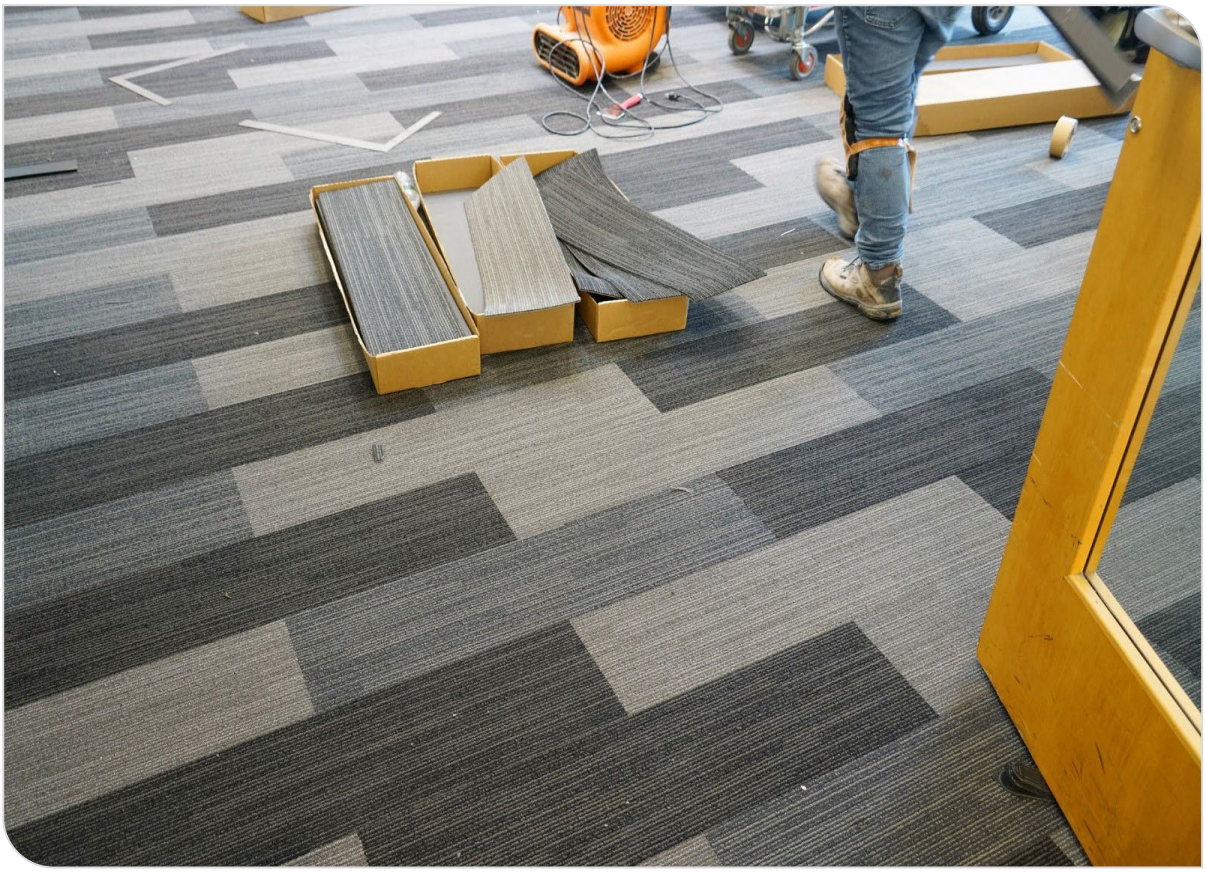
Nordic Ecolabelling for

Textile floor coverings and rugs/mats



Version 2.0 • 12 November 2025 – 28 February 2031

Nordic Ecolabelling

Contents

113 Textile floor coverings and rugs/mats, version 2.0, 12 November 2025

Contact information

In 1989, the Nordic Council of Ministers decided to introduce a voluntary official ecolabel, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. These organisations/companies operate the Nordic Ecolabelling system on behalf of their own country's government. For more information, see the websites:

Denmark

Ecolabelling Denmark

www.svanemaerket.dk

Finland

Ecolabelling Finland

www.joutsenmerkki.fi

Sweden

Ecolabelling Sweden

www.svanen.se

Iceland

Ecolabelling Iceland

www.svanurinn.is

Norway

Ecolabelling Norway

www.svanemerket.no

1 Environmental communication guideline for Nordic Swan Ecolabel textile floor coverings and rugs/mats

Nordic Swan Ecolabel textile floor coverings and rugs/mats have a reduced environmental and climate impact throughout their life cycle. Nordic Ecolabelling has assessed all the relevant environmental aspects throughout the life cycle of these products and made strict requirements concerning the topics and processes in the life cycle where ecolabelling can have the greatest effect. This is described in the chapter "Environmental impact of textile floor coverings and rugs/mats" in the background document.

Nordic Swan Ecolabel textile floor coverings and rugs/mats:

- Have a low environmental impact due to a high proportion of renewable and/or recycled materials.
- Stimulate the use of biobased or recycled plastic to replace virgin fossilbased plastic
- Meet strict environmental and health requirements for chemicals used in production.
- Have low emissions to indoor air.
- Contribute to circular economy either by design for separation, material recycling through take-back systems or higher proportion of renewable and/or recycled materials
- Are quality tested to ensure a long lifetime.

2 What can carry the Nordic Swan Ecolabel?

Product group definition

Product types that are covered are carpets for indoor use intended to be placed on the floor, i.e. textile floor coverings and floor rugs/mats. Both products fastened to the floor by adhesives, hooks etc. and loose laid products are included and both carpets that cover a floor from wall-to-wall and those covering only parts of a floor. The upper side (which faces upward from the floor) of the product must consist of at least 80% by weight of textile fibres.

Carpets made of materials not covered by these criteria must be assessed by Nordic Ecolabelling before they may be considered for labelling. Nordic Ecolabelling will determine which new materials that may be included in the product group.

3 How to read this criteria document

Each requirement is marked with the letter O (obligatory requirement) and a number. All requirements must be fulfilled. The background for each requirement is described in the background document.

The text describes how the applicant shall demonstrate fulfilment of each requirement. There are also icons in the text to make this clearer.

These icons are:

- Upload
- Requirement checked on site

To be awarded a Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence:

- All obligatory requirements must be fulfilled.
- Nordic Ecolabelling must inspect the site.

All information submitted to Nordic Ecolabelling is treated confidentially. Suppliers can send documentation directly to Nordic Ecolabelling, and this will also be treated confidentially.

4 Requirements

This chapter presents all requirements and the chosen requirement levels. The background for all requirements is explained in the background document.

Definitions

Table 1 Definitions

Term	Definition/Explanation
Additives in polymers	Chemical products added to improve the performance, functionality and ageing properties of the polymer. Examples of additives are plasticisers, flame retardants, antioxidants, light/heat/thermal stabilisers, pigments, antistatic agents and acid scavengers.
AgBB	**AgBB** stands for *Ausschuss zur gesundheitlichen Bewertung von Bauprodukten*, or the **Committee for Health-related Evaluation of Building Products**. It was established in 1997 to develop standardized criteria for evaluating VOC emissions from construction materials.
Carpets	Products for indoor use intended to be placed on the floor i.e. **textile floor coverings** and **floor rugs/mats**. Both wall-to-wall and loose products are included. The upper side (which faces upwards from the floor) of the product must consist of at least 80% by weight of textiles. Any possible intermediate carpet layer is not seen as part of the upper side.
COD	Chemical oxygen demand. This is a measure of the amount of oxygen required to chemically oxidize organic and inorganic matter in water. It's an important parameter in water quality testing because it helps determine the level of pollution in water bodies. High COD levels indicate high amount of oxidizable pollutants, which can be harmful to aquatic life and affect water quality.
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority, agency of the European Union that provides independent scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain.
FDA	Food and Drug Administration, U.S. government agency responsible for protecting public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy and security of food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics and other products.
ILO	International Labour Organization

Impurities in chemicals	**Impurities:** Trace levels of pollutants, contaminants and residues from production, incl. production of raw materials, that remain in the chemical product in concentrations ≤ 1 000 ppm (≤ 0.1000 w%). *Examples of impurities: Background environmental pollutants from feedstock, as well as contaminants and residues from production such as reactants (incl. monomers), reagents, catalysts, by-products, scavengers, detergents for production equipment, carry-over from other or previous production lines.* **Impurities in the raw materials** in concentrations ≥ 10 000 ppm (1.0000 w%) are always regarded as ingoing substances, regardless of the concentration in the chemical product.
Ingoing substances in chemicals	**Ingoing substances:** All substances* in the chemical product regardless of amount, including additives (e.g. preservatives and stabilizers) from the raw materials. Substances released from ingoing substances (e.g. biocidal active substances generated by preservatives, such as formaldehyde) are also regarded as ingoing substances. **N.B. the difference from the definition of substances in the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Whereas a REACH substance encompasses a chemical element or compound as well as its stabilising additives and process impurities, a substance here refers to each of the constituents separately. The constituents of a UVCB substance (Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or of Biological materials) are also regarded separately, and all known constituents must be regarded.* *Limit values: The limit for excluded ingoing substances is 0 ppm (unless otherwise stated), while there's a specific defined limit for impurities. The impurity limit applies separately to each individual excluded substance, from each individual raw material. Concentrations of different impurities with the same excluded classification or substance group characteristics shall not be summed up to meet the impurity limit in the labelled product. Also, concentrations of an individual impurity, originating from different raw materials, shall not be summed.* *UVCB substances: UVCB substances (Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or of Biological materials) have a composition of constituents that is not completely known or is variable from time to time. For substances registered under REACH as UVCBs, all constituents that are known must be declared in the Nordic Swan Ecolabel raw material appendix based on the best available knowledge. All constituents are considered individually and are subject to the chemical requirements, including for instance those on excluded substances and excluded classifications*
Inorganic fillers which are abundant in nature	Fillers normally used in products such as kaolin, calcium carbonate, calcium magnesium carbonate, calcium sulphate, silicates and aluminium trihydrate (ATH). If other fillers are used", Nordic Ecolabelling reserves the right to assess whether a filler can be considered sufficiently abundant. Pigment does not count as fillers, but as additives.
Kaolin	Kaolin is a white, very plastic clay which largely consists of aluminium silicate.
Keratin fiber	Structural proteins that form the key components of hair, nails, feathers, horns and the outer layer of skin.
MECO-analysis	A MECO describes the key areas that have impact on the environment and health throughout the life cycle of the product – including consumption of materials/resources (M), energy (E), chemicals (C) and other impact areas (O).
Organic cotton	Organic cotton means cotton fibre that is certified as organic or transitioning to organic according to a standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards, such as Regulation (EU) 2018/848, USDA National Organic Program (NOP), APEDA's National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), China Organic Standard GB/T19630. Also approved are GOTS, OCS 100, OCS blended (shares that are not organic must meet other relevant requirements in this criteria) and DEMETER and certification as "transitioning to organic cultivation". The certification body must have the accreditation required for the standard, such as ISO 17065, NOP or IFOAM.
Organic wool	Wool fibre that is certified as organic or transitioning to organic according to a standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards, such as Regulation (EU) 2018/848, USDA National Organic Program (NOP), APEDA's National Programme

