



bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites

ANNEX: Exclusion criteria

Version 2.0 | 2020-03

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1 Background

Responsible management of resources with the focus on preservation of human health and a clean environment shall be the goal for all bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERS. Good results cannot be obtained within weeks or even months, but instead represent an ongoing effort for continual improvement.

At the production site(s) of a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER, all activities shall be guided by the following three principles:

1. The activities performed at the production site shall not have harmful impact on human beings, animals, plants, soil, aquatic bodies or the atmosphere.
2. A high level of human health and environmental protection shall be ensured, with the goal of achieving sustainable development.
3. A bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER shall be aware of Best Available Techniques (BAT) that are relevant for the industry and shall implement these techniques to continually improve environmental performance.

The performance and the efforts of a production site ("company") to act according to the above principles are checked during each on-site inspection. If a company's management, knowledge and skills, processes and equipment are not suitable, and if improvement of major issues appears unlikely, a system partnership can be refused or terminated. This procedure ensures the credibility of the bluesign® SYSTEM. Companies that were refused a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP, or whose system partnership has been terminated, can re-apply at any time for a new company assessment.

2 Exclusion criteria

A company obviously or seriously violating the guiding principles listed in Chapter 1, or a company to which one or more of the exclusion criteria apply, causing a significant risk to people and/or the environment, may not become or remain a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNER. The exclusion criteria are as follows:

General

- The company is not willing to correct major deviations/non-conformities which have been detected during assessment of the production site within agreed timelines

Legal compliance

- Legally required license(s) or permit(s) regarding environmental and OH&S aspects are not available
- Legal requirements for environmental and OH&S aspects are not followed; legal limits are exceeded

Social responsibility

- Obvious abuse of the core principles of the ILO Conventions (see bluesign® SYSTEM)

Management

- No quality management system installed
- No EHS management system installed
- Responsible person(s) not defined
- Housekeeping, maintenance and process management/control are not suitable; major issues regarding environmental, OH&S and consumer safety aspects are unavoidable

Product Stewardship (chemical supplier)

- The company has no resources or skills (whether internal or external) to implement appropriate input stream management (particularly regarding compliance with relevant restricted/banned substances) and to adequately control raw materials and intermediates
- Resources or skills regarding classification, labelling and SDS authoring according to the GHS are insufficient
- Resources or skills for inspection of finished products are missing

Input stream management (manufacturer)

- The company does not fulfill the requirements according to the *Guideline – Chemical Management and Chemical Change Management at manufacturers*
- The company intentionally uses substances banned by the *bluesign® SYSTEM BLACK LIMITS (BSBL)*
- The company cannot ensure basic principles for input stream management of non-bluesign® APPROVED raw materials

Resources

- The company does not have knowledge of resource consumption figures

Environment

- No wastewater treatment plant installed at production site(s) with wet processes and direct discharge
- Wastewater treatment is not appropriate
- No off-gas treatment installed for VOC-relevant production site(s), and defined limits are exceeded
- Off-gas treatment for process emissions is not appropriate
- No off-gas treatment installed for waste incineration, heavy oil or coal combustion
- Uncontrolled disposal of hazardous waste
- Uncontrolled risk of soil and groundwater pollution
- Brownfields (polluted soil or groundwater) exist but the company has no defined plan for remediation

Handling and storage of hazardous materials

- Incorrect storage and handling of hazardous materials

Occupational Health & Safety, Emergency Preparedness

- Awareness and understanding of significant OH&S aspects is not present (e.g. no OH&S risk assessments)
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for chemicals used at the production site are not available or are outdated (>3 years)
- Obviously incorrect practices. Workers are knowingly being put at risk
- Significant emergency risks but no proper risk assessment and emergency facilities

3 Validity

This document comes into effect from 2020-03. It replaces the *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites - ANNEX: Exclusion criteria version 1.0*.

For all companies that signed an agreement for an assessment or for a bluesign® SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP before 2020-03, the adapted and newly introduced requirements are binding after a transition period of one year from the date of release.

This document is subject to revisions. Details on the revision procedure for regular and unscheduled revisions are compiled in the *bluesign® SYSTEM* document.

4 Other applicable documents

The following documents complement the document at hand:

- *bluesign® SYSTEM*
- *bluesign® glossary*
- *bluesign® CRITERIA for production sites*

Current versions are available for download at www.bluesign.com/criteria.

Disclaimer

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