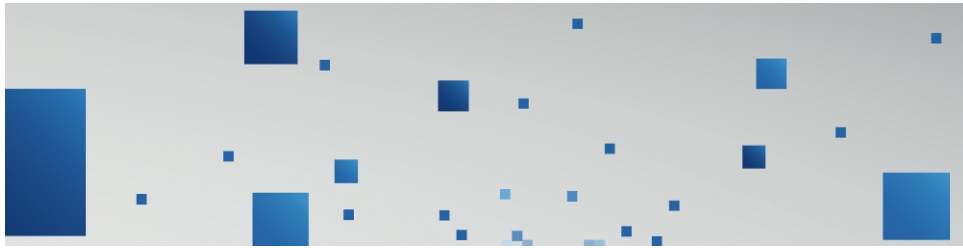


Figure 4.2: Evaluation process for bluesign® product



#### 4.3.3 Example

An article has six identical buttons, two black and one blue zipper, one printed logo, one care label and one size label, one laminated tape and a sewing thread. This is a total of 8 accessory items. If three of them are bluesign® approved, 37.5% of the accessories are considered to be bluesign® approved.

Accessory item	Number	Status
Button	6	bluesign® approved
Label 1 – care label	1	
Label 2 – size label	1	bluesign® approved
Laminated tape	1	
Logo print	1	
Sewing thread	1	
Zipper blue	1	bluesign® approved
Zipper black	2	
	total 8 items	3 items bluesign® approved ⇒ <b>37.5% bluesign® approved</b>

#### 4.3.4 Requirements for components that are not bluesign® approved

Trademark user must ensure that all components that are not bluesign® approved, are supplied by a qualified supplier.

The qualification of the supplier shall be proved by:

- Establishing a RSL based on the bluesign technologies RSL if there is no RSL already approved by bluesign technologies
- Obtaining a confirmation from the supplier on the compliance with the requirements of the RSL
- Maintaining a robust quality assurance system to verify the suppliers' qualification
- Providing testing reports that demonstrate the suppliers' qualification

The extent of the tests depends on factors such as the reliability of the supplier and/or the risk to the consumer. While it is unnecessary to test each specific component associated with each article a suitable testing program must be established.

#### 4.3.5 Out-of-scope components

Components which are not in the scope of the bluesign® system will not be considered for articles within the usage range C (see Supplement).

The following aspects must be considered in every case also for out-of-scope components:

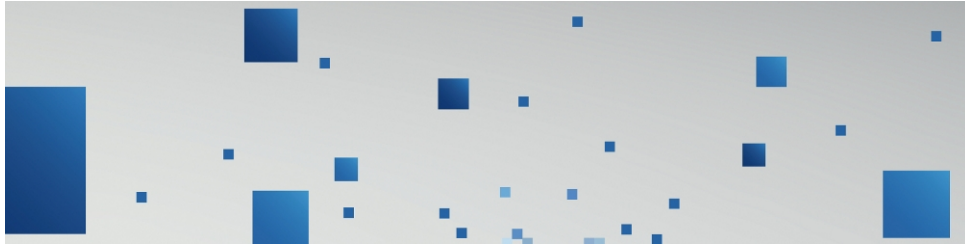
- The component must meet all legal requirements
- Sustainability aspects should be considered when selecting materials
- PVC is not permitted

### 4.4 Garment manufacturing/Assembling requirements

The manufacturer responsible for the assembling of articles must meet the *bluesign® criteria for production sites / Annex: Garment Manufacturer/Assembler*.

bluesign technologies will permit the manufacturing of consumer goods with textile character by companies that do not meet the respective bluesign® criteria only until December 31, 2018 and only if trademark users can guarantee and prove that all components meet the relevant requirements of this bluesign® criteria, including components sourced locally by the garment manufacturer/assembler.





#### 4.5 Application for authorization

Use of bluesign® product trademark by self-declaration is subject to authorization by bluesign technologies. Application for authorization takes place when trademark user intends to label consumer goods with textile character for the first time.

The following data must be provided with the application:

- A list of all articles that are intended for labeling, at the latest by begin of marketing campaign (e.g. with publishing of the first retailer catalog)

For a representative article:

- The name of the assembler and information on the assembler status
- A sketch or a photo of an article intended for labeling
- A bill of material for an article intended for labeling, including at least the following data for each component:
  - ☐ Functional description of the component (zipper, stopper, button, sewing thread, etc.)
  - ☐ Supplier name and supplier article code for the component
  - ☐ bluesign® approved status according to the bluesign® blueguide
  - ☐ Share of the components within the article (% of the textile area and share of the accessories)
- For all components that are not bluesign® approved:
  - ☐ A RSL confirmation by the supplier
  - ☐ Test reports that demonstrate the suppliers' qualification

This approach shall be followed also in cases when new and significantly different product lines are intended for labeling.

**Note:** A representative article means a product from the company's product portfolio, which is characterized by a high component complexity and/or by a large production volume.





## 5 bluesign® approved fabric (until end of 2015)

### 5.1 Product labeling requirements

Until December 31, 2015, consumer goods made of bluesign® approved fabrics or semi-finished goods can be labeled with bluesign® approved fabric trademark if they meet the terms and conditions described in this Chapter. Consumer goods produced after December 31, 2015 shall not contain the bluesign® approved fabric trademark in order to avoid confusion with the bluesign® product trademark for consumer goods.