	for Organic Production (NPOP), China Organic Standard GB/T19630. Also approved are GOTS and DEMETER and certification as “transitioning to organic cultivation”. The certification body must have the accreditation required for the standard, such as ISO 17065, NOP or IFOAM.
PAHs	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) are a group of organic compounds composed of multiple aromatic rings. They are primarily produced by the incomplete combustion of organic matter, such as engine exhaust fumes and biomass burning.
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are defined as fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom (without any H/Cl/Br/I atom attached to it), i.e., with a few noted exceptions, any chemical with at least a perfluorinated methyl group (–CF3) or a perfluorinated methylene group (–CF2–) is a PFAS, as described in the OECD recommendations.
Recycled material	Recycled material is defined in line with ISO 14021 which applies the following two categories: “Pre-consumer/commercial” is defined as material that is diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Materials that are reworked or reground, or waste that has been produced in a process, and can be recycled within the same manufacturing process that generated it, are not considered to be pre-consumer recovered material. Nordic Ecolabelling considers reworked, reground or scrap material that cannot be recycled directly in the same process, but requires reprocessing (e.g., in the form of sorting, remelting, and granulating) before it can be recycled, to be pre-consumer/commercial material. This is irrespective of whether the processing is done in-house or externally. “Post-consumer/commercial” is defined as material generated by households or commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities in their role as end-users of a product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes materials from the distribution chain.
Renewable/biobased material	A renewable material is a material that is composed of biomass and that can be continually replenished, see EN 16575:2014. Biobased material relevant for these criteria is renewable.
Residual products	Ref. EU Directive 2018/2001/EC. Residues come from agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry, or they can be processing residues. A processing residual product is a substance that is not one of the end products that the production process directly strives for. Residues must not be a direct target of the process, and the process must not be changed to intentional production of the residual product. Examples of residual products are e.g., straw, husks, pods, the non-edible part of maize, manure, and bagasse. Examples of processing residues are e.g., raw glycerine or brown lye from paper production. Palm Fatty Acid Distillate (PFAD) or Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) from palm oil is not considered a residual/waste product and can therefore not be used.
RPS-analysis	Based on the MECO analysis, an RPS tool is used to identify where ecolabelling can have the greatest effect. R represents the environmental relevance, P is the potential to reduce the environmental impact, and S is the steerability on how compliance with a requirement can be documented and followed up. The criteria contain requirements in those areas in the life cycle that have been found to have a high or medium RPS, since there is potential to achieve reduced environmental impact.
Textile floor coverings/textile floorings	Products for indoor use intended to be placed on the floor **excluding floor rugs and mats.** Both products fastened to the floor by adhesives, hooks etc. and loose laid products are included as long as the carpets may cover a floor from wall-to-wall. Typically, these products are sold on roll or as tiles and/or planks. The upper side (which faces upward from the floor) of the product must consist of at least 80% by weight of textile fibres.
TOF	Total Organic Fluorine TOF-testing: Screening test for total PFASs both known and unknown, non-specific test, includes all organofluorines

4.1 Description of the product and the production

The product, material composition, manufacturing process and suppliers/production chain must be described to know which requirements need to be met.

O1 Description of the product

The applicant must submit the following information for each product:

1. Product type (e.g. textile floor coverings-tiles/planks/on roll, floor rug or mat), trade name/ item number and if the product is aimed for the consumer or the professional market.
2. Composition of the product that is an overview of materials (e.g. wool, polyester, natural latex etc.) and chemicals used.

   For each **material** the following information must be included:

   a) Trade name/item number and material type.

   b) Supplier/manufacturer of the material.

   c) State if the material is recycled or renewable/biobased.

   d) % by weight of the material in the product related to the total weight of the product.

   e) State if material has undergone finishing such as printing, impregnating or coating.

   f) State whether raw materials, constituent products/fibers and/or carpets have an Oeko-tex standard 100 class I certificate.

   For **chemicals**, an overview list must be made as described in requirement O13 Overview of chemicals.

3. For textile floor coverings: Declaration of performance (DoP) in accordance with the EU Construction Products Regulation. For rugs/mats: Technical datasheet
4. Information on material consumption in kg/m2 carpet

- ☐ Description and composition of the product according to the list above.
- ☐ Oeko-tex standard 100 class I certificate for raw materials, constituent products and/or carpets with such an Oeko-tex certificate.
- ☐ Declaration of performance (DoP) for textile floor coverings and technical datasheet for rugs/mats.
- ☐ Material consumption in kg/m2 carpet

O2 Description of the production

The manufacturing processes and supply chain must be described. The description can be done by using a flow chart as shown in Appendix 1. For each manufacturing process, the following information must be submitted:

- The company name of the supplier which performs the process.

- Production site (full address and country) and contact person.
- The manufacturing processes performed, e.g. textile fibre production, textile dyeing or polyurethane foam production.

- Submit a description of the manufacturing processes and production chain (preferably in a flow chart), and state which suppliers perform each process. See the example in Appendix 1.
- Submit an overview of manufacturing processes with information on the type of process, the company name, production location and contact person for each process performed. See the example in Appendix 1.

4.2 Material requirements

This chapter covers:

- Two overall material requirements for carpets related to:
    - required content of renewable and/or recycled materials
    - exclusion of chlorinated plastics material
- Material requirements for textile fibres and polymers in carpets. These requirements are applicable for materials that are present with a total amount of >10% by weight of the carpet. If a material is present with a total amount of ≤ 10% by weight of the carpet, the material is exempted from requirements O5-O12. Materials used in > 10 weight% without any material requirements, is not allowed except for inorganic fillers which are abundant in nature.

The textile fibres and polymers materials covered by these criteria are:

- cotton and other natural seed fibres of cellulose, ref.O5
- wool and other keratin fibres, ref.O6 and O7
- recycled plastic, rubber and foam, ref.O8 and O9
- renewable/biobased plastic materials, ref.O10
- rubber and latex, O11
- foam (e.g. EVA and PUR), O12

If a textile fibre/polymer is certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel for Textile, hide/skins and leather, it is exempted from the material requirements for fibres and polymers.

If a textile fibre/polymer is certified with the EU Ecolabel for Textile products, it is exempted from the material requirements for fibres and polymers with the exception of requirements O9 and O11.

O3 Renewable and/or recycled raw materials

The product must meet one of the following three requirements. The product shall consist of:

1. Minimum 70% by weight of renewable materials or

2. Minimum 60% by weight recycled materials or

3. Products that consist of both renewable and recycled material shall comply with the following formula:

   $X + (7/6) \times Y \geq 70\%$ by weight

   X = Percentage by weight of renewable raw materials*

   Y = Percentage by weight of recycled raw materials*

Inorganic fillers in the product, which are abundant in nature, may be exempted from the calculation of the weight percentage of renewable and/or recycled raw materials in the carpet**.

** Recycled renewable materials do not count as both renewable and recycled raw material.*

*** This is the case for the fillers normally used in products such as kaolin, calcium carbonate, calcium magnesium carbonate, calcium sulphate, silicates and aluminium trihydrate (ATH). Nordic Ecolabelling reserves the right to assess whether a filler can be considered sufficiently abundant. Pigment does not count as fillers, but as additives.*

- State the % by weight of raw materials in the product that are respectively renewable or recycled.
- Calculations showing that the requirement is fulfilled.

O4 Chlorinated plastics

Chlorinated plastics such as PVC (polyvinyl chloride) and PVDC (polyvinylidene chloride) must not be included in a Nordic Swan Ecolabelled carpet.

- Declaration from the carpet manufacturer that the carpet is free from chlorinated plastics. Appendix 3 can be used.

O5 Cotton and other natural seed fibres of cellulose

Cotton and other natural seed fibres of cellulose must be one of the following or a combination (where the different types of certified cotton must add up to 100%) of:

- recycled
- organic cotton
- cultivated according to standard BCI (Better Cotton Initiative)
- cultivated according to standard CmiA (Cotton made in Africa)
- cultivated according to standard Fairtrade for cotton

The portions of the different types of certified cotton must add up to 100%, and all documentation shall reference the Control Body or certifier of the different standards.

- Recycled fibres: Fulfilment of the requirement is documented for recycled fibre with either a) and/or b) below:

  a) Certificate showing that the raw material is 100% recycled (post- and/or pre-consumer) with Global Recycled Standard certificate 4.0 (or later versions), Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) or other equivalent certification approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.

  b) Present documentation demonstrating that the recycled fibre was purchased as 100% recycled (post- and/or pre-consumer) and state the supplier.

- Organic cotton: Valid certificate showing that the cotton in the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product was organically cultivated in line with certain standards, ref. Table 1 Definitions. If the supplier is the holder of GOTS certification, the requirement must be documented with a transaction certificate showing that the goods supplied are GOT certified.

- BCI, CmiA or Fairtrade cotton: Documentation showing that the cotton is grown within one of the three standards BCI, CmiA or Fairtrade cotton. All documentation shall reference the Control Body or certifier of the different forms of cotton and be documented:

  - on an annual basis for purchased cotton with transaction records and/or invoices, or

  - on a final product basis (by weight) measured at spinning and/or fabrication

O6 Wool and other keratin fibres

Any wool and other keratin fibres used must originate from sheep, camels, alpaca or goats and must meet either a), b) or c):

a) certified organic wool

b) recycled wool

c) conventional wool where mulesing is not used and with documentation that the following requirement concerning pesticide content in the raw wool is fulfilled:

1. The total content of the following substances may not exceed 0.5 ppm: γ-hexachlorocyclohexane (lindane), α-hexachlorocyclohexane, β-hexachlorocyclohexane, δ-hexachlorocyclohexane, aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, p,p'-DDT and p,p'-DDD.
2. The total content of the following substances may not exceed 2 ppm: diazinon, propetamphos, chlorfenvinphos, dichlorfenthion, chlorpyriphos, fenchlorphos, dicyclanil, diflubenzuron and triflumuron.
3. Test method: The tests must be performed in accordance with IWTO Draft Test Method 59: Method for the Determination of Chemical Residues on Greasy Wool or equivalent.
4. The analysis must be performed on raw wool before wet processing and the test report must be submitted with the application. Thereafter, the applicant must have a procedure in place for annual testing in line with the requirement and for

ensuring compliance with the requirement. Nordic Ecolabelling must be informed if the requirement is not fulfilled.

5. The requirement to test for pesticide residues does not apply if documentation can show which farmers produced at least 75% by weight of the wool or keratin fibres, and those farmers can confirm that the substances named in the requirement have not been used in the areas or on the animals in question.

- Organic wool: Valid certificate showing that the wool in the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product was organically cultivated in line with certain standards, ref. Table 1 Definitions. If the supplier is the holder of GOTS certification, the requirement must be documented with a transaction certificate showing that the goods supplied are GOTS certified.

- Recycled fibre: Fulfilment of the requirement is documented for recycled fibre with either a) or b) below:

  a) Global Recycled Standard certificate 4.0 (or later versions) or Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) certificate showing that the raw material is recycled, or other equivalent certification approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.

  b) Present documentation demonstrating that the recycled fibre was purchased as recycled and state the supplier.

