

# Usage ranges

Version 8.0 | July 01, 2023

## Usage Ranges

Usage ranges classify consumer goods according to their consumer safety relevance.

Exposure scenarios concerning oral, dermal and inhalative exposure are the guiding principles for the definition of limit values to ensure consumer safety and are the basis for setting usage ranges. Dermal exposure (exposure to human skin) is the main criteria used to allocate a usage range. Other exposure routes may override this allocation if a more stringent usage range would result.

Three usage ranges (A, B, C) are defined with A being the most stringent category concerning limit values/bans:

- Usage Range A: Next to skin use and baby articles (0 to 3 years)
- Usage Range B: Occasional skin contact
- Usage Range C: No skin contact

This means a garment is at least usage range B unless the wearing properties and expected consumer behavior require a classification in usage range A.

The following table lists common consumer goods and allocates usage ranges. This classification is typically valid for the complete product. Exceptions are defined in the list.

Special notes for Articles intended to be used on animals:

Consumer safety limits in the BSSL are defined for human beings. They cannot be transferred easily to animals and it would also strongly depend on the type of animal.

In general, for all articles with skin/fur contact at least usage range A is required.

Consumer goods	Usage range			
	A	B	C	
Automotive			x	Seat fabric - usage range B
Baby wear and textile articles (0 – 3 years)	x			
Backpack			x	Shoulder straps, harness and backrest that have contact with the skin must be usage range A
Bed linen	x			
Bike shorts	x			
Blouse		x		
Bra	x			
Camping Chair		x		
Carpet		x		
Cleaning cloth		x		
Curtain			x	
Dress		x		
Furnishing fabric		x		e.g. Seat cover
Geo textiles			x	e.g. building-/construction textiles, erosion protective textiles
Gloves/Mittens	x			
Harness		x		

Consumer goods	Usage range			
	A	B	C	
Headdress	x			
Hammock		x		
Jacket		x		
Leggings	x			
Long sleeve t-shirt	x			
Luggage			x	
Mattress		x		
Mosquito net			x	
Pants		x		
Personal Flotation Device (PFD)		x		
Pullover		x		
Ropes & slings		x	x	Depends on use
Scarf	x			
Shirt		x		
<b>Shoe components:</b>				
- Insole	x			
- Midsole foams		x		
- Outsole			x	
- Trim & accessories			x	
- Upper & lining materials	x			
- Outer part of upper			x	
Skirt		x		
Sleeping bag		x		Lining must be usage range A
Socks	x			
Sport shirt	x			
Sweatshirt		x		
Swim wear	x			
Tent			x	Tent floor must be usage range B
Tie		x		
Tights	x			
Towel		x		
T-Shirt	x			
Umbrella			x	
Underpants (long/short)	x			
Undershirt	x			