

# bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT

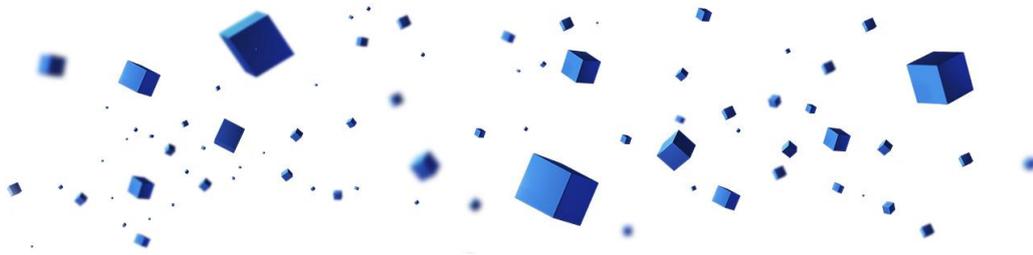
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## 1 Purpose

This bluesign® CRITERIA define the requirements for consumer goods with textile character for end consumer use intended to be labeled as bluesign® PRODUCT.

Requirements for chemicals and articles which can be labeled with the bluesign® APPROVED trademark are described in *bluesign® CRITERIA for approved chemical products (end consumer use)* as well as *bluesign® CRITERIA for approved chemical product and articles for industrial use and commission processes* and are not covered by this document.

Communication of bluesign® trademarks and rights of use is described in the *bluesign® Communication Guidelines* and the bilateral agreement between BLUESIGN and the SYSTEM PARTNER and are not the subject of this document.

## 2 Scope of bluesign® PRODUCT

The trademark bluesign® PRODUCT applies to consumer goods with textile character manufactured for end consumer use.

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

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

## 3 Definitions

### 3.1 Bill of Materials (BOM)

A comprehensive list of components and the quantity of each component (meters, number of pieces), needed to manufacture an end product. The bill of materials allows to trace back to the supplier, supplier article number and color for each component and includes a functional description of the components.

For a comprehensive list of terms and abbreviations, please refer to the document *bluesign® glossary*.

## 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 authorized trademark users which have successfully passed brand assessment, by having no relevant gaps identified, can promote an article as bluesign® PRODUCT within the defined product range. The bluesign® ASSESSMENT for brands is based on the document *bluesign® CRITERIA for brands*.

Figure 4.1 shows the path from system partner agreement to first authorization for trademark use. The details are described below.