- Conventional wool: Fulfilment of a) and b) below:

  a) Declaration from the wool supplier that no mulesing has been used.

  b) Test report showing that the pesticide requirement has been fulfilled, plus a written procedure showing how an annual test is performed in line with the pesticide requirement, along with annual in-house checks of compliance with the requirement. Test results are to be archived and kept available for inspection by Nordic Ecolabelling. An alternative to the pesticide test is a confirmation from the farmers that the stated substances are not used, plus an overview of the portion of wool concerned.

O7 COD effluents from wool scouring plants

Effluents of COD (chemical oxygen demand) from wool scouring plants must not exceed (expressed as a 6-month average):

- 45 g/kg for fine wool (merino wool or wool fibre that is 25 microns or thinner)
- 25 g/kg for coarse wool

Wastewater that is sent to municipal or other regional treatment works is exempted.

Measurement of PCOD (particulate chemical oxygen demand), TOC (total oxygen demand) or BOD (bio-chemical oxygen demand) may also be used, if a correlation to COD is evident.

Test method must be according to ISO 6060.

- Test report from the wool scouring plant showing that the requirement is fulfilled. Alternatively, a valid GOTS, Nordic Swan Ecolabel or EU Ecolabel certificate may be used as documentation.

O8 Recycled plastic, rubber and foam

Recycled polymer materials/fibers both synthetic and natural must not have undergone any recycling process approved by EFSA's* and/or FDA's** and must meet either requirement a) or b) below.

a) Global Recycled Standard certificate or Recycled Claim Standard certificate showing that the raw material is recycled, or other equivalent certification approved by Nordic Ecolabelling.

b) By giving the name of the recycled raw material producer, by documenting that the feedstock used is recycled material and by stating the share of recycled material included in the raw material.

** In line with article 9 from Commission Regulation (EC) No 2022/1616 of 22 September 2022 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods*

*** In line with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21: Food and Drugs, PART 177 – INDIRECT FOOD ADDITIVES: POLYMERS*

☐ Declaration from the producer of the recycled polymer material that the material has not undergone any recycling process approved by EFSA or FDA.

☐ a) Certificate from an independent certifier of the supply chain (e.g., Global Recycled Standard or Recycled Claim Standard) or

b) Documentation in the form of an invoice or delivery note from the manufacturer of the carpets stating that recycled material has been purchased to produce the product. Documentation in form of a statement from the recycled material producer, showing that the feedstock used is recycled material and showing the share of recycled raw material contained in the raw material.

O9 Prohibited substances in recycled plastic, rubber and foam

Recycled polymer materials/fibers both synthetic and natural must not contain more than 100 ppm of the following substances:

- halogenated flame retardants
- cadmium
- lead
- mercury
- chromium VI
- arsenic
- phthalates
- the following polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs):

  Benzo[A]Pyrene, Benzo[E]Pyrene, Benzo[A]Anthracene, Dibenzo[A,H]Anthracene, Benzo[B]Fluoranthene, Benzo[J]Fluoranthene, Benzo[K]Fluoranthene, Chrysene
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) given as total organic fluorine (TOF)

- A test report (XRF, X-ray fluorescence, GC-MS or equivalent method) from the supplier of the recycled polymer material showing compliance with the requirement. Test of PFAS must be done with Combustion Ion Chromatography (CIC), and the result given as total organic fluorine (TOF).

  Alternatively, the requirement can be documented with traceability to the source to substantiate that these substances are not included.

  Alternatively, an Oeko-tex standard 100 class I certificate for the raw material or the carpet, can also be used as documentation.

- Alternative documentation requirements may be used for certain materials/fibres:

  - Material/fibres from PET bottles original approved for food contact when this can be documented by the fibre supplier.
  - Material/fibres from chemically recycled polymers, if it can be documented that the process ensures, that the requirement limits are complied with.
  - Material/fibres, where it can be documented by the fibre supplier that the fibers originate from type I eco-labelled products.

O10 Renewable/biobased plastic materials

Raw materials used in the production of biobased polymers must meet the following requirements.

Palm oil and soy

Palm oil (incl. PFAD (Palm Fatty Acid Distillate)), soybean oil and soy flour must not be used as raw material.

Other raw materials

The origin of the raw materials must either comply with a) or b):

a) Waste or residual products defined in accordance with (EU) Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EC. There must be traceability back to the production / process where the residual production occurred.

b) Certified by one of the following certification schemes:

   - Bonsucro EU
   - ISCC EU or ISCC Plus
   - A standard/certification scheme that meets the requirements in 0.

   Primary feedstock must in addition not be genetically modified according to EU directive 2001/18/EC.

   The supplier of the bio-based polymer must have a valid chain of custody (CoC) certificate according to the standard by which the raw material is certified. Traceability must at least be ensured by mass balance. Book and claim systems are not accepted.

- Declaration by the producer of the polymer, that palm oil (incl. PFAD (Palm Fatty Acid Distillate)), soybean oil and soy flour are not used as raw materials for the biobased polymer.

- For waste and residual products: Documentation from the polymer producer which shows that the requirement's definition of waste or residual products is met, as well as traceability stating where the waste or residual product comes from.

- For certified raw materials: Indicate which certification system the raw materials are certified by. A copy of a valid CoC certificate/certificate number from the supplier.
- For certified raw materials: Documentation in form of invoices or delivery notes documenting the purchase of certified bio-based polymer for use in Nordic Swan Ecolabelled products.
- For certified raw materials: Declaration stating that the primary feedstock has not been genetically modified (this also applies to mass balance approach).

O11 Rubber, synthetic latex and natural latex

Virgin synthetic and natural rubber and latex must meet the following requirements. Natural rubber/latex is exempted from the requirement for content of 1,3-butadiene.

1,3-butadiene

The content of 1,3-butadiene in synthetic rubber/latex must be less than 1 mg/kg rubber/latex and must be determined using test method EN 13130-4.

PAHs

The sum of the PAHs concentration in rubber/latex must be below 10 mg/kg and each individual PAH concentration must be below 1.0 mg/kg*.

The requirement concerns the following PAHs:

Substance name	CAS No.	Substance name	CAS No.
Benzo[A]Pyrene	50-32-8	Benzo[A]Pyrene	50-32-8
Benzo[E]Pyrene	192-97-2	Benzo[E]Pyrene	192-97-2
Benzo[A]Anthracene	56-55-3	Acenaphthylene	208-96-8
Dibenzo[A, H]Anthracene	53-70-3	Acenaphthene	83-32-9
Benzo[B]Fluoranthene	53-70-3	Anthracene	120-12-7
Benzo[J]Fluoranthene	205-82-3	Fluorene	86-73-7
Benzo[K]Fluoranthene	207-08-9	Naphthaline	91-20-3
Chrysene	218-01-9	Phenanthrene	85-01-8
Benzo[ghi]perylene	191-24-2	Fluoranthene	206-44-0
Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene	193-39-5	Pyrene	129-00-0

**The rubber/latex material must be tested in accordance with ISO 18287 or ZEK 01.2-08 (GC/MS).*

Nitrosamines

The following requirements must be met for nitrosamines in rubber and latex material:

- The content of nitrosamines must not exceed 0.05 mg/kg rubber/latex.
- The total content of nitrosamine-soluble substances must not exceed 1 mg/kg rubber/latex.

- Test results and test reports according to the requirement
- Alternatively, an Oeko-tex standard 100 class I certificate can be used to document the PAH content.

O12 Foam

Production plants for virgin foam must meet this requirement for COD-effluents to water. Effluents of oxygen demanding substances to water from the production of plastic/rubber foam (e.g. EVA and PUR), must be reduced by 90% measured as COD*. The reduction may be achieved through on-site or off-site treatment. In the case of off-site treatment, the average treatment level of the effluent treatment plant may be used.

**COD must be analysed according to ISO 6060.*

- Description of how the COD effluents from foam production is treated and how COD effluents are measured and monitored.
- Test report showing that the limit value for COD is fulfilled.

4.3 Chemical requirements

The chemical requirements apply to all chemical products and their ingoing substances used:

- in the materials of the carpet*
- for treatment of the carpet or material
- for the assembly of the carpet

** For polymer materials the requirements do not include the polymer production itself. Additives in polymer materials shall comply with requirement O16. The requirement applies to additives irrespective of whether the material is manufactured of virgin or recycled raw materials.*

Carpet materials are for example textile fibers, foam, rubber and plastic. Treatment or assembly chemicals are for example surface treatments, impregnation, pigments, bleaching chemicals and adhesives. The chemical requirements must be met regardless of whether the chemicals are used at supplier sites or at the manufacturer of the carpet.

Impurities are not regarded as ingoing substances and are exempt from the requirements. Ingoing substances and impurities are defined in the definitions section.

For materials or carpets with an Oeko-tex standard 100 class I certificate, this certificate will be sufficient documentation instead of Appendix 5 for the following chemical requirements O14, O15, O16, O18 and O19.

O13 Overview of chemicals

An overview/a comprehensive list or separate lists of chemicals used shall be made for each production process and/or supplier with the following information for each chemical product:

- trade name.
- the function of the chemical.
- the process step/part of the carpet in which the chemical product is used.

- the supplier/producer using the chemical product.

All chemical products shall be stated and documented with a safety data sheet.

- List of chemicals for every production process and/or supplier.
- A safety data sheet for the product in compliance with current European legislation (Annex II of REACH, Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006).
- If an Oeko-tex certificate will be used to document the chemical requirements: Oeko-tex standard 100 class I certificate for the raw materials, constituent products and/or carpets in question

O14 Classification of chemical products

Chemical products used in the production of the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled product must not be classified with the hazard codes listed in the table below, in accordance with CLP Regulation (EC) 1272/2008.

Table 2 Prohibited classifications of chemical products

Classification	Hazard class and category	Hazard code
Hazardous to the aquatic environment	Aquatic Acute 1 Aquatic Chronic 1 Aquatic Chronic 2	H400 H410 H411
Hazardous to the ozone layer	Ozone	H420
Acute toxicity	Acute Tox 1 or 2 Acute Tox 1 or 2 Acute Tox 1 or 2 Acute Tox 3 Acute Tox 3 Acute Tox 3	H300 H310 H330 H301 H311 H331
Specific target organ toxicity – single or repeated exposure	STOT SE 1 STOT RE 1	H370 H372
Respiratory or skin sensitisation	Resp. Sens. 1, 1A or 1B Skin Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	H334 H317
Carcinogenicity*	Carc. 1A or 1B Carc. 2	H350 H351
Germ cell mutagenicity*	Muta. 1A or 1B Muta. 2	H340 H341
Reproductive toxicity*	Repr. 1A or 1B Repr. 2 Lact.	H360 H361 H362
Endocrine disruption for human health	ED HH 1 ED HH 2	EUH380 EUH381
Endocrine disruption for the environment	ED ENV 1 ED ENV 2	EUH430 EUH431

Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic properties	PBT	EUH440
Very persistent, very bioaccumulative properties	vPvB	EUH441
Persistent, Mobile and Toxic properties	PMT	EUH450
Very Persistent, Very Mobile properties	vPvM	EUH451

**Including all combinations of stated exposure route and stated specific effect. For example, H350 also covers the classification H350i. Note that the responsibility for correct classification lies with the manufacturer.*

Exemptions apply for:

- Non-disperse dyes classified as H334 and/or H317, provided that non-dusting formulations are used or that automatic dosing is used.
    - If manual filling of automatic dosing systems is used, the manual handling must be carried out using the correct personal protective equipment in accordance with the safety data sheet (SDS) and/or by using technical measures such as local extraction/ventilation.

