The EU Ecolabel for Textiles products
"The official European label for Greener Products"

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

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

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

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

Meet your customers' demand

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

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

Give your Textile products a credible sign of environmental excellence... apply for the EU Ecolabel!

For a quick test, use the check list on the back!

For more information...

… on the scheme, its feature, the actors involved, the application process:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel

… on the detailed criteria for Textile product group:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html

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

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

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

...to market your EU Ecolabel products use our free E-catalogue: http://ec.europa.eu/ecat

Checklist (for a first assessment only) in terms of requirements

This is a non-exhaustive list of EU Ecolabel criteria for Textile products. Please see the [Commission Decision (2014/350/EU)](#) for full details.

Life cycle step	Criterion	Expectations
Manufacturing	Corporate Social Responsibility	• For cut/make/trim production sites the fundamental principles and rights at work described in the International Labour Organisation's Core Labour Standards and detailed in the full criteria document shall be respected. • Manual and mechanical sandblasting to achieve distressed denim finishes shall not be permitted.
Manufacturing	Textile fibres	• <u>Cotton and other natural cellulosic seed fibres:</u> For T-shirts, woman's tops, casual shirts, jeans, pyjamas and underwear a minimum of 95 % organic cotton or 60% integrated pest management (IPM) cotton shall be used . In addition, in case of use of recycled cotton the above shares are respectively deducted . It shall be traceable from the point of verification of the production standard up until greige fabric production and the use of pesticides is restricted. • <u>Wool (and other keratin fibres):</u> See full [criteria document](#) for derogations and sum total limit vales for ectoparasiticide concentrations on raw wool prior to scouring. • <u>Polyamide products(Nylon):</u> Manufactured fibres shall include 20% recycled nylon. Exemptions apply if products comply with the related nylon emissions to air requirement. • <u>Polyester:</u> Staple fibres shall at least contain 50% recycled PET and at least 20% filament fibres. Products for sale to commercial or public sector can comply with this requirement or with the VOC requirement for polyester (in "emission to air"). • <u>Polypropene :</u> Lead based pigments shall not be used. • <u>Man-made cellulose fibres (lyocell, modal and viscose):</u> At least 25% of pulp fibres shall be manufactured from sustainable forestry management (UN FAO) wood- the remaning pulp shall come from legal forestry and plantations.
Manufacturing	Limitations on emissions to air	• See the full [criteria document](#) for specifications on emissions to air for acrylic, elastane, polyester (and its components), viscose and modal fibres, and nylon. • Total emission of organic compounds from textile printing and finishing production sites shall be < 100,0 mg C/Nm3. An emissions limit of 150,0 mg C/ NM3 applies If textile coating and drying processes allow the recovery and reuse of solvents.

Manufacturing	Limitation of water pollution during fibre processing	• See the full [criteria document](#) for specifications on:
		  − Water retting treatment <u>flax and other bast fibres (e.g. wastewater treatment)</u> shall reduce COD by 75% for hemp and 95% for flax
		  − <u>Man-made cellulose</u> wood pulp specifications (e.g. chlorine used for bleaching)
		  − <u>Wool and other keratin fibre</u> scouring operations shall minimise effluent COD. Limits of g COD/ kg greasy wool in the final discharge to the environment are 25 for coarse wool and 45 for fine wool.
		• For all weaving, dyeing, printing and finishing sites wastewater discharges to the environment shall be < 20g COD/kg textiles processed (measured downstream of on-site wastewater treatment plant and/or off-site wastewater treatment plant receiving wastewater from the processing sites). See full [criteria document](#) for requirements if effluent is treated on site and discharged directly to surface waters.

Manufacturing	Limitation of toxic residues in fibres	• Manufactured <u>Elastane</u> shall not contain organotin compounds. • <u>Cotton</u> shall not contain > 0,5 ppm in total of specific substances listed in the full [criteria document](#). • <u>Polyester</u> (and its components)**:** Antimony shall be < 260 ppm (except for polyester fibres manufactured from recycled PET bottles) • The final product/production recipes shall not contain hazardous substances: Listed in the RSL (Appendix 1 in the full [criteria document](#)), that meet Article 57 criteria, or have been identified in Article 59(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006's described procedure. • Refer to the full [criteria document](#) for derogations, restrictions on substances used during dyeing, printing and finishing. Classifications are based on the most recent classification rules.
Manufacturing	Components and accessories	• Fillings shall comply with the textile fibres and the textile Restricted Substance List (RSL) biocides, formaldehyde, detergents, softeners and complexing agents, and auxiliary chemicals. Polymers shall comply with the relevant restrictions listed in the RSL • Metal and plastic components shall comply with RSL requirements for accessories.
Manufacturing	Energy used	• Energy used in washing, drying and curing steps shall be measured and benchmarked via an energy or carbon dioxide emissions management system. • These production sites shall also implement a minimum number of BAT energy efficiency techniques as, specified in Table 4 and Appendix 3 in the full criteria document.

Use	Fitness for use	• Dimensional changes during washing and drying shall not exceed the values listed in the full criteria document.
		• Colour fastness shall achieve the values listed in the full criteria document. Some exceptions are also listed:
		  − Washing and perspiration (acid, alkaline): Shall be at least level 3-4 (colour change and staining). For perspiration, level 3 is allowed when fabrics are dark coloured and made of regenerated wool.
		  − Wet rubbing: Shall be at least level 2-3 (level 2 is allowed for indigo dyed denim).
		  − Dry rubbing: At least level 4 (level 3-4 is allowed for indigo dyed denim).
		  − Light: Furniture fabric shall be at least level 5.
		• See Tables 9 and 10 in the full criteria document for cleaning products' wash resistance and absorbency requirements.
		• Fabric shall resist pilling to a minimum of 3, apart from polyamide tights and leggings (minimum of 2).
		• Repellents shall retain a functionality of: 80/90 (for water), 3,5/4 (for oil), and 3/5 (for stains) after 20 domestic wash and tumble dry cycles at 40 °C, or after 10 industrial washing and drying cycles at a minimum of 75 °C.
		• Flame retardants on washable products shall retain their functionality after 50 industrial wash and tumble dry cycles at a minimum of 75 °C. Non-washable products shall retain their functionality after a soak test.
		• Natural fibre products with easy care properties (also referred to as non-crease or permanent press) shall achieve an SA-3 fabric smoothness grade and blended natural and synthetic fibre products an SA-4 fabric smoothness grade, both after 10 domestic wash and tumble drying cycles at 40 °C.

Use	Information appearing on the EU Ecolabel	• The optional label next to the Eco-flower with text box shall may contain the following text: :
		  − Less polluting production processes
		  − More sustainable fibre production (or a text selected from Table 11 in the full [criteria document](#)).
		  − Restrictions on hazardous substances
		  − GMO-free and organic cotton cotton claim (if applicable)
		• The use of the optional label with the text box is explained in the "[Guidelines for the use of the EU Ecolabel logo](#)".