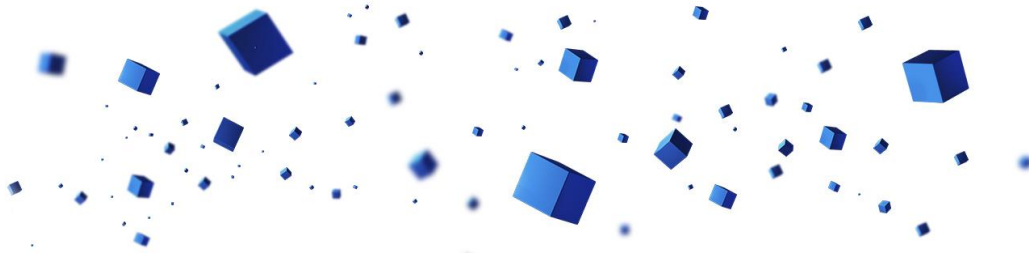


# bluesign® CRITERIA for converters

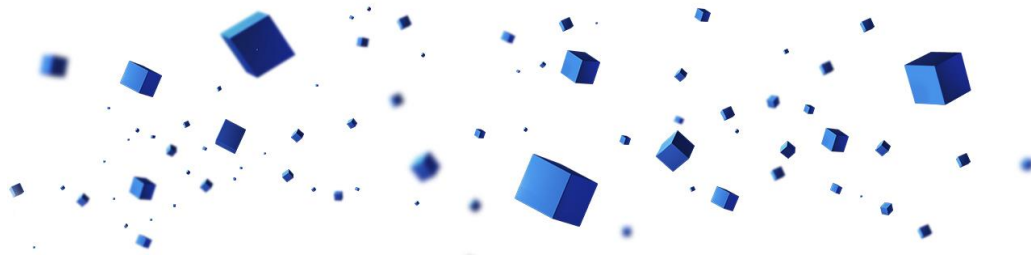
Version 3.0 | 2020-03





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## 1 Scope

This document defines requirements for converters of textile articles (all processing levels), finished leather articles and accessories for use in the textile and leather industry.

For the requirements regarding rebranders of chemical products, see the bluesign® *CRITERIA for production sites / ANNEX: Chemical Supplier*.

## 2 Definitions

### 2.1 Converter

Within the scope of the bluesign® SYSTEM, a converter is any company buying and selling textile articles (all processing levels), finished leather articles and accessories for use in the textile and leather industry.

A converter does not have any installed chemical or physical finishing steps, but sources from a lower tier supplier or places orders with subcontractors. The properties of the original products are not modified. Changes to lot sizes or packaging are common. In case the converter applies mechanical and/or thermal processes, whose impact on the environment and OH&S is essentially minor, it is at discretion of BLUESIGN to categorize this site as converter.

For the brand, the converter often plays a coordinating role in organizing several processing steps (e.g. dyeing and coating) at various production sites.

Products with trade name(s) specified by the converter are placed on the market by the converter. The converter is not obliged to provide information on the original supplier(s) of the products to the buyer.

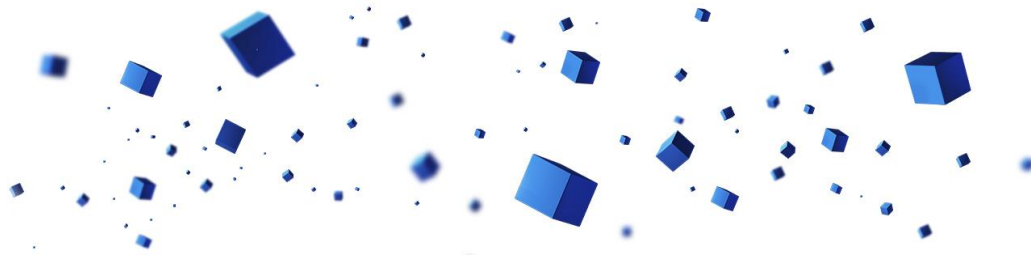
For a comprehensive list of terms and abbreviations, please refer to the document *bluesign® glossary*.

## 3 Legal compliance

A bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER converter shall maintain compliance and stay up to date with any changes in the relevant legislation.

Awareness and understanding of applicable legal requirements are a prerequisite for a system partner to meet all relevant international, national, regional and local requirements concerning environmental aspects, occupational health, corporate social responsibility and product safety.

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



## 4 Product Stewardship

The bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER bears full responsibility for the marketed products with regard to:

- Quality
- Consumer safety
- Environmental consciousness
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Resource conservation
- Social responsibility
- Recyclability/End of life

Close cooperation between the supplier and the converter shall be established.

## 5 Industry specific requirements

### 5.1 Management system

An appropriate management system shall be installed, maintained and continually improved to ensure the traceability of bluesign® APPROVED articles from supplier to customer, including any subcontractors.

Retained samples of all relevant articles purchased and sold under the bluesign® APPROVED label shall be kept for at least one year.

### 5.2 Traceability of bluesign® APPROVED articles

The flowchart (Figure 5.1) gives an overview of the traceability process for bluesign® APPROVED articles. In addition, it references the most important documents.

Common documents for checking traceability are post-processing orders (from the converter) and delivery notes or invoices (from the subcontractor). Additionally, delivery dates and colors of the articles are important data when ordering numbers, article codes and quantities.