† A declaration from the chemical manufacturer or supplier, in accordance with Appendix 5. For exempted non-disperse dyes:

- Declaration according to Appendix 5 that non-dusting formulations of these are used or that automatic dosing is used with or without manual filling.
- If manual filling of automatic dosing systems is used: Routine for the use of personal protective equipment describing manually handling of dusty colours and/or a description of technical measures such as local extraction/ventilation.

O15 Classification of ingoing substances

Ingoing substances in the chemical product used in production must not be classified with the hazard codes listed in the table below, in accordance with CLP Regulation (EC)1272/2008.

Table 3 Prohibited classifications of ingoing substances

CLP Regulation 1272/2008		
Hazard statement	**Hazard class and category**	**Hazard code**
Carcinogenicity*	Carc. 1A or 1B Carc. 2	H350 H351
Germ cell mutagenicity*	Muta. 1A or 1B Muta. 2	H340 H341
Reproductive toxicity*	Repr. 1A or 1B Repr. 2 Lact.	H360 H361 H362
Endocrine disruption for human health**	ED HH 1 ED HH 2	EUH380 EUH381

Endocrine disruption for the environment**	ED ENV 1 ED ENV 2	EUH430 EUH431
Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic properties** Very Persistent, Very Bioaccumulative properties**	PBT vPvB	EUH440 EUH441
Persistent, Mobile and Toxic properties Very Persistent, Very Mobile properties	PMT vPvM	EUH450 EUH451

**Including all combinations of stated exposure route and stated specific effect. For example, H350 also covers the classification H350i.*

*** See also requirement O16 or additional requirements on potential or identified endocrine disruptors and PBT/vPvB substances.*

☐ A declaration from the chemical manufacturer or supplier, in accordance with Appendix 5.

O16 Prohibited substances

The chemical product must not contain any of the following substances:

- Substances on the REACH Candidate list of SVHC substances http://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table
- PBT and vPvB as defined in REACH Annex XIII, including those under ECHA PBT assessment https://echa.europa.eu/da/pbt
- Potential or identified endocrine disruptors, listed in any of the following "Endocrine Disruptor Lists" List I; II and III

  Note: Substances moved to "Substances no longer on list" and not present on Lists I-III, are no longer excluded, except for those on sublist II where concern remains. Nordic Ecolabelling will assess these on a case-by-case basis.
- Halogenated organic compounds

  Exemptions* for:

  Pigments that meet the EU's requirement concerning colourants in food packaging under Resolution AP (89) point 2.5.

  **Perfluorinated and Polyfluorinated alkyl substances are covered by their own bulletin and are not included in the exemption*.
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)*

  * PFAS: as any substance that contains at least one fully fluorinated methyl (CF_3-) or methylene (-CF_2-) carbon atom (without any H/Cl/Br/I attached to it).
- Bitumen (CAS no. 8052-42-4)
- Aziridine (CAS No. 151-56-4) and polyazidirines
- Bisphenols and bisphenol derivatives, defined as the 34 bisphenols identified by ECHA[1] for further EU regulatory risk management due to known or potential endocrine disruption or reproductive toxicity.

[1] EC/List No. 201-245-8 (BPA), 201-025-1 (BPB), 401-720-1 (4,4'-Isobutylethylidenediphenol), 216-036-7 (BPAF) and its 8 salts (278-305-5; 425-060-9; 443-330-4; 468-740-0; 469-080-6; 479-100-5; 943-265-6; 947-368-7), 201-

- Organotin compounds
- Alkylphenols (AP) (e.g. butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA, CAS No. 25013-16-5), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT, CAS No. 128-37-0), alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEOs) and other alkylphenol derivates (APD)
- Phthalates (Esters of 1,2-benzenedicarboxylic acid (orthophthalic acid, CAS No. 88-99-3))
- Pigments, dyes and additives containing lead, tin, cadmium, chromium VI and mercury, and their compounds
- D4 (octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, CAS No. 556-67-2), D5 (decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, CAS No. 541-02-6), D6 (dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane, CAS No. 540-97-6)
- Azo dyes that may release aromatic amines with carcinogenic properties listed in Appendix 6.

T̄ A declaration from the chemical manufacturer or supplier, in accordance with Appendix 5.

O17 Antibacterial substances and biocides

The following substances, which may have a biocidal and/or antibacterial effect in fibre or the finished carpet, are not permitted:

- Antibacterial substances (incl. silver ions, nano silver and nano copper) and/or
- Biocides in the form of pure active ingredients or as biocidal products.

Naturally occurring antibacterial effects in materials are not subject to the prohibition.

T̄ Declaration from the carpet manufacturer that the requirement has been fulfilled. Appendix 3 can be used.

O18 Nanomaterials

Nanomaterials/-particles* must not be added or be present in the product.

** Nanomaterials/-particles are defined according to the EU Commission Recommendation on the Definition of Nanomaterial (2022/C 229/01): 'Nanomaterial' means a natural, incidental or manufactured material consisting of solid particles that are present, either on their own or as identifiable constituent particles in aggregates or agglomerates, and where 50 % or more of these particles in the number-based size distribution fulfil at least one of the following conditions:*

(a) one or more external dimensions of the particle are in the size range 1 nm to 100 nm;

250-5 (BPS), 201-240-0 (BPC), 204-279-1 (TBMD), 201-618-5 (6,6'-di-tert-butyl-4,4'-butylidenedi-m-cresol), 242-895-2, 248-607-1, 405-520-5 (D8), 217-121-1 (DAB), 227-033-5 (TMBPA), 210-658-2 (BPF), 411-570-9, 277-962-5 (contains BPS, 500-086-4 (contains BPA), 500-263-6 (contains BPA), 500-607-5 (contains BPA), 701-362-9, 904-653-0 (contains BPA), 908-912-9 (contains BPF), 926-571-4 (contains BPA), 931-252-8 (contains BPA), 941-992-3 (contains BPS), 943-503-9 (contains BPA).
[1] Assessment of regulatory needs: Bisphenols. ECHA – 16 December 2021: Section 2.1: Bisphenols for which further EU RRM is proposed https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/5e60f2fe-12d0-7f6b-5868-f199cfd7f984

(b) the particle has an elongated shape, such as a rod, fibre or tube, where two external dimensions are smaller than 1 nm and the other dimension is larger than 100 nm;

(c) the particle has a plate-like shape, where one external dimension is smaller than 1 nm and the other dimensions are larger than 100 nm.

- Appendix 3 or equivalent declaration from the manufacturer of the product.
- A declaration from the chemical manufacturer or supplier, in accordance with Appendix 5.

O19 Metal complex dyes and pigments

The following requirement relates to the dyeing of yarn and fibres by the manufacturers and their suppliers:

Only metal complex dyes and pigments based on copper that make up a maximum of 5% by weight may be used.

- A declaration from the chemical manufacturer or supplier, in accordance with Appendix 5.
- Technical datasheets or test reports showing fulfilments of the requirement.

4.4 Circular economy requirements

Note! Producers of:

- **textile floor coverings of tiles and/or planks** are required to document two of the circular economy requirements in this chapter where requirement O21 is mandatory.
- **textile floor coverings on roll** are required to document two of the circular economy requirements in this chapter.
- **rugs and mats** are required to document one of the circular economy requirements in this chapter.

O20 Design for separation

The carpet must be designed in such a way that the main material types can be separated, e.g. by separating textile fibres from backing, to facilitate recycling at the carpet's end-of-life. To show that the material types can be separated, the manufacturer must conduct tests at the manufacturing site (or an associated facility) where the main materials are separated and subsequently recycled.

- Documentation showing that materials can be separated and recycled.

O21 Take-back system

The manufacturer must have a fully operational take-back system for used carpets in order to reuse the carpet or recycle the carpet material. The take-back system must, as a minimum, cover the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled carpets, and the system must be able to receive carpet for reuse or recycling continuously.

- Reuse of carpets: The manufacturer must have a take-back system for removal, cleaning, sorting, repairing, testing and control of Nordic Swan Ecolabelled carpets for them to be approved for reuse.
- Recycling of carpet material: The manufacturer must have a tack-back system where the carpet materials are separated, and those materials suitable for recycling must be recycled into new carpets onsite or at a recycling facility.

A description of the take-back system must include:

- Information on the website explaining the process of the take-back system, including a description of how the carpets are transported and who organises the transport (the manufacturer or customer).
- Inspection or control of the carpet, including which parameters are controlled.
- For reuse: A description of how the carpets are prepared for reuse.
- For recycling: A description of the separation of materials and different methods of recycling. If recycling is performed at a recycling facility, there must be a description of where or which company performs the recycling of the different materials, as well as an agreement ensuring that the same quantity of recycled material is returned to the carpet factory as was originally delivered.

T̄ A description of the take-back system, including all bullet points.

O22 Increased use of renewable and/or recycled raw materials

The product must meet one of the following three requirements. The product shall consist of:

1. Minimum 85% by weight of renewable materials or
2. Minimum 75% by weight recycled materials or
3. Products that consist of both renewable and recycled material shall comply with the following formula:

   X + (8,5/7,5)×Y ≥ 85% by weight

   X = Percentage by weight of renewable raw materials*

   Y = Percentage by weight of recycled raw materials*

Inorganic fillers in the product which are abundant in nature may be exempted from the calculation of the weight percentage of renewable and/or recycled raw materials the carpet**.

** Recycled renewable materials do not count as both renewable and recycled raw material.*

*** This is the case for the fillers normally used in products such as kaolin, calcium carbonate, calcium magnesium carbonate, calcium sulphate, silicates and aluminium trihydrate (ATH). Nordic Ecolabelling reserves the right to assess whether a filler can be considered sufficiently abundant. Pigment does not count as fillers, but as additives.*

- State the % by weight of raw materials in the product that are respectively renewable or recycled.
- Calculations showing that the requirement is fulfilled.

4.5 Emissions to indoor air and quality requirements

Requirements O23 and O24 must be documented for all carpet types, that is textile floor coverings, rugs and mats.

O23 Emissions to indoor air from the product

Emissions from all carpets must not exceed the limit values in Table 4. The tests shall be carried out in accordance with ISO 16000-3/-6/-9 or EN 16516 and must be performed by an independent third party.

Table 4 Limit values for carpet emissions

Substances	Limit value after 28 days in ug/m3*
TVOC (C6-C16)	100
SVOC (C16-C23)	30
Formaldehyde	10
Carcinogenic VOC in category 1A and 1B	1

**If the limit values in the table are met for a period shorter than 28 days, this is accepted.*

Other analysis methods than those stated in the requirement may be used, provided that an independent third party can verify the correlation between the test methods.

- Analysis report, including the measurement methods, results and measurement frequency. It must be clearly stated which method/standard was used, the laboratory that conducted the analysis, and that the analysis laboratory is an independent third party. Please refer to the laboratory requirements in Appendix 2.

O24 Durability and classification of carpets

Carpets must be classified in accordance with EN 1307, and must at least achieve the following classes:

- Use class 33 for textile floor coverings intended for commercial use.
- Use class 32 for rugs and mats intended for commercial use.
- Use class 23 for both textile floor coverings and rugs and mats intended for domestic use.

Testing must be performed by an independent, accredited testing institute. Internal test laboratories can be approved under given conditions, see Appendix 2.

