

# bluesign® criteria for production sites

## Annex: Garment Manufacturer/Assembler

Version 2.0 | April 01, 2014

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# 1 Scope

Comprehensive requirements for companies with production sites are determined in *the bluesign® criteria for production sites*. This document defines additional provisions for garment manufacturing/assembling.

## 2 Definitions

A garment manufacturer/assembler processes components (textiles and accessories) delivered from third parties or own facilities to manufacture textile products (apparel and/or textile equipment) for consumer use. Product manufacturing takes place on own responsibility or on behalf of another party (typically a brand).

Selection of materials and sourcing can be organized by another party as for example the brand (nominated components), and/or by a garment manufacturer/assembler itself.

In terms of the bluesign® criteria two categories of garment manufacturers/assemblers are defined (compare Fig. 3.1):

- Category I:  
Garment manufacturing/assembling using
  - no chemicals for textile processing; only mechanical and thermal processes as cut and sew, stitching, welding, thermal bonding, etc. are carried out.
  - chemicals for textile processing with minor relevance regarding environmental aspects, occupational health and safety and consumer safety. Minor relevance is given due to the kind and amount of chemicals typically used at the site.  
Typical examples of these processes are:
    - logo printing (direct or transfer printing with a maximum area of 50 cm<sup>2</sup> per product)
    - seam sealing
    - solvent-free gluing (e.g. hot melts)
    - stain removal/spot cleaning
- Category II:  
Garment manufacturing/assembling using chemicals similar in quantity and quality to textile finishing/coating, as for example companies carrying out garment dyeing, finishing, printing, dry cleaning, washing, solvent based processes, etc. at the same production site together with assembling and/or cut and sew.

## 3 Approach

To assure the highest transparency and confidence and to strengthen the chain of custody, the bluesign® approach demands that the whole supply chain consists of bluesign® system partners.

For this reason, it is recommended that a garment manufacturer/assembler joins the bluesign® system as a bluesign® system partner.

However, due to the fact that

- garment manufacturers/assemblers - also called "first tier suppliers" - are often already in the focus of audits performed by the brand or third parties,
- environmental impact of Category I type is normally not significant,
- processing at the production sites which can be allocated to Category I has only minor influence on consumer safety aspects and resource consumption,

a non-system partner status can be tolerated for garment manufacturer/assembler falling into Category I.

For garment manufacturers/assemblers which have to be allocated to Category II, the bluesign® system partnership is a must.

For Category II type - in addition to the document at hand (compare sections 1. to 4.3) - the *bluesign® criteria for production sites* including *Annex: Textile Manufacturer* are mandatory.

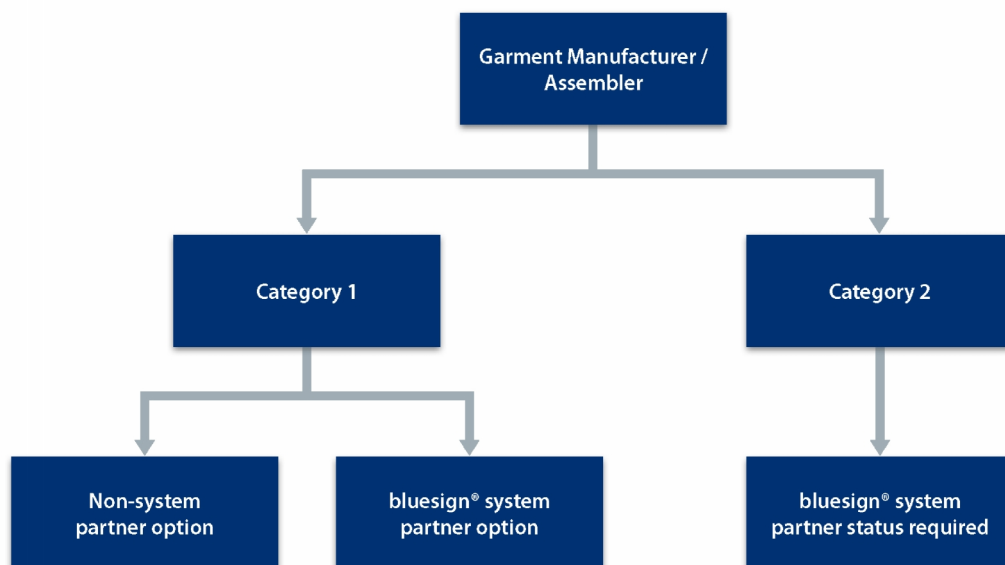


Figure 3.1: Approach garment manufacturing/assembling

Following the non-system partner option (compare Fig. 3.1) is on decision and sole responsibility of the trademark user. The trademark user is responsible for allocation of a garment manufacturer/assembler into one of the two categories described above.

## 4 Garment manufacturing/assembling with bluesign® system partner status

### 4.1 Status

A garment manufacturer/assembler has joined the bluesign® system as a system partner after successfully passing the bluesign® screening and is implementing or has implemented all mandatory actions defined in the screening report. A bluesign® system partner has access to the bluesign® blueguide.

