



bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites ANNEX: Garment Manufacturer/ Assembler

Version 3.0 | 2020-03

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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 – often also defined as tier 1 supplier – processes components (textiles and accessories) delivered from third parties or their own facilities to manufacture textile products (apparel and/or textile equipment) for consumer use. Product manufacturing is for **the company's own sales (wholesale or retail)** 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/assembler are defined (see Figure 3.1):

- Category 1:
Garment manufacturing/assembling using
 - no chemicals for textile processing: only mechanical and thermal processes such as cutting and sewing, 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 because of the type and amount of chemicals involved). Typical examples of these processes are:
 - logo printing (direct or transfer printing with a maximum area of 50 cm² per product)
 - seam sealing
 - solvent-free gluing (e.g. hot melts)
 - stain removal/spot cleaning

- Category 2:
 - Garment manufacturing/assembling by carrying out assembling and cutting/sewing but using chemicals similar in quantity and character to textile finishing/coating, as for example companies carrying out garment dyeing, finishing, printing, dry cleaning, washing, solvent based processes, etc.
 - Companies having an annual solvent consumption of more than 5 t

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

3 Approach

To assure the highest transparency and confidence and to strengthen the chain of custody, the whole supply chain shall consist 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 are often already in the focus of assessments performed by the brand or third parties;
- the environmental impact of a Category 1 company is normally not significant; and
- processing at production sites which can be allocated to Category 1 has only minor influence on consumer safety aspects and resource consumption;

a non-bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER status can be tolerated for a garment manufacturer/assembler allocated to Category 1.

For garment manufacturers/assemblers which have to be allocated to Category 2, the bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP is a must.

For a Category 1 company, the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites including Annex: Textile Manufacturer* are mandatory in addition to this document.

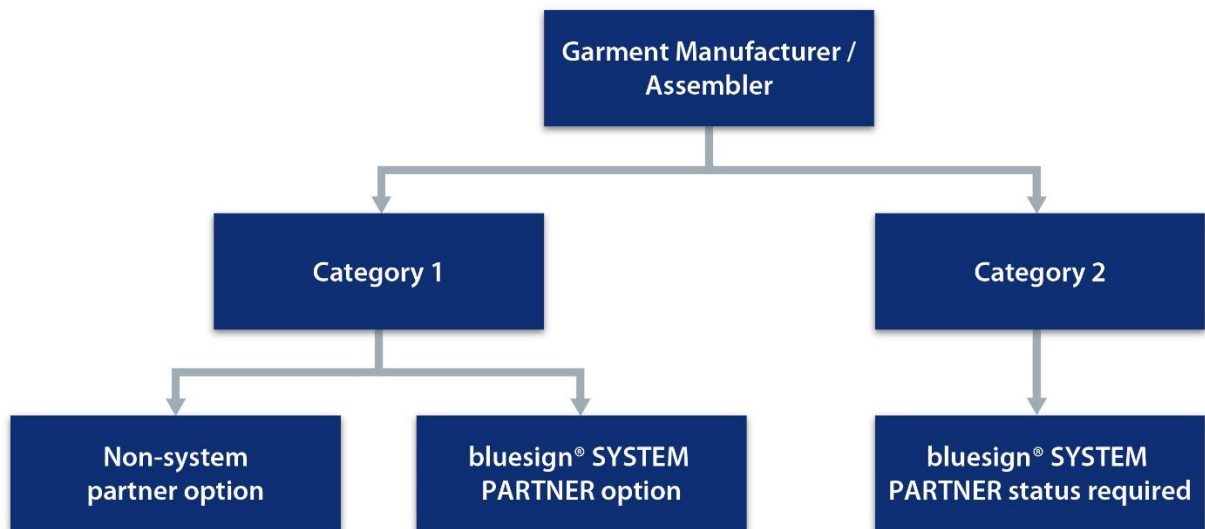


Figure 3.1: Approach to garment manufacturing/assembly

The decision to choose the non-bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER option (Figure 3.1) is the 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 joins the bluesign® SYSTEM as a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER after successfully passing the bluesign® COMPANY ASSESSMENT and implements or has implemented all mandatory actions defined in the bluesign® COMPANY ASSESSMENT REPORT.

