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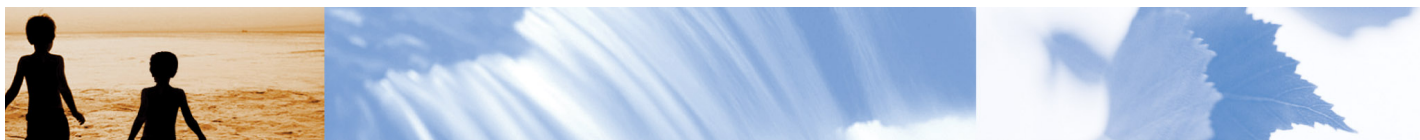
Consultative proposal – criteria for the ecolabelling of textiles, hides/skins and leather

Nordic Ecolabelling has developed revised criteria for the ecolabelling of textiles, hides/skins and leather. The documents, including background document, form for feedback and list of recipients, have been published on our web-page www.ecolabel.no.

The proposal has been prepared in a working group within the Nordic Ecolabelling under the supervision of Ecolabelling Norway.

The most important changes in the proposed criteria are:

- The minimum amount of organic certified cotton (and other cellulose seed fibres) required in the ecolabelled production is lowered from 100% to 10%. There is a requirement for the amount of pesticide residues in the conventional cotton. The proposal is due to the low amount of organic cotton available in the market today. Nordic Ecolabelling hopes that the new limit will give the Swan a greater success on the market, which could lower environmental impact from textile production processes, and also stimulate the over-all demand for organic cotton. Nordic Ecolabelling is especially interested in comments on this requirement.
- Clarification of the product group definition and what kind of products and materials that can be ecolabelled. Hides/skins and leather from horse, elk, deer and reindeer can now also be ecolabelled. In addition, there are limitations on the percentage of coatings, laminates, membranes, zip fasteners and buttons, that can be included in the product.
- Materials treated with (or integrated with) flame retardants cannot be ecolabelled.
- New requirement for traceability of raw materials for production of regenerated cellulose fibers.
- The requirement for the content of COD in the effluent from wool washing plants is changed and stricter.
- New requirement for the content of cadmium, lead and nickel in metal parts.
- Use of metal complex dyes is now only allowed for dyeing of wool, wool mixtures and polyamide.





- The requirement for dyes is changed to a substance classification requirement, and use of dyes that are toxic and environmentally harmful is now prohibited.
- New requirement that prohibit the use of biocides and antibacterial substances in textiles.
- New requirement that prohibit the use of mulesing and use of feathers and down plucked from living birds.
- New limit for the consumption of water for hides/skin and leather.
- New requirements for chemicals, which among others prohibit the use of substances on REACHs candidate list and the use of fluorinated organic compounds.
- The requirement that prohibits lead pigment in polypropylene is not changed, and comments on the relevance of this requirement, is especially wanted.
- New requirement on biocides in leather production saying that Biocides 98/8/EC directive must be followed, and comments on this requirement is especially wanted.

Nordic Ecolabelling would like to have your comments on the revised criteria. Please send your comments to Ingvild Kvien Bengtsson, ik@ecolabel.no, or visit our webpage www.ecolabel.no and use the form for feedback. We would be grateful to receive your comments by **8 June 2012**.

An overview of the comments we receive will be available at the ecolabelling organisations.

Regards
Ecolabelling Norway

Alvild Hedstein
Managing Director