### 4.2 Responsibilities of a garment manufacturer/assembler with system partner status

A garment manufacturer/assembler shall ensure by means of an appropriate quality assurance system that

- share of bluesign® approved components (fabrics and accessories) in a bluesign® product is on the required or even higher level and is traceable at any time.
- tracking of components by means of a bill of materials is possible.
- required data can be delivered at any time to trademark user or bluesign technologies, e.g. in the context of monitoring activities or complaints.
- only qualified suppliers are selected for the bluesign® product components which are not bluesign® approved - whether they are nominated by the trademark user or not (compare *bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product*).

### 4.3 Criteria for garment manufacturing/assembling with system partner status

For garment manufacturing/assembling allocated to Category I the *bluesign® criteria for production sites* are binding; for those falling into Category II the *bluesign® criteria for production sites* including *Annex: Textile Manufacturer* have to be followed.

For both categories the *bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product* must be respected.

Typically, garment manufacturing/assembling is a personnel-intensive process. Social responsibility aspects are therefore of high priority.

For this reason, in addition to the above mentioned criteria, it is mandatory that

- the garment manufacturer/assembler has conducted a reliable third party social responsibility audit that covered whole production site (SA 8000, BSCI, WRAP, Fair Wear, a brand's system partner audit, a brand's audit conducted in a formal sharing model, audits by widely recognized institutes)
- an up-to-date audit report including non-conformity report(s) is at hand
- an appropriate continuous improvement process (CIP) has started and is documented; a CIP including a follow-up audit must be monitored by a reliable third party

### 4.4 Responsibilities of a trademark user

A trademark user who places a bluesign® product on the market shall accountably ensure that the *bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product* are met.

Transparency and confidence of the supply chain as well as compliance with the relevant bluesign® criteria is at best assured by system partnership of garment manufacturer/assembler and facilitates trademark user's workload.

### 4.5 Responsibilities of bluesign technologies

After successful implementation of the bluesign® system, bluesign technologies will grant system partner status and authorize a garment manufacturer/assembler for a period of three years to manufacture bluesign® product on behalf of a bluesign® trademark user. Latest every three years authorization must be renewed.

## 5 Garment manufacturing/assembling with non-system partner status

### 5.1 Status

A garment manufacturer/assembler following the non-system partner option does not join the bluesign® system as a bluesign® system partner and is not physically audited by bluesign technologies. A garment manufacturer/assembler with non-system partner status does not have the right to use any bluesign® trademarks. Labeling of articles with the trademark bluesign® product can only be done at disposition and on responsibility of a trademark user.

### 5.2 Pre-conditions for non-system partner option

The following pre-conditions are to be kept:

- Company can be allocated to Category I on terms of the document at hand.
- A garment manufacturer/assembler has passed a trademark user-accepted social audit.
- No contradictions against the general principles of the *bluesign® criteria for production sites* are known to the trademark user.

### 5.3 Responsibilities of a trademark user

A trademark user who places a bluesign® product on the market shall accountably ensure that the *bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product* are met.

In particular, it is in the sole responsibility of a trademark user that

- Only garment manufacturers/assemblers that passed a trademark user-accepted social audit are assigned.
- The share of bluesign® approved components (fabrics and accessories) in a bluesign® product is on the required or even higher level and is traceable at any time.
- Tracking of components by means of a bill of materials is possible.
- RSL compliance for non-bluesign® approved components is given.
- An appropriate testing program is implemented.
- Only qualified suppliers are selected for the bluesign® product components which are not bluesign® approved - whether they are nominated by the trademark user or not (compare *bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product*).
- Required data can be delivered at any time to bluesign technologies, e.g. in the context of monitoring activities or complaints.

To assure that a garment manufacturer/assembler works according to the relevant requirements a trademark user shall implement an appropriate quality assurance system.

#### **5.4 Responsibilities of a garment manufacturer/assembler with non-system partner status**

Manufacturer/assembler shall always give best support to the trademark user.

In the long-term a garment manufacturer/assembler shall join the bluesign® system as a system partner.

## **6 Verification of compliance**

### **6.1 General**

bluesign technologies is responsible for general monitoring activities. Any non-compliance detected during monitoring routines can lead to mandatory actions for the trademark user to correct non-compliance; also withdrawal of the authorization for self-declaration for trademark user and cancellation of existing agreements is possible.

### **6.2 Garment manufacturing/assembling with bluesign® system partner status**

bluesign technologies performs initial and periodic on-site inspections. The applicable requirements defined by the document at hand, the *bluesign® criteria for production sites* (Category I) or the *bluesign® criteria for production sites | Annex: Textile Manufacturer* (Category II) and the *bluesign® criteria for bluesign® product* serve as a background for the on-site inspection.

## **7 Validity**

This document comes into effect from April 01, 2014.

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

## **8 Other applicable documents**

- bluesign® system (effective version)
- bluesign® criteria for production sites (for garment manufacturing/assembling allocated to Category I) (effective version)
- bluesign® criteria for production sites including | Annex: Textile Manufacturer (for garment manufacturing/assembling allocated to Category II) (effective version)
- bluesign® system substances list (effective version)