

## Softlines

## New textile fibre labelling Regulation now entered into force

The new textile fibre labelling Regulation (EU No 1007/2011)<sup>1</sup> already entered into force on 8 May 2012. Textile products available on the EU market should comply with this new Regulation. For the goods already on the EU market before 8 May 2012 which comply with previous Directive 2008/121/EC<sup>2</sup>, they may be allowed to continue on the market until 9 November 2014.

This Regulation was published in the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) on 18 October 2011. It consolidates three Directives including Directives 2008/121/EC (textile names), 96/73/EC (test methods of binary fibre mixtures)<sup>3</sup> and 73/44/EEC (test methods of tertiary fibre mixtures)<sup>4</sup> and further clarifies essential requirements of textile fibre labelling. The recast of legislation is introduced as a "Regulation". That means the Member States do not need to create national legislation for implementation.

### What is New?

Upon the application of the new Regulation, textile products containing non-textile parts of animal origin is subject to mandatory labelling or marking. This aims at allowing consumers to know whether the items contain real leather or fur. The presence of these parts needed to be labelled or marked using the phrase "Contains non-textile parts of animal origin".

Another new item added to the Regulation is the change of procedures for application of new textile fibre names. Manufacturers or any person on behalf of the manufacturers can now ask for inclusion of a new textile fibre name into Annex I, a list of textile fibre names, by submitting necessary documents.

### Amendment of this Regulation

This new Regulation is recently amended by Regulation (EU) No

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:27:2:0001:0064:EN:PDF>

<sup>2</sup> Refer to Direct 2008/121/EC at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2008L0121:2:0110819:EN:PDF>

<sup>3</sup> Refer to Direct 2008/121/EC at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2008L0121:2:0110819:EN:PDF>

<sup>4</sup> Refer to Directive 73/44/EEC at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1973:083:0001:0:019:EN:PDF>



286/2012 published in the OJEU on 31 March 2012. It basically adopted the technical updates in previous legislation and it applied on 8 May 2012. With this amendment, "Polypropylene/polyamide bicomponent" is added as a new fibre name in Annex I and there are in total 49 fibre names on the list. Moreover, the test methods for binary textile fibre mixtures are updated.

### Upcoming

The European Commission planned to review textile fibre labelling requirements. By 30 September 2013, a report will be submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council to address the following issues:

- An origin labelling scheme
- A harmonised care labelling system
- A EU-wide uniform size labelling system for relevant textile products
- An indication of allergenic substances
- Electronic labelling and other new technologies, and the use of language-independent symbols for identification of fibres ■

Table A. Comparison between the new Regulation and the previous Directive<sup>5</sup>

Parameters	Changes in the new Regulation compared with the previous Directive						
Scope	The warm linings of footwear are now not subject to mandatory labelling or marking unless the products made of at least 80% of textile fibres						
Exemption	<p>The following items are now exempted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The customized textile products made-up by self-employed tailors</li> <li>▪ The additional elastic yarns used in the cuff and the stiffening and reinforcement of yarns of the toe and heel used for socks</li> <li>▪ The additional elastic yarns used in the belt and the stiffening and reinforcement of yarns of the toe and heel used for tights</li> </ul>						
Textile products for which labelling or marking is not mandatory (Annex V)	<p>Removal of items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Felt" and "Felt hats" are removed. It means these two products are now subject to mandatory labelling or marking</li> </ul> <p>Addition of an item</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ "Covers for mobile phones and portable media players with a surface of no more than 160 cm". These products are not subject to mandatory labelling of items</li> </ul> <p>Modification of items</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Previous</th> <th>New</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Containers which are soft and without foundation – Saddlery of textile materials</td> <td>Fancy goods and saddlery of textile materials</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Textile parts of footwear, with the exception of warm linings</td> <td>Textile parts of footwear</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Previous	New	Containers which are soft and without foundation – Saddlery of textile materials	Fancy goods and saddlery of textile materials	Textile parts of footwear, with the exception of warm linings	Textile parts of footwear
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Containers which are soft and without foundation – Saddlery of textile materials	Fancy goods and saddlery of textile materials						
Textile parts of footwear, with the exception of warm linings	Textile parts of footwear						
Information of fibre content available to consumers	When the purchase is made by electronic means, the information of fibre content is now needed to be clearly visible to the consumer before the purchase						
Languages for labelling and marking	The choice of languages in labelling or marking of textile products now includes official languages or national languages of the Member States unless they have other concerns						



<sup>5</sup> For a brief description of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011, refer to [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/textiles/single-market/textiles-names-legislation/reg-1007-1011/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/textiles/single-market/textiles-names-legislation/reg-1007-1011/index_en.htm)

## Softlines

# EN 14362-1 for the detection of banned aromatic amines has been updated

The European standard [EN 14362-1:2012](#)<sup>1</sup> for aromatic amines was published in early 2012. It basically combines EN 14362-1:2003 and EN 14362-2:2003. These two standards are the test methods in Appendix 10 of the EU REACH Annex XVII for the restriction of azo colourants. Even though the conflicting national standards will be withdrawn in August 2012, the updated standard has not yet become the official test method for azo colourants.

This standard updates the principle of analyzing aromatic amines found in textile products, the details of sampling procedures as well as the technical details of chemical testing. However, the detection of total number of aromatic amines remains the same. For the analysis of 4-aminoazobenzene, EN 14362-3:2012 will address this issue and it is expected to be published by the CEN around June 2012. The standard may be available from the national standard bodies a few months later.

## Here are the major revisions of EN 14362-1:2012:

- Several test methods are now included in the standard and method of analysis is based on both the nature of the fibre(s) and the colour treatment. The sample may subject to colourant extraction for disperse dyes or direct treatment for reduction of dyes. The details for the selection of test methods are discussed in Sections 8, 9 and Annex D
- Sampling guidelines are newly added in Section 8
  - Only textile parts that are direct and prolonged contact to the skin or mouth should be tested. This is in line with the restriction of azo colourants under REACH
  - "White" is not considered as a colour and those parts do not have to be tested
  - If the mass of the materials <0.2g, no testing is required
  - Embroideries should be tested with base fabric
- Composite testing is allowed up to three colours. Each colour should have approximately the same weight to make up total sample mass of 1g. In case of test result in range between 5 mg/kg – 30 mg/kg, individual testing of each colour is required
- Addition of testing methods
  - The procedure of a screen method for aromatic amines is described in Annex E. The method is applicable to detect amines in concentration of more than 5 mg/kg and less than 100 mg/kg
  - The detection of certain aromatic amines directly from colourants is described in Annex F ■



<sup>1</sup> Go to <http://esearch.cen.eu/esearch/extendedsearch.aspx> and in "Standard reference" search for EN 14362-1

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