

The EU Ecolabel for Textiles products

The official European label for Greener Products



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#euecolabel

Choose the EU Ecolabel for your Textile products to show your commitment to a better environment.

Once it's on your products, the EU Ecolabel guarantees

- A more sustainable fibre production
- A durable product
- A lesser polluting production process
- Strict restrictions on the use of hazardous substances

The EU Ecolabel can be awarded to all kinds of textile clothing and accessories, interior textiles, fibres, yarn, fabric and knitted panels. It can also be awarded to cleaning products.

Meet your customers' demand

Today, consumers are more aware that protecting the environment is fundamental. Four out of five European consumers would like to buy more environmentally friendly products, provided that they are properly certified by an independent organisation.

With your products bearing the EU Ecolabel, you offer consumers the reliable and only EU wide (all EU countries supports and recommend the EU Ecolabel) logo to easily identify high performing environmentally friendly products that are available on the European market.

For more information:

- on the scheme, its feature, the actors involved, the application process: environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel-home_en or [eu-ecolabel.de](https://www.ecolabel.eu)
- to the detailed criteria for Textile product group: environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/circular-economy/eu-ecolabel-home/product-groups-and-criteria/clothing-and-textiles_en
- to market your EU Ecolabel products use our free E-catalogue: ec.europa.eu/ecat/

Overview of the EU Ecolabel textile criteria

This is a non-exhaustive list of EU Ecolabel criteria for Textile products. Please see the [Commission Decision \(2014/350/EU\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32014D0350) for full details.

| Life cycle step | Criterion | Expectations |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Manufacturing | Corporate Social Responsibility | ✓ For cut/make/trim production sites the fundamental principles and rights at work described in the International Labour Organisation's Core Labour Standards shall be respected. |
| | | ✓ Manual and mechanical sandblasting to achieve distressed denim finishes shall not be permitted. |
| Manufacturing | Textile fibres | ✓ Cotton and other natural cellulosic seed fibres: For T-shirts, woman's tops, casual shirts, jeans, pyjamas and underwear a minimum of 95 % organic cotton or 60% integrated pest management (IPM) cotton shall be used. In addition, in case of use of recycled cotton the above shares are respectively deducted. It shall be traceable from the point of verification of the production standard up until greige fabric production and the use of pesticides is restricted. |
| | | ✓ Wool (and other keratin fibres): Total limit values for ectoparasiticide concentrations on raw wool prior to scouring. |
| | | ✓ Polyamide products (Nylon): Manufactured fibres shall include 20% recycled nylon. Exemptions apply if products comply with the related nylon emissions to air requirement. |
| | | ✓ Polyester: Staple fibres shall at least contain 50% recycled PET and at least 20% filament fibres. Products for sale to commercial or public sector can comply with this requirement or with the VOC requirement for polyester (in "emission to air"). |
| | | ✓ Polypropene: Lead based pigments shall not be used. |
| | | ✓ Man-made cellulose fibres (lyocell, and viscose): At least 25% of pulp fibres shall be manufactured from sustainable forestry management (UN FAO) wood. The remaining pulp shall come from legal forestry and plantations. |

| Life cycle step | Criterion | Expectations |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Manufacturing | Limitations on emissions to air | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Specifications on emissions to air for acrylic, elastane, polyester (and its components), viscose fibres, and nylon. ✓ Total emission of organic compounds from textile printing and finishing production sites shall be < 100,0 mg C/Nm³. An emissions limit of 150,0 mg C/ NM³ applies if textile coating and drying processes allow the recovery and reuse of solvents. |
| Manufacturing | Limitation of water pollution during fibre processing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Water retting treatment flax and other bast fibres (e.g. wastewater treatment) shall reduce COD by 75% for hemp and 95% for flax. Man-made cellulose wood pulp specifications (e.g. chlorine used for bleaching). Wool and other keratin fibre sourcing operations shall minimise effluent COD. Limits of g COD/kg greasy wool in the final discharge to the environment are 25 for coarse wool and 45 for fine wool. ✓ For all weaving, dyeing, printing and finishing sites wastewater discharges to the environment shall be < 20g COD/kg textiles processed (measured downstream of on-site wastewater treatment plant and/or off-site wastewater treatment plant receiving wastewater from the processing sites). Specific requirements if effluent is treated on site and discharged directly to surface waters. |
| Manufacturing | Limitation of toxic residues in fibres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Manufactured Elastane shall not contain organotin compounds. ✓ Polyester (and its components): Antimony shall be < 260 ppm (except for polyester fibres manufactured from recycled PET bottles). ✓ The final product/production recipes shall not contain hazardous substances as listed in the Restricted Substance List (RSL)(see Appendix 1 in the full criteria document). |
| Manufacturing | Components and accessories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fillings shall comply with the textile fibres and the textile RSL for biocides, formaldehyde, detergents, softeners and complexing agents, and auxiliary chemicals. Polymers shall comply with the relevant restrictions listed in the RSL. ✓ Metal and plastic components shall comply with RSL requirements for accessories. |
| Manufacturing | Energy used | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Energy used in washing, drying and curing steps shall be measured and benchmarked via an energy or carbon dioxide emissions management system. ✓ The production sites shall also implement a minimum number of BAT energy efficiency techniques. |
| Use | Fitness for use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Requirements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dimensional changes during washing and drying - Colour fastness, washing and perspiration (acid, alkaline) wet rubbing, dry rubbing, light - Wash resistance and absorbency requirements for cleaning products - Pilling resistance and abrasion resistance of fabrics - Functional stability of water, oil and soil repellent finishes, flame retardants on washable products, easy-care finishes. |
| Use | Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The optional label next to the Eco-flower with text box shall may contain the following text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less polluting production processes - More sustainable fibre production - Restrictions on hazardous substances - GMO-free and organic cotton claim (if applicable). |



„Beirholm focuses on environmental and ethical issues throughout the entire institutional textiles value chain, starting from growing cotton until the endpoint, when it reaches the consumer. We use the EU Ecolabel to promote our products to consumers and producers, as it ensures that our products are produced in an ethical and environmentally friendly manner. We are EU Ecolabel certified on an array of our most important products. The EU Ecolabel certification ensures that high (environmental) standards are met during the production of tex-tiles, as well as the end product's quality. The requirements are rigid which safeguard local production, including the level of emissions as well as discharges, and include rigid restrictions on waste chemicals.“

Birgitte Vendel Purchasing Manager, Beirholm A/S



„In 2002, Lenzing became the first fiber producer in the world to be awarded the EU Ecolabel. The EU Ecolabel has been an important benchmark for the Lenzing Group ever since, because of its strict criteria as well as its high level of public recognition. The stringent values of the EU Ecolabel are the basis for the “Environmental Standards of the Lenzing Group”. This comprises a voluntary commitment which is applied to all Lenzing production sites across the globe.“

Karin Moosbauer SHE Engineer, Global Safety, Health and Environment, Lenzing



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