Figure 4.1: From system partner agreement to trademark use

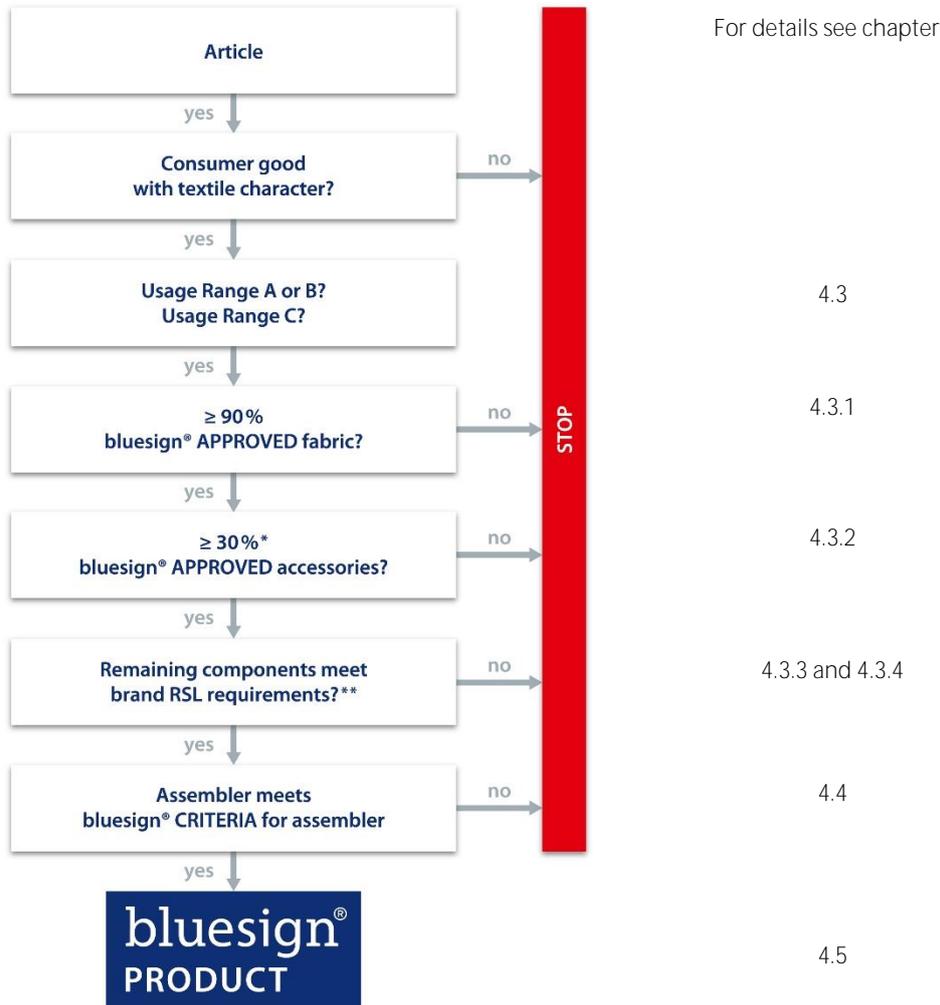
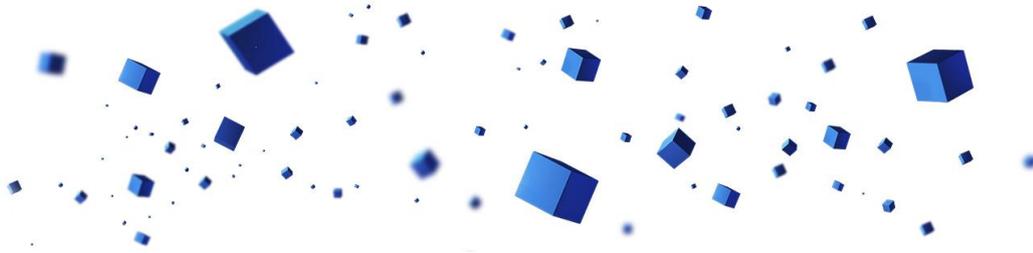
#### 4.2 Requirements for trademark users

To use the bluesign® PRODUCT trademark, a trademark user shall

- be a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER and have the right to use a bluesign® trademark;
- be authorized in written form by BLUESIGN to self-declare articles as bluesign® PRODUCTS;
- maintain a robust quality management **system to manage the supply chain and verify suppliers'** qualification based on traceability, a comprehensive/appropriate RSL and a Bill of Materials (BOM); these requirements can be assigned to a system partner.

#### 4.3 Article requirements

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



respectively  
 \* 20% for Usage Range C articles  
 \*\*Out-of-scope accessories meet all legal requirements?

Figure 4.2: Evaluation process for bluesign® PRODUCT (in case where only yarns are manufactured: 90 % bluesign approved® yarn)

The components of a bluesign® PRODUCT shall meet the requirements described in Table 4.1

	Usage Range A + B Apparel, sleeping bag, etc.	Usage Range C Backpack, bag, tent, etc.
Share of bluesign® APPROVED fabrics/yarns	≥ 90 %	
Share of bluesign® APPROVED accessories	≥ 30 %	≥ 20 %
Non-bluesign® APPROVED components	provided by a qualified supplier	

Table 4.1: Requirements for bluesign® PRODUCT.



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

A component is considered bluesign® APPROVED when it achieves a valid bluesign® certificate and is listed in the bluesign® GUIDE. It is the responsibility of a trademark user to verify the certification status of the component at the date of ordering.

For **classification of components into the category 'fabric' or 'accessory'** see Chapter 6.

#### 4.3.1 Fabrics/yarns

90 % of the inner and outer surface area of the article shall be bluesign® APPROVED. Use % by weight if evaluation of the surface area is not applicable (e.g. ropes).