The testing must be carried out in accordance with the applicable version of the standard. If a standard is revised and updated during the period of validity of the license, it is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the new applicable version of the standard are met.

In cases where the carpet is intended for both commercial and domestic use, the product must meet the higher requirements for commercial use.

Other relevant standards might be accepted if the testing institute can provide documentation to show that the chosen test is equivalent and will give approximately the same results.

- Technical data sheet, declaration of performance or other documents where the use class is clearly stated.

O25 Customer information

Manufacturers of Nordic Swan Ecolabelled products must make the following information available to customers through a website or brochure:

- Information on how to maintain the carpet. This includes the recommended method and frequency of cleaning. If cleaning products are recommended, they must preferably be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled.
- The use class of the product.
- Instructions on how to install textile floor coverings. This does not apply to mats and rugs.
- If the carpet is glued to the subfloor, the manufacturer must recommend an adhesive. The adhesive must preferably be Nordic Swan Ecolabelled.
- Information on how the carpet should be handled at end-of-life. There must be information for products that are suitable for recycling through a take-back system.

- Documentation showing where all bullet points above are made available.

4.6 Social and ethical requirements

Carpets manufacturers with production and/or supplier sites in regions or countries with more than a low risk for breach of human rights, must comply with the requirements in this section. Refer Appendix 7 for guidance on assessment of risk.

The requirements in this section are meant to prevent and address adverse impacts across the value chain of licensed products. The requirements are grounded in key international standards on human rights due diligence adopted by the UN and the OECD. These soft law standards are referenced in the draft due diligence obligation in the EU, meant to ensure coherence for companies across existing and proposed EU initiatives on responsible business conduct.

The requirements are also in step with existing practice in the sector, including the risk-based approach to tackle the most salient risks to people. Licensees are given a broad range of approaches to manage sustainability risk, and for the Nordic Ecolabelling to assess compliance, rather than a heavy reliance on contractual assurances and audits/verifications.

O26 Human rights due diligence

The licensee shall employ ongoing risk-based due diligence in line with the methodology and expectations in the UN Guiding Principles and the OECD Guidelines, which includes the fundamental ILO Conventions.

In addition, specific requirements, refer O27 and O28, will apply for carpet production sites and dyeing plants.

The licensee shall inform suppliers what is expected of them, including a commitment to support supplier's compliance by engaging in responsible purchasing practices.

The licensee is responsible for engaging with the suppliers to remediate any labour issues that may arise during production and for taking commercially reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with the UN Guiding Principles and OECD Guidelines, and local labour and safety laws.

The licensee shall strive for a 'responsible exit' where human rights impacts are severe, and the licensee lacks leverage to address them. Before ceasing business, the licensee shall consider any additional human rights consequences of such termination.

The Nordic Ecolabel may withdraw the license as a last resort, if the licensee cannot show evidence that they are engaging to influence the relevant entities that are causing harm.

See Appendix 8 for resources to develop a human rights due diligence policy.

- Signed application form.
- Nordic Ecolabelling may request copies of written efforts to engage, influence, support, reward and verify improvements at sites if needed, as per Compliance Action Plans (CAPs) from audits, certification or multi-stakeholder initiatives or other social compliance and safety monitoring programmes.

O27 Preventive safety measures

The licensee shall, in countries or regions where it is available, commit to only source products/services from carpet production sites and dyeing plants participating in the International Accord for Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry.

- Signed application form to join the International Accord if relevant to source from sites in countries or regions covered by the Accord.

O28 Assessment of safety and labour conditions

The licensee shall conduct regular risk assessment of the carpet production sites and dyeing plants, updated whenever significant new risks arise, at least every 12 months, that includes:

- Desk-based assessment of the latest human right and environment-related context in the region or country, sector, and production type, and any indicators of risk at the sites; and
- Initial onsite assessment of the actual situation at sites.

The licensee needs to consider their own potential contributions to adverse impacts (for example their own purchasing practices) and whether there are adequate incentives for a supplier to share rather than hide problems from them.

See Appendix 7 for resources for a desk-based assessment. See Appendix 9 for guidance on measures to verify compliance and respect for human rights onsite.

The onsite assessment can be done through either a), b) or c):

a) Reviewing a report from a recent (past 3 months) assessment by the multi-stakeholder initiative programme. See Appendix 10 for approved programmes.

b) Reviewing a social audit from another buyer from the same supplier/site, provided it meets the audit methodology requirements, see below.

c) Commissioning a social audit. Nordic Ecolabelling will accept audits conducted using SLCP (Social and Labor Convergence Program) or SMETA (based on the ETI Base Code). SA8000 (first year) or a BSCI audit (first year) will be accepted if the report is provided in full (as well as the certificate) and if the audit has been conducted within the last year.

- Submit the site(s) initial assessment or monitoring report(s) of actual site labour conditions (options a-c above).
- If the exemption is applicable, submit the desk-based risk assessment together with verification of contact with a relevant trade union.

4.7 Licence maintenance

The purpose of the licence maintenance is to ensure that fundamental quality assurance is dealt with appropriately.

O29 Customer complaints

The licensee must guarantee that the quality of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel product or service does not deteriorate during the validity period of the licence. Therefore, the licensee must keep an archive over customer complaints.

Note that the original routine must be in one Nordic language or in English.

- Upload your company’s routine for handling and archiving customer complaints.

O30 Traceability

The licensee must be able to trace the Nordic Swan Ecolabel products in the production. A manufactured / sold product should be able to trace back to the occasion (time and date) and the location (specific factory) and, in relevant cases, also which machine / production line where it was produced. In addition, it should be possible to connect the product with the actual raw material used.

You can upload your company’s routine or a description of the actions to ensure traceability in your company.

- Please upload your routine or a description.

5 Criteria version history

Nordic Ecolabelling adopted version 2.0 of the criteria for textile floor coverings and rugs/mats on 12 November 2025. The criteria are valid until 28 February 2031.

6 How to apply and regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling

Application and costs

For information about the application process and fees for this product group, please refer to the respective national website. For contact information see the beginning of this document.

The application consists of an application form/web form and documentation showing that the requirements are fulfilled.

Licence validity

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence is valid providing the criteria are fulfilled and until the criteria expire. The validity period of the criteria may be prolonged or adjusted, in which case the licence is automatically prolonged, and the licensee informed.

Revised criteria shall be published at least one year prior to the expiry of the present criteria. The licensee is then offered the opportunity to renew their licence.

Responsibility for Compliance with Applicable Legislation

When applying for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, the applicant/licensee confirms compliance with all current regulatory requirements related to both the exterior and interior environment in connection with the production and handling of the product(s) covered by the application. Furthermore, the applicant declares that all applicable regulatory requirements within the Nordic region are met for the product(s). Compliance with these regulations is a prerequisite for obtaining a license.

On-site inspection

In connection with handling of the application, Nordic Ecolabelling normally performs on-site inspection visit/-s to ensure adherence to the requirements. For such an inspection, data used for calculations, original copies of submitted certificates, test records, purchase statistics, and similar documents that support the application must be available for examination.

Follow-up inspections

Nordic Ecolabelling may decide to check whether licence holders fulfil Nordic Ecolabelling requirements during the licence period. This may involve a site visit, random sampling, or similar test.

The licence may be revoked if it is evident that licence holders do not meet the requirements.

Random samples may also be taken in-store and analysed by an independent laboratory. If the requirements are not met, Nordic Ecolabelling may charge the analysis costs to the licensee.

Queries

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling if you have any queries or require further information. See contact info in the beginning of this document. Further information and assistance (such as calculation sheets or electronic application help) is available. Visit the relevant national website for further information.

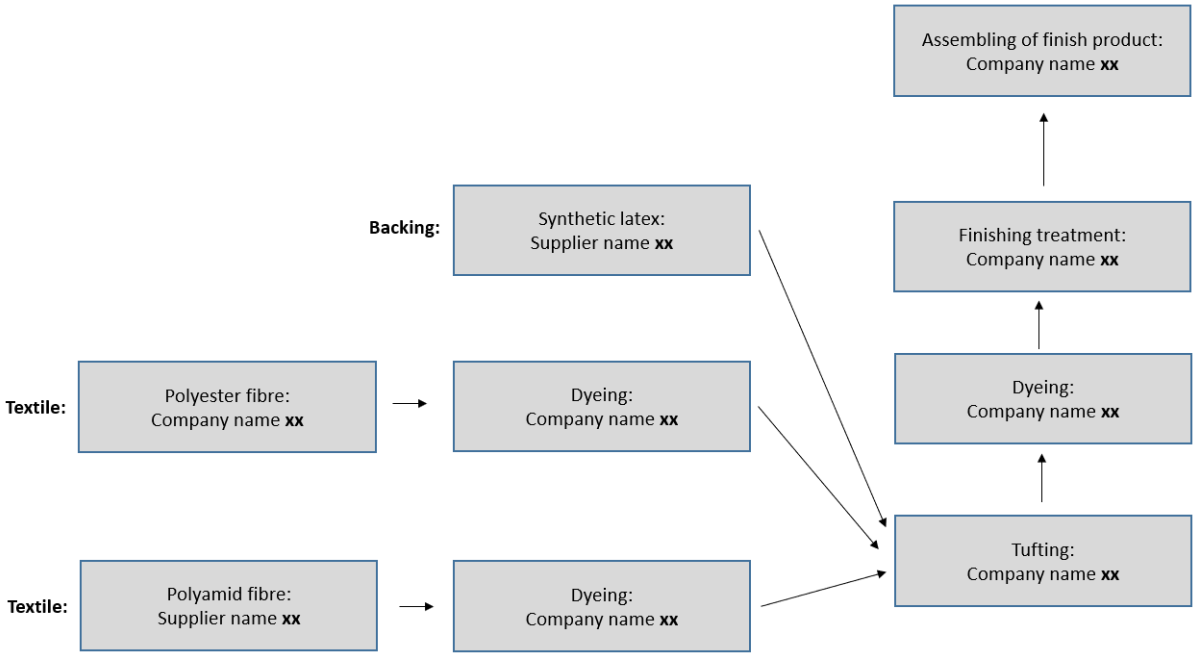
Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of products

When the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is used on products the licence number shall be included.

More information on graphical guidelines, regulations and fees can be found at www.nordic-swan-ecolabel.org/regulations

Appendix 1 Manufacturing process and suppliers

Example of flow chart for the manufacturing process:



List of suppliers:

Company name	Production site (full address)	Contact person (name, email and phone)	Manufacturing process (e.g. dyeing, surface treatment etc.)

Appendix 2 Laboratories and methods for testing and analysis

General requirements for test and analysis laboratories

Tests must be carried out in a correct and competent way. The analysis laboratory/test institute must be impartial and professional. If accreditation is not separately required, the test and/or analysis laboratory must comply with the general requirements of the EN ISO 17025 standard for the quality control of test and calibration laboratories or have official GLP status.

The applicant's own testing laboratory may be approved for analysis and testing if:

- the authorities monitor the sampling and analysis process, or if
- the manufacturer has a quality management system encompassing sampling and analysis and has been certified to ISO 9001 or ISO 9002, or if
- the manufacturer can demonstrate agreement between a first-time test conducted at the manufacturer's own laboratory and testing carried out in parallel at an independent test institute, and that the manufacturer takes samples according to a set sampling plan.

