

LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® test criteria: New regulations in 2019

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 2019 for all certifications, following a three-month transition period:

- The substance benzene has been included at the parameter „other chemical residues“ for all product classes with a limit value of < 5.0 mg/kg. For the substance quinoline, which has been under observation by OEKO-TEX® since 2018, the limit value of < 50 mg/kg has been fixed. Furthermore, four amine salts (cf. Annex 5 of LEATHER STANDARD) has been incorporated, which are examined together with the test for „aryl amines having carcinogenic properties“.
- In the course of „standardisation“ of the limit value requirements, the requirement „<“ now applies for nearly all limit values.

From the beginning, the OEKO-TEX®'s 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 new „REACH Annex XVII CMR legislation (Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/1513)“, which addresses 33 CMR substances. This legislation admittedly entered into force in November 2018, however, will be applied for products only from 1 November 2020. In contrast to this, most of these substances have already been considered and regulated in the OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue since years.

Further new substance additions to the criteria catalogue:

- At parameter „extractable (heavy) metals“:
 - Barium with limit value < 1000 mg/kg (all product classes)
 - Selenium with limit value < 100 mg/kg (all product classes)

- At the group of phthalates (softeners) the substance dimethylphthalate has been additionally included.
- The siloxanes D4, D5 and D6, which were classified recently as Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC), have been added with a limit value of < 0.1 % (< 1000 mg/kg) for all product classes under the new parameter „siloxanes“.

From today's point of view the siloxanes can be relevant for silicone finishing, silicone coatings, softener relevant samples, samples with soft gripe, water, soil or oil repellent finish, etc.

New under observation:

- Medium chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCP)
- Carcinogenic N-nitrosamines as well as N-nitrosatable substances

With the action „under observation“, OEKO-TEX® is now looking more closely at the mentioned substance groups and is analyzing the situation in more detail.

Tightening of limit values:

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| • Formaldehyde, free and partially releasable: | product class III: | < 150 mg/kg (so far 300 mg/kg) |
| • Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate (TCEP): | all product classes: | < 10 mg/kg (so far 1000 mg/kg) |
| • Solvent residues (NMP, DMAc und DMF): | all product classes: | < 0.05 % (so far 0.1 %) |
| • Short chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP): | all product classes: | < 50 mg/kg (so far 100 mg/kg) |

The short chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP) as well as the medium chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCP) are to be found now at the new parameter „chlorinated paraffins“.

- Flame retardant products:

Disodium octaborate has been newly added. Furthermore, the requirements were adjusted (each single substance: < 10 mg/kg; for SCCP: < 50 mg/kg; sum of all: < 50 mg/kg).

Through many of these new requirements, OEKO-TEX® still strongly supports not only the „Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC)“ initiative, but also the „Detox Campaign“. In this way, OEKO-TEX® is able to strengthen awareness concerning the handling of potentially hazardous substances in products throughout the leather manufacturing chain and to play a pioneering role in contributing to effective consumer protection.

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 1 April 2019.