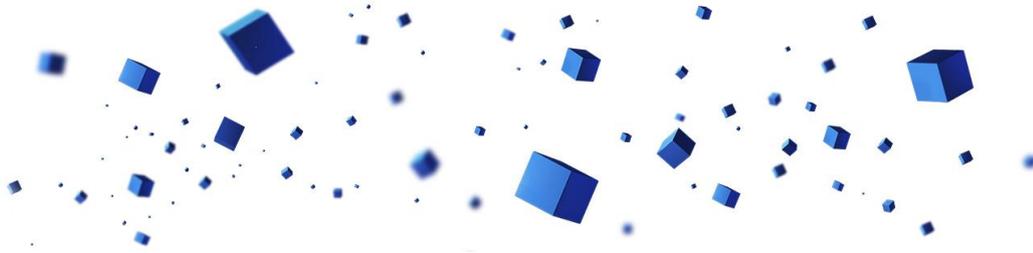


# bluesign® CRITERIA for brands

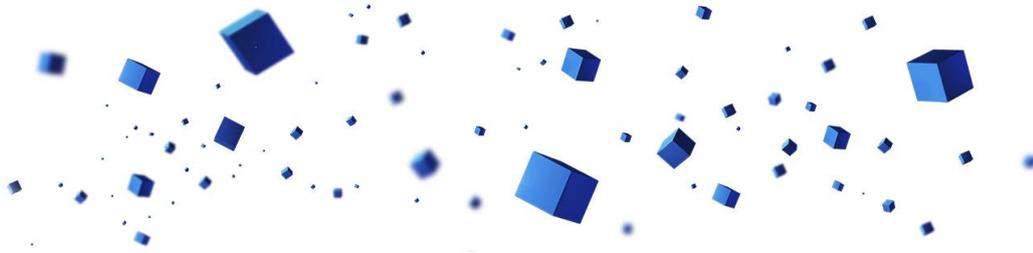
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## 1 Introduction

The creation, manufacture and sale of consumer products is a complex and globally executed set of actions by a variety of interconnected organizations. Success depends on partnership and coordination across company, geographic and industry boundaries.

Improving sustainability is an important measure of success when a brand delivers a product for sale to an end consumer. The bluesign® SYSTEM helps overcome the difficulty of this task by using a preemptive approach which connects the key players across the supply chain. By encouraging social responsibility, environmentally aware and safe production, conservation of natural resources and a high level of product safety, the bluesign® SYSTEM represents a substantial part of corporate responsibility.

The bluesign® SYSTEM succeeds when all members of the supply chain are clear, accountable and proactive in their roles. Brands are an important driver due to the influence they have on a **product's** design, development, sourcing, manufacturing, and logistics.

## 2 Scope

This document defines the bluesign® CRITERIA for brands as organizations that are accountable for the finished product for end-consumer use.

## 3 Definitions

### 3.1 Brand

Originator of the final product delivered to the end consumer (e.g. apparel, equipment) and owner of any associated label/trademark.

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

## 4 Legal compliance

It is important that brands maintain awareness, understanding and compliance with regard to applicable legal requirements in the international, national, regional, and local markets where their products are manufactured and sold. This includes requirements concerning environmental and social responsibility, occupational health and product safety.

Legally binding requirements that are stronger or more detailed than the bluesign® CRITERIA will supersede these, and vice versa.

## 5 General aspects

### 5.1 Sustainability strategy

Brands must be responsible members of the textile supply chain and shall have a documented, leadership supported strategy in their approach to sustainability, including environmental and social responsibility, occupational health and product safety, as substantial parts of their vision and mission. They shall commit to continually improve sustainable practices in their supply chain and operations across their organization, and provide proof of improvement to BLUESIGN.



## 5.2 Alignment with ILO Conventions

For the long-term success of brands, it is important that they align their sustainability policy with the selected ILO Conventions (see *bluesign® SYSTEM*) for improving labor standards. Organizations have the freedom to implement and follow their own programs, many of which have evolved considerably and are driven by best practice, as long as the selected ILO Conventions are respected and considered.

