



# 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 continuous improvement.

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

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

The performance and the efforts of a production site, in the following referred to as 'company', to act according to the above mentioned 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 is not to be expected, 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 system partnership or whose system partnership has been terminated, can re-apply at anytime for a new audit/screening by bluesign technologies.

## 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 which have been detected during assessment of the production site in agreed timelines

### Legal compliance

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

### Social responsibility

- Obvious abuse of the principles of the UN Global Compact

### Management

- No Quality and EHS management 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 raw materials and intermediates adequately
- 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 generation and dissemination of Material Safety Data Sheets is missing
- Resources and skills for inspection of finished products are missing

### Input stream management (manufacturer)

- Company does not follow the bluesign® criteria for chemicals change management for manufacturer
- Company intentionally uses BSSL substances which are banned
- 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 waste water treatment plant installed at production site(s) with wet processes and direct discharge
- Waste water treatment is not appropriate
- No off-gas treatment installed for VOC-relevant production site(s)
- 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) are existent but company has no distinct 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
- Material Safety Data Sheets for chemicals used at the production site are not available
- Obvious incorrect practices
- Significant emergency risks but no proper risk assessment and emergency facilities