See Chapter 4.3.3 for guidance on how to proceed with the remaining 10 %.

#### 4.3.2 Accessories

The target for the share of bluesign® APPROVED accessories is 100 %. Since the availability of bluesign® APPROVED accessories currently is limited, the actual minimum share of bluesign® APPROVED accessories is 30 % for usage range A or B articles and 20 % for usage range C articles (see 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 in a timely manner and will be combined with 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 materials is counted as one item.

For the remaining components which are not bluesign® APPROVED see Chapter 4.3.3.

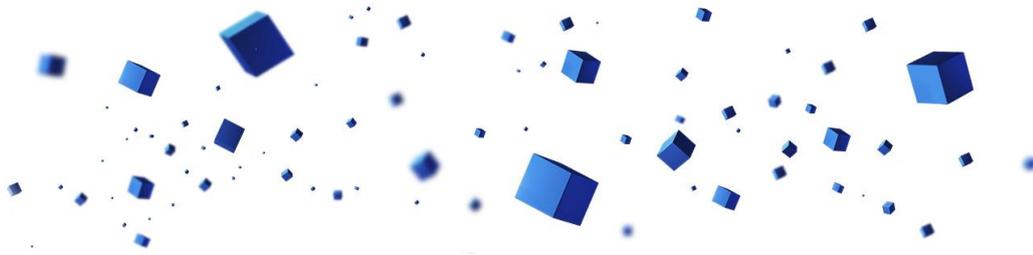
See Chapter 4.3.4 for guidance on how to proceed with out-of-scope accessories.

##### 4.3.2.1 Example

An article has six identical buttons, two black zippers and one blue zipper, one printed logo, one care label and one size label, one laminated tape and sewing thread. This is a total of eight 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 37.5% bluesign® APPROVED

Table 4.2: Example for counting accessory items



#### 4.3.3 Requirements for components that are not bluesign® APPROVED

The trademark user shall 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 and maintaining an RSL based on the *Template - bluesign® RSL*
- Obtaining confirmation from the supplier on compliance with the requirements of the RSL
- Maintaining a robust quality management system to verify the **suppliers' compliance**
- Providing test reports that demonstrate the **suppliers' compliance**

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 not necessary to test each specific component associated with each article, a suitable testing program shall be established.

Especially for a product consisting of several parts (e.g. a backpack with a decorative accessory or a rain cover), it must be discernable to the end consumer which parts are covered by bluesign® PRODUCT and which parts of the product are not covered by bluesign® PRODUCT. Distinct labeling is required in this case.

#### 4.3.4 Out-of-scope components

Components outside the scope of the bluesign® SYSTEM do not necessarily have to be considered for articles within usage range C (see Chapter 6).

The following aspects shall be considered in every case, including 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 of bluesign® PRODUCT shall meet the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites / Annex: Garment Manufacturer/Assembler*. In particular the manufacturer shall comply with ILO fundamental principles and ensure appropriate input stream management with focus on the ability to trace back the processed materials and management of subcontractors.

#### 4.5 Application for authorization

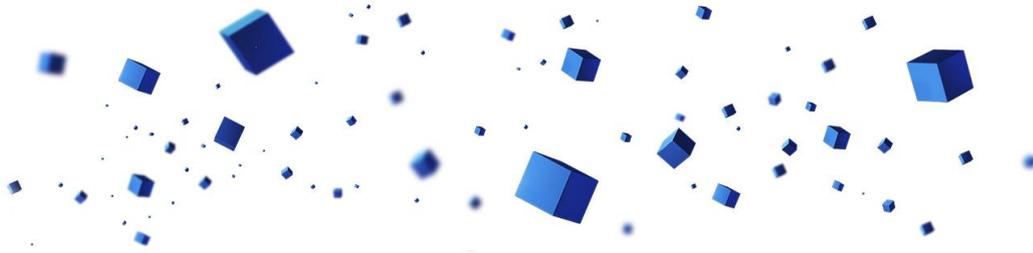
Use of the bluesign® PRODUCT trademark by self-declaration is subject to authorization by BLUESIGN. Application for authorization takes place when the trademark user intends to label consumer goods for the first time.