# 6 Product Stewardship

## 6.1 Management systems

Sustainability is a complex and challenging endeavor. To effectively execute it within a brand there must be a means to coordinate actions across the organization. This is best accomplished by utilizing a management system approach.

An effective management system results in clarity of roles, responsibilities, capacity, budget and processes for all areas of the organization being managed. It is required that brands implement and maintain, for their own operations and for the supply chain, appropriate systems to cover the areas of environmental, social and occupational health and safety (OH&S) management in accordance with the bluesign® SYSTEM.

Designated person(s) ensure the implementation of the bluesign® SYSTEM and the continual improvement process.

## 6.2 Product design

Sustainable product design has one of the largest leverage effects towards sustainable textiles by a brand. Besides raw material choice, composition, material efficiency, intended use, life cycle and end of life aspects, selection of materials shall consider resource efficiency and the use of chemicals. The urgent need to use critical substances that ensure high performance (e.g. short-chain PFC for protective workwear, biocides/antimicrobial) shall be justified. Utilization of the bluesign® GUIDE in the day-to-day work shall support product design.

## 6.3 Supply chain

Brands should establish an accurate view of their supply chain and should in particular

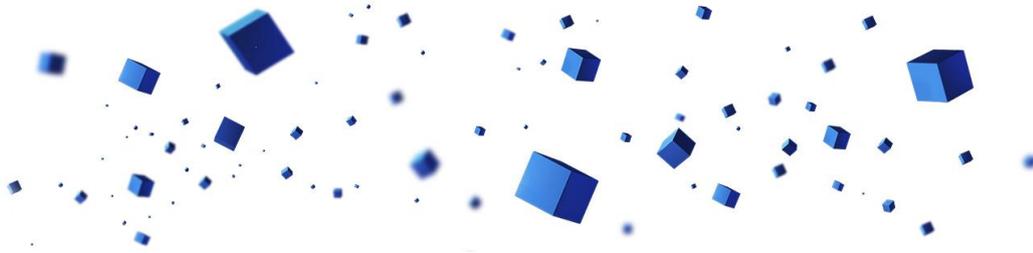
- know and have documented all tier 1 suppliers (i.e. garment manufacturers/assemblers) and tier 2 suppliers (i.e. textile manufacturers), including their product portfolios;
- know which of their suppliers are bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS;
- know where the bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS are in their path towards providing bluesign® APPROVED materials.

### 6.3.1 bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER suppliers

To assure the highest level of risk management, brands should strive to utilize the benefits of suppliers who are bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS. Further, a brand's continual improvement is supported by an increased number of suppliers with bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER status, as well as bluesign® APPROVED chemical products and articles in their supply chain.

### 6.3.2 Non-system partner suppliers

For suppliers who are not bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS, **it is the brand's responsibility to ensure that resource efficiency, chemicals management, emissions, social responsibility, OH&S and product safety are managed appropriately.**



#### 6.3.2.1 Resource efficiency (materials, energy, water)

For their suppliers, brands have

- a process to assess, document and manage the supplier resource efficiency;
- a program which sets goals and monitors improvement.

#### 6.3.2.2 Chemicals management

As an essential part of Input Stream Management, the brand shall have in place an appropriate chemicals management program that includes:

- a means to understand and stay up to date with legal requirements as applicable;
- a program to implement the use of an input stream based, current, and assessed positive list of chemical products (bluesign® FINDER).

#### 6.3.2.3 Emissions to the environment (water, air, waste)

For their suppliers, brands have

- a program to verify that all applicable legal requirements have been met;
- a means to assess their emission situation;
- a program which sets goals and monitors improvement (e.g. reducing carbon footprint and GHG emissions).