Test method for COD effluents

COD content shall be tested in accordance with ISO 6060 (Water quality — Determination of the chemical oxygen demand) or equivalent. If another analysis method is used, the licensee must show that it is equivalent. An analysis of PCOD or BOD may also be used as verification if a correlation with COD can be demonstrated. The method for measuring TOC is ISO 8245 Guidelines for the determination of total organic carbon (TOC) and dissolved organic carbon (DOC).

Sample frequency: Effluents to water are calculated as the annual average value and are based on at least one representative daily sample per week. Alternatively, a sampling frequency set by the authorities may also be approved.

Sampling: Water samples must be taken after the process wastewater has been treated in any internal water treatment plant. The flow at the time of sampling must be indicated. If the process wastewater is externally purified with other wastewater, the analysis result should be reduced by the documented efficiency of the COD in the external water treatment plant. The analyses must be carried out on unfiltered and unsedimented samples in accordance with standard ISO 6060.

Cleaning quality of textile floor coverings

Prior to testing, the carpet's cleanliness shall be examined by Method A or Method B. If the result gives a dust index exceeding 0.0 the carpet shall be cleaned by vacuuming until the result is dust index 0.0.

The carpet should be smudged with 2.0 g/m2 test dust of type "AC Spark Plug, Fine Air Cleaner Test dust from natural Arizona dust", which shall give a dust index of about 30% (Method A)/ approx. 1.5% (method B).

The carpet shall be vacuumed with a Nilfisk Advance GU 350A vacuum cleaner (900 W) or equivalent, with carpet nozzle (without brushes). Nozzles shall run 1x over the surface with a speed of 0.1 m/sec.

Residual dust is measured by Method A or Method B.

Appendix 3 Information about the product

This appendix shall be completed and signed by the textile floor covering/carpet/rug/mat manufacturer.

Manufacturer:
Name of the product(s):

Chlorinated plastics

Is the textile floor covering/carpet/rug/mat free from chlorinated plastics (PVC/vinyl and PVDC/polyvinylidene chloride)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Antibacterial substances and biocides

Has any of the below substances (see a and b below) been added to fibres or to the finished textile floor covering/carpet/rug/mat surface for the purpose of achieving a disinfectant or antibacterial treatment/surface? ☐ Yes ☐ No

a) Antibacterial substances (including silver ions, nano silver and nano copper)
b) Biocides in the form of pure active substances or as biocidal products

Naturally occurring antibacterial effects in materials are not subject to the prohibition.

Nanomaterials/-particles

Does the textile floor covering/carpet/rug/mat contain nanomaterials/-particles? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature of textile floor covering/carpet/rug/mat manufacturer:

Date	Company
Signature by contact person	
Name of contact person	Phone and e-mail

Appendix 4 Directions for raw material standards and certification schemes

Nordic Ecolabelling sets requirements on the standards to which feedstock is certified. These requirements are described below. Each individual raw material standard or certification scheme is reviewed by Nordic Ecolabelling as to fulfilment of the requirements. When a raw material standard is revised, it is re-reviewed.

Requirements on raw material standards

- The standard must balance economic, ecological and social interests and comply with the Rio Declaration's forestry principles, Agenda 21 and the Forest Principles, and respect relevant international conventions and agreements.
- The standard must contain absolute requirements and promote and contribute towards sustainable cultivation of raw materials. Nordic Ecolabelling places special emphasis on the standard including effective requirements to protect the forest from illegal felling and that the requirements protect the biodiversity of the forest.
- The standard must be available to the general public. The standard must have been developed in an open process in which stakeholders with ecological, economic and social interests have been invited to participate.

The requirements related to standards are formulated as process requirements. The basis is that if stakeholders agree on the economic, social and environmental aspects of the forestry standard, this safeguards an acceptable requirement level.

If a standard is developed or approved by stakeholders with ecological, economic and social interests, the standard may maintain an acceptable standard. Accordingly, Nordic Ecolabelling requires that the standard balances these three interests and that representatives from all three areas are invited to participate in development of the standard.

The standard must set absolute requirements that must be fulfilled for the certification of the forestry. This ensures that the forest management fulfils an acceptable level regards the environment. When Nordic Ecolabelling requires that the standard shall "promote and contribute towards sustainable cultivation", the standard must be assessed and revised regularly to initiate process improvement and successively reduce environmental impact.

Requirements on certification system

- The certification system must be open, have significant national or international credibility and be able to verify that the requirements in the forestry standard are fulfilled.

Requirements on certification body

- The certification body must be independent, credible and capable of verifying that the requirements of the standard have been fulfilled. The certification body must also be able to communicate the results and to facilitate the effective implementation of the standard.

The purpose of certification is to ensure that the requirements regarding raw material standards are fulfilled. The certification system must be designed to verify that the requirements of the forest standard are fulfilled. The method used for certification must be repeatable and applicable to forestry. Certification must be in respect to a specific raw material standard. The forest must be inspected prior to certification.

Requirements on Chain of Custody (CoC) certification

- Chain of Custody certification must be issued by an accredited, competent third party (as for forest certification).
- The system shall stipulate requirements regarding the chain of custody that assure traceability, documentation and controls throughout the production chain.

Documentation

Copy of raw material standard, name, address and telephone number to the organization who has worked out the standard and audit rapports.

References to persons who represents stakeholders with ecological, economic and social interests who have been invited to participate.

Nordic Ecolabelling may request further documents to examine whether the requirements of the forestry standard and certification system in question can be approved.

Appendix 5 Declaration of chemicals

To be used in conjunction with an application for a licence for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel of textile floor coverings and rugs/mats (i.e.carpets).

This declaration shall be completed and signed by the manufacturer of the chemical product based on the best of their knowledge at the given time, also based on information from raw material manufacturers and available knowledge on the chemical product with reservations for new advances and new knowledge. Should such new knowledge arise, the undersigned is obliged to submit an updated declaration to Nordic Ecolabelling.

This declaration shall be filled out for chemical products used:

- in the materials of the carpet*
- for treatment of the carpet or material
- for the assembly of the carpet

** For polymer materials the requirements do not include the polymer production itself. Additives in polymer materials shall comply only with the prohibited substances list. The requirement applies to additives irrespective of whether the material is manufactured of virgin or recycled raw materials.*

Treatment or assembly chemicals are for example surface treatments, impregnation, pigments, bleaching chemicals and adhesives. The chemical requirements must be met regardless of whether the chemicals are used at supplier sites or at the manufacturer of the carpet.

Manufacturer of the chemical product:
Name of the chemical product:
Function of the chemical product:

The chemical requirements in the criteria document and accompanying appendices apply to all chemical products and their ingoing substances used in the Nordic Swan Ecolabelled carpet. Impurities are not regarded as ingoing substances and are exempt from the requirements. Ingoing substances and impurities are defined below.

Ingoing substances: *All substances* in the chemical product regardless of amount, including additives (e.g. preservatives and stabilizers) from the raw materials. Substances released from ingoing substances (e.g. biocidal active substances generated by preservatives, such as formaldehyde) are also regarded as ingoing substances.*

** N.B. the difference from the definition of substances in the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Whereas a REACH substance encompasses a chemical element or compound as well as its stabilising additives and process impurities, a substance here refers to each of the constituents separately. The constituents of a UVCB substance (Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or of Biological materials) are also regarded separately, and all known constituents must be regarded.*

Impurities*: Trace levels of pollutants, contaminants and residues from production, incl. production of raw materials, that remain in the chemical product in concentrations ≤ 1 000 ppm (≤ 0.1000 w%).*

Examples of impurities: Background environmental pollutants from feedstock, as well as contaminants and residues from production such as reactants (incl. monomers), reagents, catalysts, by-products, scavengers, detergents for production equipment, carry-over from other or previous production lines.

***Impurities in the raw materials** in concentrations ≥ 10 000 ppm (1.0000 w%) are always regarded as ingoing substances, regardless of the concentration in the chemical product.*

***Limit values:** The limit for excluded ingoing substances is 0 ppm (unless otherwise stated), while there's a specific defined limit for impurities. The impurity limit applies separately to each individual excluded substance, from each individual raw material. Concentrations of different impurities with the same excluded classification or substance group characteristics shall not be summed up to meet the impurity limit in the labelled product. Also, concentrations of an individual impurity, originating from different raw materials, shall not be summed.*

***UVCB substances:** UVCB substances (Unknown or Variable composition, Complex reaction products or of Biological materials) have a composition of constituents that is not completely known or is variable from time to time. For substances registered under REACH as UVCBs, all constituents that are known must be declared in the Nordic Swan Ecolabel raw material appendix based on the best available knowledge. All constituents are considered individually and are subject to the chemical requirements, including for instance those on excluded substances and excluded classifications*

Classification of chemical products according to CLP regulation 1272/2008		
Is the chemical product classified with any of the hazard phrases below? Including all combinations of stated exposure routes and stated specific effect. For example, H350 also covers classification H350i.	Yes	No
H400 – Toxic to the environment Aquatic Acute 1	☐	☐
H410 – Toxic to the environment Aquatic Chronic 1	☐	☐
H411 – Toxic to the environment Aquatic Chronic 2	☐	☐
H420 – Toxic to the environment Ozone	☐	☐
H300 – Acute toxicity; Acute Tox 1 or 2	☐	☐
H310 – Acute toxicity; Acute Tox 1 or 2	☐	☐
H330 – Acute toxicity; Acute Tox 1 or 2	☐	☐
H301 – Acute toxicity; Acute Tox 3	☐	☐
H311 – Acute toxicity; Acute Tox 3	☐	☐
H331 – Acute toxicity; Acute Tox 3	☐	☐
H370 – Specific organic toxicity, STOT SE 1	☐	☐
H372 – Specific organic toxicity, STOT RE 1	☐	☐
H334 - Respiratory sensitisation, Resp. Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H317 - Skin sensitisation, Skin Sens. 1, 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H350 – Carcinogenic, Carc. 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H351 – Carcinogenic, Carc. 2	☐	☐
H340 – Germ cell mutagenic, Mut. 1A and 1B	☐	☐
H341 – Germ cell mutagenic, Mut. 2	☐	☐
H360 – Reproductive toxicity, Repr. 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H361 – Reproductive toxicity, Repr. 2	☐	☐
H362 – Reproductive toxicity, Lact.	☐	☐
EUH380 - Endocrine disruption for human health , ED HH 1	☐	☐
EUH381- Endocrine disruption for human health , ED HH 2	☐	☐

EUH430 - Endocrine disruption for the environment, ED ENV 1	☐	☐
EUH431- Endocrine disruption for the environment, ED ENV 2	☐	☐
EUH440- Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic properties, PBT	☐	☐
EUH441- Very persistent, very bioaccumulative properties, vPvB	☐	☐
EUH450- Persistent, Mobile and Toxic properties, PMT	☐	☐
EUH451- Very Persistent, Very Mobile properties, vPvM	☐	☐

The following are exempted from the requirement:

- *Non-disperse dyes classified as H334 and/or H317, provided that non-dusting formulations are used or that automatic dosing is used. If manual filling of automatic dosing systems is used, the manual handling must be carried out using the correct personal protective equipment in accordance with the safety data sheet (SDS) and/or by using technical measures such as local extraction/ventilation.*

