

# bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites

## ANNEX: Exclusion criteria

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# 1 Background

Responsible management of resources with the focus on preservation of human health and a clean environment shall be the goal for all bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS. The best results cannot be obtained within weeks or even months, but they rather represent an ongoing effort for continual improvement.

At the production site(s) of a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER the following principles shall be the guidance for all activities:

1. The activities performed at the production site must not have a harmful impact on human beings, animals, plants, soil, aquatic bodies or the atmosphere
2. A high level of human health and environmental protection shall be ensured with the goal of achieving sustainable development
3. A bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER shall be aware of Best Available Techniques (BAT) that are relevant for the industry and shall implement those techniques to continually improve environmental performance

The performance and the efforts of a production site ('company') to act according to the above principles are checked during each on-site inspection. If a company's management, knowledge and skills, processes and equipment are not suitable, and if the improvement of major issues appears unlikely, a system partnership can be refused or terminated by bluesign technologies. This procedure guarantees the credibility of the bluesign® SYSTEM. Companies, who were refused a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP or whose system partnership has been terminated, can re-apply at any time for a new company assessment by BLUESIGN.

## 2 Exclusion criteria

A company obviously or seriously violating the guiding principles listed in Chapter 1 or a company to which one or more of the exclusion criteria apply and causing significant risk to people and the environment may not become or remain a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER. The exclusion criteria are as follows:

### General

- Company is not willing to correct major deviations/non-conformities which have been detected during assessment of the production site within agreed timelines

### Legal compliance

- Legally required license(s) or permit(s) regarding environmental and OH&S aspects are not available
- Legal requirements for environmental and OH&S aspects are not followed; legal limits are exceeded

### Social responsibility

- Obvious abuse of the core principles of the ILO Conventions (see bluesign® SYSTEM)

### Management

- No Quality and EHS management systems installed
- Responsible(s) person(s) not defined
- Housekeeping, maintenance and process management/control are not suitable; major issues regarding environmental, OH&S and consumer safety aspects are unavoidable

### Product Stewardship (chemical supplier)

- Company has no resources and skills to implement appropriate input stream management and to control adequately raw materials and intermediates
- bluesign® conformity of manufactured products is not assured with current raw materials suppliers
- Resources, appropriate knowledge and skills in the Product Stewardship department are insufficient; especially knowledge and skills for classification and labeling as well as the generation and distribution of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are missing
- Resources and skills for inspection of finished products are missing

### **Input stream management (manufacturer)**

- Company does not follow the requirements according to the *Guidance Sheet – Chemical Management and Chemical Change Management at manufacturers*
- Company intentionally uses substances banned by bluesign® system black limits (BSBL) Threshold limits for chemical substances in chemical products List
- Company cannot assure basic principles for input stream management of non-bluesign® approved raw materials

### **Resources**

- Company does not have knowledge on resource consumption figures

### **Environment**

- No wastewater treatment plant installed at production site(s) with wet processes and direct discharge
- Wastewater treatment is not appropriate
- No off-gas treatment installed for VOC-relevant production site(s) and defined bluesign limits are exceeded
- Off-gas treatment for process emissions is not appropriate
- No off-gas treatment installed at own power generation while using heavy oil or coal as fuel
- Uncontrolled disposal of hazardous waste
- Uncontrolled risk of soil and groundwater pollution
- Brownfields (polluted soil or groundwater) exist but company has no defined plan for remediation

### **Handling and storage of hazardous materials**

- Incorrect storage and handling of hazardous materials

### **Occupational Health & Safety, Emergency Preparedness**

- Awareness and understanding of significant OH&S aspects is not given (e.g. no OH&S risk assessments)
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for chemicals used at the production site are not available or outdated (>3 years)
- Obviously incorrect practices. Workers are knowingly being put at risk
- Significant emergency risks but no proper risk assessment and emergency facilities

## **3 Validity**

This document comes into effect from 2019-11. It replaces the previous version of the same title.

This document is subject to changes. Newly introduced or changed regulations will automatically come into effect one year after release of this version, unless stated otherwise.