

bluesign® criteria for production sites

Annex: Down and feathers processing

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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 processing of down and feathers.

2 Definitions

Down and feather processing may include washing of raw materials, drying, mechanical separation as well as chemical finishing.

3 Product stewardship

3.1 Input stream management

In cases when down and feather products are supplied pre-washed/sterilized, a manufacturer has to assure by means of an appropriate input control, as for example supplier evaluation and supplier selection, purchase conditions and testing program, that BSSL limits (consumer safety limits) are kept. At best a chemical-free sterilization is performed by means of a thermal process. Particularly a manufacturer has to assure that the following information from the supplier of pre-washed/sterilized down and feathers is at hand and kept up-to date:

- Contact data of the company performing the pre-washing/sterilization step
- Confirmation of compliance with all applicable legal environmental and OHS requirements
- Confirmation of APEO-free washing process
- Information on sterilization procedure and, if relevant, chemicals used for sterilization

Feathers and down shall not be plucked from living birds. A manufacturer has to assure by means of an appropriate input control, as for example supplier evaluation and supplier selection, purchase conditions as well by reliable certificates or confirmations that live pluck is avoided.

3.2 Final product

Down and feather products have to fulfill all quality aspects demanded by the customer (composition, species identification, fill power, filling weight, air permeability, down proof properties etc.). A fat-, oil- and odor-free material with high level of cleanliness is required. Along with the BSSL compliance, the requirements listed in Table 1 have to be fulfilled.

Description	Requirement	Test Method
Oxygen index number	max. 20 goal: less than 10	EN 12935
Microbiological state		
Mesophil aerobic bacteria count	less than 10 ⁶ CFU/g	
Faecal streptococci count	less than 10 ² CFU/g	EN 1884
Sulfite reducing clostridium count	less than 10 ² CFU/g	
Presence of salmonella	absent in 20 g	
Oil and fat content	0.5 to 2 %	EN 1163
Turbidity	min. 300 mm	EN 1164
pH	6.6 to 8	EN 1413

Table 1: Requirements for down and feathers.

4 Industry specific requirements

4.1 Water emissions

4.1.1 Direct wastewater discharge

The limit values and sampling requirements for the direct wastewater discharge are compiled in Table 2.

In order to control the efficiency of the wastewater treatment plant it is strongly recommended that the following parameters are measured not only in the treated (clean) stream but also in the untreated (raw) wastewater:

- Wastewater volume
- pH
- Temperature
- COD

Parameter	Method	Unit	Limit Value	Interval	Remarks
pH	DIN 38404-C5		6-9		
TSS	DIN EN 872	mg/l	30	day	
Temperature	DIN 38404-C4	°C	35		
COD	DIN 38409-41 or DIN ISO 15705	mg/l	160	day	TOC or COD; for COD cuvette tests could be sufficient, if results are reliable
TOC	DIN EN 1484	mg/l	Relationship to COD must be identified	day	TOC or COD
BOD ₅	DIN EN 1899-1	mg/l	30	week	
Persistent foam at the point of discharge	Visual inspection	-	Must not be visible	day	
Chromium Total	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22	mg/l	0.5	6 months	
Chromium (VI)	DIN 38405-D24	mg/l	0.1	6 months	
Copper	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22	mg/l	1	6 months	
Nickel	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22	mg/l	0.5	6 months	
Zink	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22	mg/l	2	6 months	
Tin	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22	mg/l	2	6 months	
Phosphor Total	DIN EN ISO 11885	mg/l	2	6 months	
NH ₄ -N	DIN 38406-5	mg/l	10	6 months	
Nitrogen Total	DIN EN 12260 (TNb) or DIN EN 25663 (TKN)	mg/l	20	6 months	

Table 1: Limit values for direct discharge to the aquatic body. Measuring point is after wastewater treatment, before discharge to aquatic body.

Sampling instructions: 5 grab samples measured on-site during 2 hours (minimum interval between the samplings is 2 min) or one mixed volume proportional sample.

National or local requirements that are stronger or more detailed than the bluesign® criteria will supersede the limit values specified above.

The measurements shall be performed in regular intervals according to the above mentioned (Table 1) or similar standard methods. Sampling interval depends on the dimensions and complexity of the plant as well as on the findings. Third party measurements must be at hand.

4.1.2 Indirect wastewater discharge

See the *bluesign® criteria for production sites*.

5 Verification of compliance

bluesign technologies verifies the compliance with the criteria at hand by means of a screening including an on-site inspection. Re-screenings have to be carried out no later than every three years.

6 Validity

This document comes into effect from April 01, 2014. It replaces the *general bluesign® criteria for production sites / attachment: processing down and feathers, edition 1.0* from April 2010.

For all companies that signed the screening agreement before April 01, 2014 and for all system partners the implementation of the revised sections shall take place until April 01, 2015 at the latest.

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

7 Other applicable documents

- bluesign® system (effective version)
- bluesign® criteria for production sites (effective version)
- bluesign® system substances list (effective version)