If the answer to any of the above questions is Yes, state the CAS No. (where possible), chemical name and level (in ppm, % by weight or mg / kg) in the chemical product. Also state whether the applicable substance is contained in the form of an impurity or an added substance. Please state also if the above-mentioned exception apply and which prerequisite apply (non-dipserse dyes/non-dusting or automatic dosing with/without manual filling)

Classification of ingoing substances according to CLP regulation 1272/2008		
Does the chemical product contain substances classified with any of the hazard phrases below? Including all combinations of stated exposure routes and stated specific effect. For example, H350 also covers classification H350i.	Yes	No
H350 – Carcinogenic, Car 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H351 – Carcinogenic, Carc. 2	☐	☐
H340 – Germ cell mutagenic, Mut. 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H341 – Germ cell mutagenic, Mut. 2	☐	☐
H360 – Reproductive toxicity, Repr. 1A or 1B	☐	☐
H361 – Reproductive toxicity, Repr. 2	☐	☐
H362 – Reproductive toxicity, Lact.	☐	☐
EUH380 – Endocrine disruption for human health, ED HH 1	☐	☐
EUH381 – Endocrine disruption for human health, ED HH 2	☐	☐
EUH430 – Endocrine disruption for the environment, ED ENV 1	☐	☐
EUH431 – Endocrine disruption for the environment, ED ENV 2	☐	☐
EUH440 – Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic properties, PBT	☐	☐
EUH441 – Very Persistent, Very Bioaccumulative properties, vPvB	☐	☐
EUH450 – Persistent, Mobile and Toxic properties, PMT	☐	☐
EUH451 – Very Persistent, Very Mobile properties, vPvM	☐	☐

If the answer to any of the above questions is Yes, state the CAS No. (where possible), chemical name and level (in ppm, % by weight or mg / kg). Also state whether the substance is contained in the form of an impurity or an added substance.

Prohibited substances		
Does the chemical product contain any of the following substances?	Yes	No
Substances on the REACH Candidate list of SVHC substances http://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table	☐	☐
PBT and vPvB substances in accordance with REACH Annex XIII, including those under ECHA PBT assessment https://echa.europa.eu/da/pbt	☐	☐
Potential or identified endocrine disruptors, listed in any of the following "Endocrine Disruptor Lists" List I; II and III *Note: Substances moved to "Substances no longer on list" and not present on Lists I-III, are no longer excluded, except for those on sublist II where concern remains. Nordic Ecolabelling will assess these on a case-by-case basis.*	☐	☐
Halogenated organic compounds *Exemptions* for:* *• Pigments that meet the EU's requirements concerning colourants in food packaging under Resolution AP (89) point 2.5* ** Perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances are covered by their own bulletin and are not included in this exemption.*	☐	☐
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)* **PFAS: as any substance that contains at least one fully fluorinated methyl (CF3-) or methylene (-CF2-) carbon atom (without any H/Cl/Br/I attached to it).*	☐	☐
Bitumen (CAS no. 8052-42-4)	☐	☐
Aziridine (CAS No. 151-56-4) and polyazidirines	☐	☐
Bisphenols and bisphenol derivatives, defined as 34 bisphenols identified by ECHA* for further EU regulatory risk management due to known or potential endocrine disruption or reproductive toxicity. **EC/List No. 201-245-8 (BPA), 201-025-1 (BPB), 401-720-1 (4,4' Isobutylethylidenediphenol), 216-036-7 (BPAF) and its 8 salts (278-305-5; 425-060-9; 443-330-4; 468-740-0; 469-080-6; 479-100-5; 943-265-6; 947-368-7), 201-250-5 (BPS), 201-240-0 (BPC), 204-279-1 (TBMD), 201-618-5 (6,6'-di-tert-butyl-4,4'-butylidenedi-m-cresol), 242-895-2, 248-607-1, 405-520-5 (D8), 217-121-1 (DAB), 227-033-5 (TMBPA), 210-658-2 (BPF), 411-570-9, 277-962-5 (contains BPS, 500-086-4 (contains BPA), 500-263-6 (contains BPA), 500-607-5 (contains BPA), 701-362-9, 904-653-0 (contains BPA), 908-912-9 (contains BPF), 926-571-4 (contains BPA), 931-252-8 (contains BPA), 941-992-3 (contains BPS), 943-503-9 (contains BPA).* *[1] Assessment of regulatory needs: Bisphenols. ECHA – 16 December 2021: Section 2.1: Bisphenols for which further EU RRM is proposed https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/5e60f2fe-12d0-7f6b-5868-f199cfd7f984*	☐	☐
Organotin compounds	☐	☐
Alkylphenols (AP) (e.g. butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA, CAS No. 25013-16-5), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT, CAS No. 128-37-0), alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEOs) and other alkylphenol derivates (APD)	☐	☐
Phthalates	☐	☐

Pigments, dyes and additives containing lead, tin, cadmium, chromium VI and mercury and their compounds	☐	☐
D4 (octamethylcyclotetrasiloxane, CAS No. 556-67-2), D5 (decamethylcyclopentasiloxane, CAS No. 541-02-6), D6 (dodecamethylcyclohexasiloxane, CAS No. 540-97-6)	☐	☐
Azo dyes that may release aromatic amines with carcinogenic properties listed in Appendix 6.	☐	☐

If the answer to any of the above questions is Yes, state the CAS No. (where possible), chemical name and level (in ppm, % by weight or mg / kg). Also state whether the substance is contained in the form of an impurity or an added substance. Please state also if the above-mentioned exceptions apply.

_____

_____

_____

Nanomaterials and Metal dyes and pigments		
	Yes	No
Does the chemical product contain nanomaterials/-particles*? **Nanomaterials/-particles are defined according to the EU Commission Recommendation on the Definition of Nanomaterial (2022/C 229/01):* *'Nanomaterial' means a natural, incidental or manufactured material consisting of solid particles that are present, either on their own or as identifiable constituent particles in aggregates or agglomerates, and where 50% or more of these particles in the number-based size distribution fulfil at least one of the following conditions:* *(a) one or more external dimensions of the particle are in the size range 1 nm to 100 nm;* *(b) the particle has an elongated shape, such as a rod, fibre or tube, where two external dimensions are smaller than 1 nm and the other dimension is larger than 100 nm;* *(c) the particle has a plate-like shape, where one external dimension is smaller than 1 nm and the other dimensions are larger than 100 nm.*	☐	☐
Are metal complex dyes and pigments used ? If yes, please explain below which heavy metal the dye/pigment contains. If the dye/pigment contains copper, please give the maximum % of copper by weight.	☐	☐

If the answer to the above question is Yes, state the CAS No. (where possible), chemical name and level (in ppm, % by weight or mg / kg). Also state whether the substance is contained in the form of an impurity or an added substance. Please state also if the above-mentioned exceptions apply.

_____

_____

_____

Signature of manufacturer/supplier

Date	Company
Name of contact person in CAPITAL letters	Signature by contact person
Phone	E-mail

Appendix 6 Carcinogenic aromatic amines released from azo dyes

Carcinogene aromatic amines	CAS no
4-aminodiphenyl	92-67-1
Benzidine	92-87-5
4-chlor-o-toluidine	95-69-2
2-naphthylamine	91-59-8
o-amino-azotoluene	97-56-3
2-amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8
p-chloraniline	106-47-8
2,4-diaminoanisol	615-05-4
4,4´-diaminodiphenylmethane	101-77-9
3,3´-dichlorbenzidine	91-94-1
3,3´-dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4
3,3´-dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7
3,3´-dimethyl-4,4´-diaminodiphenylmethane	838-88-0
p-cresidine	120-71-8
4,4'-oxydianiline	101-80-4
4,4'-thiodianiline	139-65-1
o-toluidine	95-53-4
2,4-diaminotoluene	95-80-7
2,4,5-trimethylaniline	137-17-7
4-aminoazobenzene	60-09-3
o-anisidine	90-04-0
2,4-Xylidine	95-68-1
2,6-Xylidine	87-62-7
4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloro-aniline)	101-14-4
2-amino-5-nitroanisole	97-52-9
m-nitroaniline	99-09-2
2-amino-4-nitrophenol	99-57-0
m-phenylenediamine	108-45-2
2-amino-5-nitrothiazole	121-66-4
2-amino-5-nitrophenol	121-88-0
p-aminophenol	123-30-80
p-phenetidine	156-43-4
2-methyl-pphenylenediamine; 2,5diaminotoluene	615-50-9
2-methyl-pphenylenediamine; 2,5diaminotoluene	95-70-5
2-methyl-pphenylenediamine; 2,5diaminotoluene	25376-45-8
6-chloro-2,4-dinitroaniline	3531-19-9

Appendix 7 Human rights and environmental risk assessments

Assess the country and sector risk
Licensees are asked to assess the latest human rights and environment-related context, to consider whether compliance with the fundamental ILO conventions (and assessing for that) at the sites is possible.

- For an overview of ratifications by country of fundamental ILO Conventions, see https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11001:::NO:::. For example consult the list of countries that have not ratified the Convention No. 98 concerning right to organise and collective bargaining, see https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11310:0::NO:11310:P11310_INSTRUMENT_ID:312243:NO, and see overview of ratifications of fundamental instruments by number of ratifications, available at https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:10011:0::NO::P10011_DISPLAY_BY,P10011_CONVENTION_TYPE_CODE:2,F.
- For a rank of countries' respect for workers' rights, see the latest edition of the International Trade Union Confederation Global Rights Index, available at https://www.ituc-csi.org/2022-global-rights-index-en.
- For country-specific human rights reviews, see Human Rights Watch's reports, available at https://www.hrw.org/countries, and see Amnesty Internationals' reports, available at https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/.
- For updates with focus on textile and apparel manufacturing, see FairWear Foundations' country reports, available at https://www.fairwear.org/programmes/countries and see ETI's country risk reports, available at https://www.ethicaltrade.org/blog. ILO Better Work has occasional country apparel sector labour conditions reports, available at https://betterwork.org/.
- For resources on modern slavery risks, see the US State Department and Verité's responsible sourcing tool, available at https://www.responsiblesourcingtool.org/workerprotection, see the US Department of Labor's list of goods and their source countries which it is reason to believe is produced by child labour or forced labour, available at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods; see the US State Department's yearly Trafficking in Persons Report, available at https://www.state.gov/reports/2022trafficking-in-persons-report/; see the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) global data hub on human trafficking, available at https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/, and the most recent global and regional estimates on forced labour, including high risk countries and regions on pp. 52-57, available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf.
- For proposed legislation to prohibit products made with forced labour from the EU market, see the European Commission, Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament of the Council on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market, 14 September 2022, available at https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/api/files/COM(2022)453_0/090166e5f14084e6?rendition=false, and the issued

guidance p. 5 on country risk factors for forced labour, available at https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/july/tradoc_159709.pdf.

- For US restrictions on supply chains and investment links to Xinjiang, China, see the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, available at https://www.cbp.gov/trade/forced-labor/UFLPA, and see the US State Department's Xinjiang Supply Chain Business Advisory, available at https://www.state.gov/xinjiang-supply-chain-business-advisory/.
- For datasets summarising views on the quality of governance of countries, see the Worldwide Governance Indicators, available at http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi.