The following information shall be provided with the application:

- A list of all articles that are intended for labeling, at the latest by the beginning of a 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
- The original bill of material (BOM) used for data exchange between a brand and garment maker/assembler shall include at least the following information for each component:
  - Functional description of the component (zipper, stopper, button, sewing thread, etc.)
  - Supplier name and supplier article code and color for the component



- bluesign® APPROVED status according to the bluesign® GUIDE
- Quantity (meters, number of pieces)
- Share of the components within the article (percentage of the textile area and share of the accessories)

If the original BOM does not include these data, a separate documentation is necessary.

For components that are not bluesign® APPROVED, the following is requisite:

- An RSL confirmation by the supplier
- Test reports that demonstrate the **suppliers'** compliance

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

Note:

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

## 5 Packaging

Using sustainable and environmentally friendly materials for packaging is a part of the bluesign® SYSTEM principles.

### 5.1 Packaging materials

The following aspects shall be considered:

- Sustainability aspects (including weight/utility ratio) when selecting materials
- PVC is not permitted
- Preference is given to recycled materials
- Paper and cardboard should originate from certified sources (FSC, PEFC, etc.) or should be made of recycled materials



## 6 Component classification

Component	Fabric/Yarn see 4.3.1	Accessory		Comment
		in bluesign scope see 4.3.2	out of scope see 4.3.4	
Adhesive film		X		
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		Contact BLUESIGN for risk assessment Not part of the article; sustainability aspects shall be considered; recycled materials are preferred; PVC free
Hangtag				
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 and heat transfer		X		
Laces; as decoration		X		
Laminated fabric	X			
Lining fabric	X			
Membrane		X (must be bluesign® APPROVED)		
Mesh	X			
Poles			X	
Print/ heat transfer/ flock: fabric	X			
Print/ heat transfer/ flock: logo (max. 50 cm²)		X		
Print/ heat transfer/ flock: garment	X			large area e.g. t-shirt or carousel print
Reflector			X	
Reflex material - textile		X		
Reinforced back system			X	e.g. Aluminum
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	X (if not main part of article)	
Yarn	X			
Zipper		X		= Tape, slider, teeth, stoppers
Zipper puller		X		

Table 6.1: Component classification



## 7 System integrity

Upon request the authorized bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER (trademark user) shall provide bluesign technologies with the documents listed in Chapter 4.5 (for bluesign® PRODUCT) as well as with the reference samples.

BLUESIGN 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.

### 7.1 Active Information duty

To ensure the function and integrity of the bluesign® SYSTEM, a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER is obliged to report immediately to BLUESIGN:

- Non-compliance of bluesign® APPROVED components or bluesign® PRODUCT with bluesign® CRITERIA, especially if legal requirements in the market of origin or target markets are infringed
- Any relevant non-compliance in the supply chain

If relevant also the end consumer shall be informed.

## 8 Validity

This document comes into effect from 2020-03. It replaces the *bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT version 2.0*.

For all companies that signed an agreement for an assessment or for a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP before 2020-03 the adapted and newly introduced requirements are binding after a transition period of one year from the date of release.

This document is subject to revisions. Details on the revision procedure for regular and unscheduled revisions are compiled in the *bluesign® SYSTEM* document.

## 9 Other applicable documents

The following documents complement the document at hand:

- *bluesign® SYSTEM*
- *bluesign® glossary*
- *bluesign® SYSTEM BLACK LIMITS (BSBL)*
- *bluesign® SYSTEM SUBSTANCES LIST (BSSL) - Consumer safety limits*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for brands*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites*
- *bluesign® Communication Guidelines*

Current versions are available for download at [www.bluesign.com/criteria](http://www.bluesign.com/criteria).

### Disclaimer

This document is a publication of bluesign technologies ag. It compiles requirements and guidelines for bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS on a particular subject or subjects and may not be an exhaustive treatment of such subject(s). Contents are not intended as a **statement of legal requirements or as legal advice**. This document is provided "as is". bluesign technologies ag expressly disclaims all implied warranties including, without limitation, warranties of merchantability, title, fitness for a particular purpose, non-infringement, security and accuracy.