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LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® test criteria: New regulations in 2020

At the start of the year, the OEKO-TEX® Association as usual updated the applicable test criteria and limit values for product certification in accordance with LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®. The following new regulations come into effect on 01 April 2020 for all certifications, after a three-month transition period:

Defining and tightening of limit values

- The carcinogenic **N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable substances**, which were still under observation in 2019, were newly included in the criteria catalogues Annex 4 of LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® (including the new N-Nitrosomethylethylamine (CAS 10595-95-6)) with the following limit values:
 - N-Nitrosamines: 0.5 mg/kg each
 - N-Nitrosatable substances: 5 mg/kg each
- Specific limit values for the total content of the toxic **heavy metals arsenic and mercury** were laid down in Annex 4 of LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®:
 - Arsenic total content: 100 mg/kg
 - Mercury total content: 0.5 mg/kg
- **Phthalates**: The limit value of the sum of phthalates is lowered from 1000 mg/kg to 500 mg/kg in Annex 4 of LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® for product classes I, II, III.

Overall, the strict requirements for residues in leather materials also lead to a lower burden on the environment, employees and consumers. In many cases the limit values for the LEATHER STANDARD go beyond national and international requirements. Therefore, the OEKO-TEX® strategy has been to be proactive in the field of consumer protection as a pioneer and not to wait for legislation. Due to that as a result of the implementation of the above-mentioned few additional measures, the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® already covers the requirements of the „REACH Annex XVII CMR legislation (Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/1513)“, that addresses CMR substances. For compliance to Entry 68 and as new compounds the following substances will be put under observation

1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecane sulfonate (8:2 FTS) and its salts (CAS 39108-34-4 or Na with the CAS 27619-96-1) and other PFOA related substances will be put “**under observation**” in Annex 5 and 7 of LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®.

Further new substances, all under observation (ANNEX 5):

- **1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorodecane sulfonate (8:2 FTS) and its salts** (CAS 39108-34-4 or Na with the CAS 27619-96-1) and other PFOA related substances will be put “under observation” in ANNEX 5.
- The following **arylamines** will be added to ANNEX 5 as “under observation”:

CAS 121-66-4:	2-amino-5-nitrothiazole
CAS 156-43-4:	p-phenetidine
CAS 615-50-9:	2-methyl-p-phenylendiamine
CAS 20265-97-8:	p-anisidine
CAS 91-95-2:	3,3'-Diaminobenzidin (biphenyl-3,3',4,4'-tetrayltetraamine)
- **Other chemicals (SVHC):**

CAS various:	2,3,3,3-tetrafluoro-2-(heptafluoro propoxy)propionic acid, its salts and its acyl halides
CAS 98-54-4:	4-tert-butylphenol

- **Pesticides:**

CAS 97-23-4:	Dichlorophene
CAS 115-32-2:	Dicofol
CAS 1897-45-6:	Chlorothalonil
CAS 105024-66-6:	Silafluofen, (4-ethoxyphenyl)(3-(4-fluoro-3-phenoxyphenyl)propyl)dimethylsilane
CAS 731-27-1:	Tolyfluanide
CAS 63405-99-2:	4,6-Dichloro-7-(2,4,5-trichlorophenoxy)-2-trifluoromethylbenzimidazole (DTTB)
CAS 137-42-8:	Metam-sodium
CAS 10605-21-7:	Carbendazim

- **Carcinogenic, classified and further banned colorants:**

CAS 2465-27-2:	Auramine hydrochloride; C.I. Basic Yellow 2 (equivalent to CAS 492-80-8 C.I. Solvent Yellow 34)
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New substance additions or clarifications to the criteria catalogues (ANNEX 5)

- **Pesticides:**

CAS 115-29-7:	Endosulfan
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- **Flame retardants:**

CAS 1332-07-6:	borate, zinc salt
CAS 12767-90-7:	borate, zinc salt

- **Chlorotoluenes:**

Addition of detailed list in ANNEX 5

Further acceptance criteria:

- **Horse Leather added to the white list**
- **Rabbit skins removed from the white list**

For more information on the new OEKO-TEX® test criteria, please contact OEKO-TEX® (info@oeko-tex.com) or your responsible OEKO-TEX® Institute (www.oeko-tex.com/institutes).



After a three-month transition period, the new OEKO-TEX® LEATHER STANDARD test criteria and limit values will become binding for all certifications on April 1, 2020.