Assess the supplier risk

This guide lists sector MSI (multi-stakeholder initiative) resources you can use for free:

- Licensees can engage trade unions in their home country or in a sourcing country to ask about working conditions, and if there have been any reports of human rights issues from the sourcing supplier.
- Licensees can check if other brands or MSIs are buying from, and hence may be social auditing, assessing or training factories in labour standards and open to brand collaboration, by checking the Open Apparel Registry/Open Supply Hub, available at https://staging.openapparel.org/ and https://opensupplyhub.org.
- Some larger suppliers may also be found in the Business Human Rights Resource Centre database search engine of companies, available at https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/companies/.
- For factories over 100 employees, check if a supplier already has an update on the Social Labour Convergence Programme (SCLP) data collection tool, available at https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360023740474-Data-Collection-Tool-1-4.
- For sites in countries covered by the ILO Better Work programme, consult the Transparency Portal to verify that the factory has no outstanding salient risks of harm, available at https://portal.betterwork.org/transparency/compliance.
- For China, consult the China Labour Bulletin, available at https://clb.org.hk/, and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute report website, available at https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale, to verify that the factory is not reported for conditions that strongly suggest forced labour.
- In general, consult Worker Rights Consortium, available at https://www.workersrights.org/our-work/factory-investigations/, and manufacturing assessments by Fair Labour Association (FLA), available at https://www.fairlabor.org/accountability/assessments/assessments-manufacturing/?report_type=workplace-monitoring%7Cthird-party-complaint, to see if the supplier site(s) are listed. FLA ongoingly report on breaches of workers' rights under the ILO conventions.
- If a factory indicates it has SA8000 certification, this can be checked at https://sa-intl.org/sa8000-search/. SAI have indicated they are launching a Buyer Engagement Tool, whereby buyers can see issues found, and be supported to engage the supplier to help influence and reward remediation improvements needed.
- For emissions data from 70 000+ individual sources and countries, see the Climate Trace database, available at http://www.climatetrace.org/map.

For environmental risk, see the pollution databases (water and air) of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs (IPA) for relevant Asia sites, available at http://wwwen.ipe.org.cn/AirMap_fxy/AirMap.html?q=1.

Workforce profile of supplier site(s)

Licensees are advised to gather employment site details as part of an initial desk-based assessment of vendor or site risks, with

- numbers of workers, and % line workers, including numbers and sources of any foreign migrant or contract workers, or in large countries, i.e., China and India, domestic migrants
- the languages spoken on site with by how many employees
- gender breakdown
- about unions active onsite

If the site has migrant workers (domestic or foreign), heightened due diligence (including consulting experts such as MSIs listed above) and monitoring, will be needed.

Useful resources:

Current good practice is to follow guidance from the Transparency Pledge, available at https://transparencypledge.org/, and disclose supply chain information at the open Data Standard, available at https://odsas.org/

Appendix 8 Due diligence policy resources

Many companies in the textile/apparel industry are part of multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) that provide practical trainings and guidance on how to do human rights due diligence on supply chains in the sector. These include the Ethical Trading Initiatives (ETIs) of UK, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Fair Wear Foundation (Dutch based), the amfori BSCI, the US based Social Accountability Intl (SA8000) and Fair Labour Association (FLA).

- For resources on responsible purchasing practices, see the Common Framework for Responsible Purchasing Practices (CFRPP, the Common Framework), available at https://www.cfrpp.org/, including a summary of available training, available at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/601a4cf430876663b0f9c870/t/62de57432fbbd85a1ffca83a/1658738504465/Summary+training+LIC.pdf.
- For specific guidance on how textile companies can undertake human rights due diligence, see the Fair Wear Foundation's "Brand Performance Check Guide", available at https://api.fairwear.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Brand-performance-check-guide-2022.pdf or see the ETIs website, available at https://www.ethicaltrade.org/issuesdue-diligence/resources-human-rights-due-diligence.
- For policy statement guidance and sectoral guidance, see OCED Due Diligence Guidance for garment and footwear, available at https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/oecd-due-diligence-guidance-garment-footwear.pdf, section 1.1. and 3.2.1 respectively.
- For a model template for a human rights policy, see Building Blocks for Schedule P, (P, as in Policy), available at https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/human_rights/contractual-clauses-project/schedulep.pdf, or, for practical examples, see Appendix B Examples of Policy Commitments to the 2016 report Doing Business with Respect for Human Rights: A Guidance Tool for Companies, by the Global Compact Network Netherlands, Oxfam and Shift, available at https://shiftproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/business_respect_human_rights_full-1.pdf%20.
- For multilanguage versions of a supplier code of conduct, founded on the ILO Conventions, see the ETI Base Code, available at https://www.ethicaltrade.org/resources/eti-base-code-poster, see SAI (SA8000), available at https://sa-intl.org/resources/sa8000-standard/sa8000-translations/, or see Fairwear's Code of Labour Practices (CoLP) https://www.fairwear.org/about-us/labour-standards.
- For a guide on identifying salient risks, see the 2017 UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework, a collaboration between the Shift Project (the leading centre of expertise on the UN Guiding Principles) and the international accounting firm, Mazars LLP, available at https://www.ungpreporting.org/.

For guidance on how to calculate and benchmark wages, see the Anker methodology, available at https://globallivingwage.org/about/anker-methodology/, or see the Asia Floor Wage, available at https://asia.floorwage.org/living-wage/calculating-a-living-wage/, or use a process such as ACT membership, Fair Wear Foundation Fair Wage Ladder, Fairtrade Textile Standard, or FLA's Fair Compensation Scheme.

Appendix 9 Measures to verify compliance/human rights at sites

To avoid unnecessary costs, and varying audit quality and the failure to resolve systemic issues, Nordic Ecolabelling encourages Licensees to take part in multi-stakeholder initiatives (MSIs) that guides improvements and deliver ongoing monitoring and collaboration.

Where MSIs are not easily available, suppliers assessed for labour standards might have been audited frequently, also some may have engaged in improvement trainings or initiatives. To help reduce duplicative audit fatigue, or even training fatigue, check if sites have had recent trainings or ongoing programmes.

If another buyer has recently assessed the site, consider brand collaboration to reduce duplication. Suppliers have an incentive to help with contact between buyers, as company resources would be saved with social compliance monitoring. Also sharing audit reports with other brands can influence supplier improvements on salient risks. Other shared benefits include verification funding for follow-up audits using all buyer codes. It could also be possible to fund an independent worker helpline service or jointly promote and deliver trainings.

Resources on the growing consensus of ineffectiveness of private regulation:

See Research Brief by Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations on unreliable data in audits, https://theconversation.com/why-apparel-brands-efforts-to-police-their-supply-chains-arent-working-136821 and https://cornell.app.box.com/s/swgaexrjs1bne4tk4magraf14894hpr7. Researchers found that over 50% of the 31,652 factory audits conducted in China and India over a seven-year period were based on falsified or unreliable information.

Another investigation by South China Morning, see https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3118683/bribes-fake-factories-and-forged-documents-buccaneering?module=perpetual_scroll_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3118683, shows that more than 90 percent of factories audited on the amfori BSCI platform in 2020 had falsified records.

Also Human Rights Watch comment on insufficient third-party auditing for human rights issues, at https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/05/30/human-rights-supply-chains/call-binding-global-standard-due-diligence; also https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/07/social-audit-reforms-and-labor-rights-ruse, also https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/08/germany-paved-way-revamping-social-audits-italy-should-follow, and there are limits with audits to detect sexual harassment and other gender-based violence, including limitations of on-site interviews - https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/02/12/combating-sexual-harassment-garment-industry.

The SA8000 standard provides guidance on delivering good working conditions, and there is various SAI run programmes to assist factory learning and improvement. However, research has shown social certification programmes can cause sites to not disclose the true status of human rights conditions.

Suppliers who genuinely gain high standards certifications such as SA8000 should be rewarded. However, certification as a business requirement for a large deal, may place greater stress on supply chain partners and lower the chances of buyer awareness of any

adverse human rights impacts of social compliance. There have been alleged risks of falsification of these certificates and corruption. See the 2018 article SA8000: The “Gold Standard” for Failing Workers? by the Worker-Driven Social Responsibility Network, on SAI’s SA8000 certification programme, available at https://wsr-network.org/resource/sa8000-the-gold-standard-for-failing-workers/. It goes through studies showing lack of empirical evidence to support that SAI and SA8000 deliver meaningful change for workers in global supply chains. It states SA8000 is seen as ineffective due to its “voluntary compliance, dependence on flawed social audits, failure to address price pressure, and lack of worker participation.” Better mechanisms with binding and enforceable agreements between worker organizations and global corporations, e.g., the International Accord, is needed.

Programmes such as ILO Better Work with its extensive factory training calendar acknowledge that many factories don’t know how to fix all problems identified. Collaboration is needed.

Appendix 10 Approved multi-stakeholder initiative (MSIs) programmes

Nordic Ecolabelling asks Licensees to use approved multi-stakeholder initiative programmes, brand collaboration on audit/report sharing, or commissioning a social audit for baseline assessments of sites.

Approved multi-stakeholder initiative (MSI) programmes:

- If the site participates in the ILO Better Work programme or has SA8000 certification, the Licensee should purchase the Better Work or SA8000 monitoring access, see https://sa-intl.org/, and use this to first assess and engage the supplier on compliance, then after approval, review reports of their compliance monitoring visits, and engage as needed towards sustained compliance

  ILO Better Work run country programmes in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and Vietnam. The programme provides long-term support of worker rights and transparent ongoing monitoring of factories, by building local government capacity in labour standards monitoring, see https://betterwork.org/.

  SA8000 or other certification of labour conditions is not discouraged but should only be accepted as supplier assessment as part of the requirements to take appropriate measures to identify actual and potential adverse human rights impacts arising from supply chains (for background, see Appendix 9 Measures to verify compliance/human rights at sites.

- If the site has in the past year been audited by a Fair Wear or Fair Labor Association member, then the Licensee is encouraged to request social audit report sharing, to align any needed non-compliance remediation (i.e., brand collaboration).

- If a factory is in the Fairtrade Textile Programme, the Licensee should gain site social assessment report from Fairtrade, see https://www.fairtrade.net/about/the-fairtrade-textile-programme.

- For factories with over 100 employees, the Licensee should check if the supplier already has had an assessment in the past year per the Social Labour Convergence Programme data collection tool, available at https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360023740474-Data-Collection-Tool-1-4. If yes, the Licensee needs access to reduce social audit duplication. The SLCP and Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) also coordinate assessment of support facilities such as sub-contracted laundries, printing, embroidery, etc. See https://openapparel.org/ to find sites already assessed by SAC standards (search in contributor “Higgs”).

- As BSCI, Sedex and WRAP do not have worker representative leadership, the Licensee can use a social audit to BSCI or Sedex or WRAP standard from the past year *if* additional monitoring is initiated, such as to use a relevant trade union in the country or region to report worker issues and/or a locally run independent worker helpline service that reports to the Licensee.

- For apparel factories in Leicester, UK, assessments by Fast Forward will be accepted.

Some factories may run under other monitoring and improvement programmes by ILO Score, Impact, Verite, ReAssurance, or other dedicated experts on labour conditions. Licensees who wish to have these or other labour standards improvement programmes or partners considered, should find out which buyer introduced these, if they can gain access to the programme reports and support them.

Please contact Nordic Ecolabelling to discuss whether these can be approved.