4.2 Responsibilities of a garment manufacturer/assembler with bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER status

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

- the share of bluesign® APPROVED components (fabrics and accessories) in a bluesign® PRODUCT is at the required or even higher level and is traceable at any time;
- bluesign® CRITERIA are followed for sub-contracted processes and only qualified suppliers are chosen;
- tracking of components by means of a bill of materials is possible;
- required data can be delivered at any time to trademark user or to BLUESIGN, e.g. in the context of monitoring activities or complaints;
- when components which are not bluesign® APPROVED have to be used in a bluesign® PRODUCT, only qualified suppliers are selected - whether they are nominated by the trademark user or not (see *bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT*).

For garment manufacturing/assembling allocated to Category 1, the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites* are binding; for those allocated to Category 2, the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites* including the *Annex: Textile Manufacturers* shall be followed.

For both categories the *bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT* shall be respected.

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

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.

In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, it is mandatory that

- an up-to-date audit report including non-conformity report(s) is available;
- an appropriate continual improvement process (CIP) is documented: CIP including a follow-up audit shall be monitored by a reliable third party and reported to BLUESIGN.

4.3 Responsibilities of a trademark user

A trademark user who places a bluesign® PRODUCT on the market is accountable to 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 best assured by a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP of the garment manufacturer/assembler and simplifies the trademark user's workload.

4.4 Responsibilities of BLUESIGN

After successful implementation of the bluesign® SYSTEM, BLUESIGN 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. At the latest every three years the authorization must be renewed.

5 Garment manufacturing/assembling with non-bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER status

5.1 Status

A garment manufacturer/assembler choosing the non-SYSTEM PARTNER option does not join the bluesign® SYSTEM as a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER and is not physically assessed by BLUESIGN. A garment manufacturer/assembler with non-bluesign® 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 on the instruction and responsibility of a trademark user.

5.2 Preconditions for the non-SYSTEM PARTNER option

The following preconditions shall be fulfilled:

- The company can be allocated to Category 1 in terms of the document at hand
- A garment manufacturer/assembler has passed a social audit accepted by the trademark user which is in alignment with all the requirements defined in Chapter 4.2.
- No infringements of 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 is accountable to 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 social audit accepted by the trademark user which is in alignment with all the requirements defined in Chapter 4.2 are assigned;
- the share of bluesign® APPROVED components (fabrics and accessories) in a bluesign® PRODUCT is at the required or even higher level and is traceable at all times;
- tracking of components by means of a bill of materials is possible;
- RSL compliance for non-bluesign® APPROVED components is assured;
- an appropriate testing program is implemented;
- when components which are not bluesign® APPROVED have to be used in a bluesign® PRODUCT, only qualified suppliers are selected - whether they are nominated by the trademark user or not (see bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT); and
- required data can be delivered at any time to BLUESIGN; 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

The manufacturer/assembler shall always give full support to the trademark user. For subcontracted processes, bluesign® CRITERIA shall be followed and only qualified suppliers shall be chosen. In the long term a garment manufacturer/assembler shall join the bluesign® SYSTEM as a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER.

6 Verification of compliance

6.1 General

BLUESIGN is responsible for general monitoring activities. Any non-compliance detected during monitoring routines can lead to mandatory actions for the trademark user to correct the non-compliance, or to withdrawal of authorization for self-declaration by the trademark user and cancellation of existing agreements.

6.2 Garment manufacturing/assembling with bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER status

BLUESIGN performs initial and periodic on-site inspections. The applicable requirements defined by this document, the bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites (Category 1) or the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites | Annex: Textile Manufacturer* (in case of Category 2) and the *bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT*, serve as a background for the on-site inspection.

7 Validity

This document comes into effect from 2020-03. It replaces the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites - ANNEX: Garment Manufacturer/Assembler* 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.

8 Other applicable documents

The following documents complement the document at hand:

- *bluesign® SYSTEM*
- *bluesign® glossary*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for bluesign® PRODUCT*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for converters*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites – ANNEX: Exclusion criteria*
- *bluesign® SYSTEM BLACK LIMITS (BSBL) - Threshold limits for chemical substances in chemical products*
- *bluesign® SYSTEM SUBSTANCES LIST (BSSL) - Consumer safety limits*

Current versions are available for download at www.bluesign.com/criteria.

Disclaimer

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