#### 6.3.2.4 Social responsibility

The requirements and respective ILO conventions, described in the document *bluesign® SYSTEM*, shall be applicable to the working conditions of employees, irrespective of full-time, part-time or under a subcontract. Further, they illustrate the basic requirements for social responsibility, and BLUESIGN

- generally, encourages all bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS;
- and
- obliges Tier 1 bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS as well as bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS during whose bluesign® ASSESSMENT an obvious abuse of one of the principles and rights is identified:

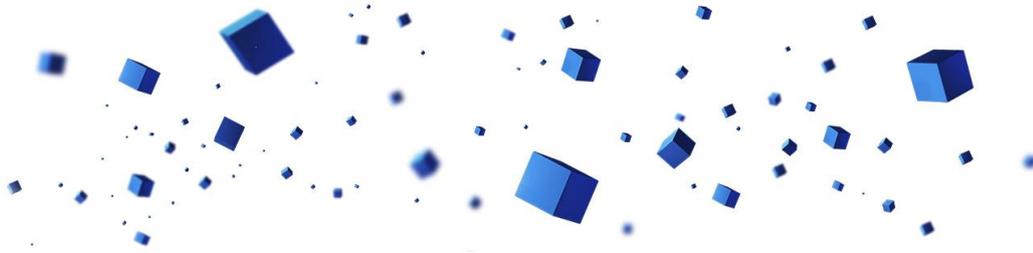
to implement a production site-wide social responsibility program, which is assessed by the

- Fair Wear Foundation
- SA8000 – Social Accountability International (SAI)
- Fairtrade Textile Production
- Fair Labour Association (FLA)
- World Fair Trade Organization

and/or

- participating in the Social Labor Convergence Project (SLCP)

and which is appropriately followed up for continual improvement. In case the social responsibility program is assessed by an organization, that is not listed above, and the system partner can show equivalency, it is at discretion of BLUESIGN to accept this assessment.



#### 6.3.2.5 Occupational health and safety

For their suppliers, brands have a program to monitor workplace safety and emergency preparedness.

#### 6.3.2.6 Consumer safety

For their suppliers, brands have

- a Restricted Substances List (RSL) that meets the requirements of BLUESIGN;
- a smart testing program along with a testing matrix to verify compliance with the RSL.

## 7 Operations

Operations in the context of these criteria include the owned and operated facilities of the brand, the people and the business processes that make them run. This includes corporate travel, energy, waste, facility footprint, etc.

### 7.1 Operational footprint

**The goal is to keep the brand's operational footprint at a minimum. This is realized by**

- being aware of, tracking and continually reducing the operational footprint;
- complying with all applicable labor, health and safety regulations in the operating regions;
- documenting an internal code of ethics and business conduct.

## 8 Communication

Brands shall communicate progress towards improved chemical management of products and supply chain sustainability by using available tools, such as bluesign® PRODUCT and/or other measures of impact relating to materials and/or supply chain.

## 9 Assessment and action

**To verify brands' maturity**, a bluesign® COMPANY ASSESSMENT is conducted, usually taking place at the brand headquarters. It covers questions on:

- Organizational structure
- EHS policy and procedure
- Supply chain
- Materials
- Substances and formulations
- Reporting and communication
- Supplier assessment

The results of the assessment will be documented in a gap analysis from which a strategic action plan is derived.

This action plan is owned and managed by the brand. As it illustrates the foundation for continual improvement process, it is a primary instrument for an ongoing dialog between brands and BLUESIGN and is checked by the latter.



## 9.1 Active information duty

To ensure the function and integrity of the bluesign® SYSTEM, a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER has information duties to BLUESIGN and directly affected system partners. The following cases trigger immediate information duties to BLUESIGN:

- Any issues regarding possible non-compliance with relevant criteria
- 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

## 10 Validity

This document comes into effect from 2020-03. It replaces the bluesign® CRITERIA for brands 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.

## 11 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 bluesign® PRODUCT*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for approved chemical product and articles for industrial use and commission processes*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® APPROVED chemical products for end consumer use*
- *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.