The bluesign® approved fabric hangtag may only be provided by the bluesign® system partner who produces the bluesign® approved fabric. This hangtag must be used as it is provided. In particular, brands must not add the name, logo or URL of the selling or trading company to the hangtag. The terms and conditions are outlined in the *Communication Guidelines*.

### 5.2 Requirements for users of the bluesign® approved fabric trademark for consumer goods

#### 5.2.1 bluesign® system partner

bluesign® system partners may use the bluesign® approved fabric trademark for brochures, online publications, reports and any other web or print application to market these articles that meet the criteria specified in Chapter 5 of this document. The bluesign® approved fabric trademark application shall be done according to the *Communication Guidelines*.

#### 5.2.2 Non-bluesign® system partner

Brands and retailers who are not bluesign® system partners (i.e. did not sign the bluesign® system partner agreement) are only permitted to use bluesign® approved fabric hangtags as provided by the manufacturing bluesign® system partner.

No other use of the bluesign® trademark is permitted. In particular, non-bluesign® system partners are not permitted to promote any bluesign® approved fabric-containing articles (e.g. in brochures, catalogues, on websites, etc). Their use of bluesign® trademarks is limited strictly to the use of the hangtag.

For a broader use of the bluesign® trademark, the company is required to sign a corresponding agreement with bluesign technologies.

### 5.3 Article requirements

To be deemed bluesign® approved fabric, 90 % of the surface area of the textile fabric must be bluesign® approved. This includes, in particular, the inner and outer layers of a garment and also any printing on the layers (e.g. prints, applications, transfer prints, heat transfer prints, etc.).

**Note:** Inner and outer layers are considered the visible parts of the product that can be easily mechanically separated from other components.

The remaining 10 % surface area that is not made of bluesign® approved fabric must not be exposed to the consumer, and must not have permanent direct skin contact (e.g. interlining, etc.). Additionally, it must meet the criteria and limits described in the brand RSL based on the bluesign® RSL or any other RSL that has already been approved by bluesign technologies.

A fabric is bluesign® approved if there is a valid bluesign® certificate for that fabric or if the article number or the article name can be unambiguously identified in the bluesign® blueguide. The brand that uses the bluesign® approved fabric hangtag is responsible for the verification of the certification status of the fabrics used.

### 5.4 Data requirements

The brand must ensure that it can trace bluesign® approved fabrics or semi-finished goods e.g. with the bill of material.



## 6 Packaging

Using sustainable and environmentally friendly materials for packaging belongs to the bluesign® system principles.

### 6.1 Packaging materials

The following aspects must be considered in every case:

- Sustainability aspects (including weight/utility ratio) should be considered when selecting materials.
- PVC is not permitted.
- Preference is given to recycled materials.
- Paper and card boards should come from FSC certified sources or should be made of recycled materials.

## 7 System integrity

Upon request the bluesign® system partner must provide bluesign technologies with the documents listed in the section 4.5 (for bluesign® product) or 5.4 (for bluesign® approved fabric), as well as with the reference samples.

bluesign technologies has the right to test sample articles from the market. The bluesign® system partner is required to support these tests with information and reference samples.

## 8 Validity

This document comes into effect from April 01, 2014. It replaces the *bluesign® criteria for labeling consumer goods*, edition 1.0 from January 01, 2013.

This document is subject to changes. Changes will come into effect after prior notice and defined transition time.

## 9 Other applicable documents

- bluesign® system (effective version)
- bluesign® criteria for brands (effective version)
- bluesign® criteria for production sites | Annex: Garment Manufacturer/Assembler (effective version)
- bluesign® system substances list (effective version)
- Communication Guidelines (effective version)

## 10 Supplement

- Component Classification

## Component Classification

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Component	Fabric see 4.3.1	Accessory		Comment
		within bluesign® scope see 4.3.2	out of scope see 4.3.5	
Buckles (plastic and metal)		X		
Buttons (plastic and metal)		X		
Coated fabric	X			
Cuffs		X		
Draw cords – strings		X		
Elastic trim / cord		X		
Elastic knits	X			
Electronic components			X	
Embroidery motif		X		
Fabric woven and knit	X			
Foam		X		Please contact bluesign for risk assessment
Hangtag				Not part of the article; sustainability aspects must be considered; recycled materials are preferred; PVC free
Hook and loop		X		
Insulation down		X		Must be bluesign® approved
Insulation fiber fill		X		Must be bluesign® approved
Interlining		X		Interlining must be embedded between inner and outer layers
Carabiner			X	
Labels; fixed		X		
Laminated fabric	X			
Lining fabric	X			
Membrane		X		
Mesh	X			
Poles			X	

Component	Fabric see 4.3.1	Accessory		Comment
		within bluesign® scope see 4.3.2	out of scope see 4.3.5	
Print/ heat transfer/ flock: fabric	X			
Print/ heat transfer/ flock: logo (max. 50cm²)		X		
Print/ heat transfer/ flock: garment large area e.g. t-shirt or carousel print	X			
Reflector			X	
Reflex material - textile		X		
Reinforced backsystem			X	e.g. Aluminium
Ribbons		X		
Screws			X	
Seam sealing tapes		X		
Snaps		X		
Stabilizing panels			X	e.g. Plastic plates
Tape		X		
Thread (sewing & embroidery)		X		
Trims		X		
Webbing		X		
Zipper		X		= Tape, slider, teeth, stoppers
Zipper puller		X		