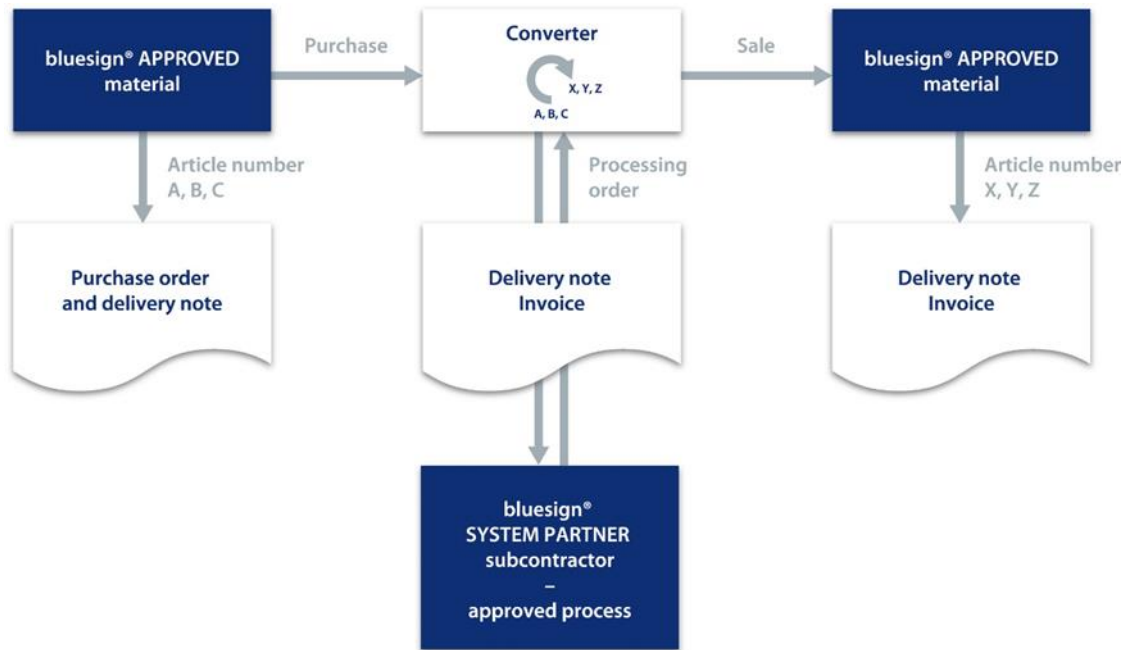
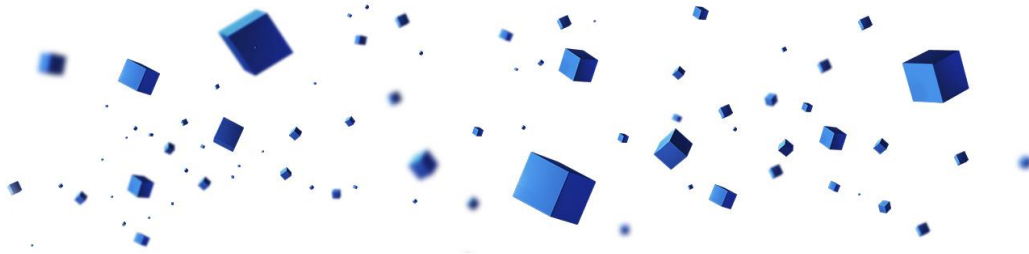


Figure 5.1: Traceability of bluesign® APPROVED articles

### 5.3 Storage and transport

Finished products shall be packaged, stored and transported in an appropriate way

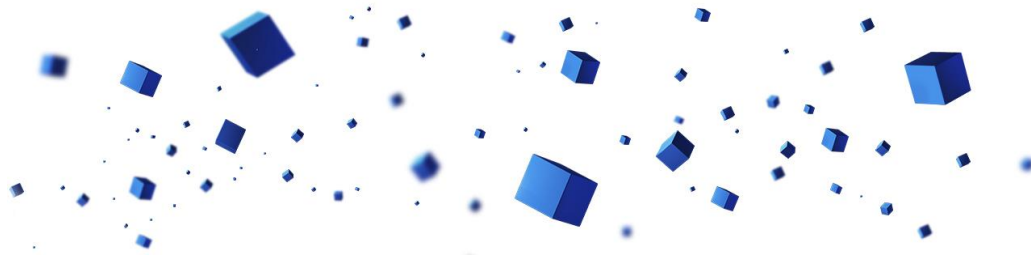
- to avoid any cross-contamination
- to remain undamaged
- that considers resource conservation aspects

## 6 Verification of compliance

BLUESIGN verifies compliance with the bluesign® CRITERIA by means of bluesign® COMPANY ASSESSMENT. Re-assessments shall be carried out no later than every three years.

Tracking and linking of the converter's bluesign® APPROVED articles to the original manufacturer bluesign® APPROVED articles and, if applicable, bluesign® APPROVED processing constitutes the main focus of a company assessment. The aim is to ensure that purchased amounts of bluesign® APPROVED articles at the original manufacturer conform to volume bluesign® APPROVED articles sold by the converter.

A "converter table" that links the original article numbers (including the supplier name) to the article numbers from the converter represents the basis for cooperation between the converter and BLUESIGN.



## 6.1 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
- Relevant changes in sourcing and/or the product portfolio
- Non-compliance of bluesign® APPROVED items, especially if legal requirements in the market of origin or target markets are infringed.

## 7 Validity

This document comes into effect from 2020-03. It replaces the *bluesign® CRITERIA for converters* 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® SYSTEM BLACK LIMITS (BSBL)*
- *bluesign® SYSTEM SUBSTANCES LIST (BSSL) - Consumer safety limits*

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.