Asthma-Allergy Denmark

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The Blue Label criteria for Labelling of Hygiene and Tissue Products

The reason for making criteria for these types of products is that the products are in contact with the skin and because some products on the market contains substances that may be problematic with regards to contact allergy when the exposure is frequent or prolonged. Examples may be fragrance and preservatives. Besides these substances products may contain small amounts of other allergens such as colophony.

The Blue Label aims to help the consumer choosing products with minimal risk of allergic reactions in use on the skin.

With *The Blue Label* on the product, you will get:

- No fragrance or lotion
- No MI (or other sensitizing preservatives)
- Minimal risk of allergic reactions on the skin

Which products may obtain The Blue Label?

The products included in these criteria are diapers, sanitary towels, panty lines, nursing pads, plaster, kitchen towels, toilet paper and other products that come in contact with the skin and where the purpose is to absorb and contain or enclose fluids or the like. This means that incontinence products, disposable change mats, tissue handkerchiefs, paper napkins, dry wipes, foam washcloths, cotton and cotton pads also are included.

Requirement 1 – Information on Product Composition

The full composition of the product must be disclosed including all raw materials, auxiliaries and process chemicals. A raw material must be stated with all ingoing substances (cf. definition below), cas-no., amount and function. Raw materials may be stated with trade names provided the composition is disclosed by the supplier. It is the responsibility of the applicant that the suppliers provide the necessary information on the raw material to Asthma-Allergy Denmark.

Ingoing substance is defined as all substances in the product/raw material regardless of amount stated down to the detection limit

Safety data sheets must be submitted for the raw materials.

Note, that it is the obligation of the applicant to inform of all aspects, e.g. information on contaminants in raw materials, relevant for the assessment of the product.

Note, that if wood-based raw materials are used, the species of wood must be stated (cf. req. 2) and the requirement on colophonium must be met (cf. req. 3).

Documentation: Composition of the product containing information and all ingoing substances stating chemical name/INCI, cas-no., amount and function. Raw materials may be stated with trade names if the supplier provides information on the full composition of the raw materials directly to Asthma-Allergy Denmark. A schematic drawing of the product identifying all parts must be submitted – preferably with reference to the composition – and a description of the production identifying where and which process chemicals are used.

Requirement 2 – Non-woven, Fluff and Pulp

It must be stated which substances the raw material consists of (non-woven) or which species of wood the raw materials consists of (fluff/pulp).

It must be disclosed whether the production process involves process water, process chemicals or auxiliaries that get in contact with the raw material; and if this is the case which process chemicals are used. A description of the process should be submitted identifying where the process chemicals are used.

Note, that there are requirements as to the content of colophonium for wood-based raw materials (cf. req. 3C).

Documentation: A description of the process as well as a list of the substances the raw material consists of together with a list of the process chemicals used in the production of the raw material with chemical name/INCI, cas-no. and amount.

Requirement 3 – Specifically Excluded Substances

A. Substances classified sensitizing to skin (H317) may not be part of the product or raw materials.
B. Substances where evidence of sensitizing potential exist without the substances being classified may not be part of the product or raw material.
C. Colophonium must not be added to the product or raw materials. If wood-based raw materials is part of the product, the raw materials must have a low content of the colophonium markers: abietic acid, dehydroabietic acid and 7-oxodehydroabietic acid. The markers must not be present in the raw material in amounts exceeding 5 ppm each.
D. Fragrance may not be part of the product or raw material.
E. Lotion, ointment, cream or other cosmetic products may not be part of the product.

Documentation: *Point A, B, D and E*: Same as requirement 1. *Point C*: The amount of colophonium markers in the raw material/batch must be documented by gas chromatography or equivalent laboratory test (three batches must be tested). The detection limit for the applied test must be below the requirement limit. This must be documented continuously.

Requirement 4 – Colourants

Print is not accepted on the product.

Exception: In diapers, print may serve a function in the product and is accepted on the exterior of the product. Printing inks must meet the requirements for ingoing substances (requirement 3).

Print necessary for the production process will be accepted if the size is reduced to a minimum.

Documentation: Same as requirement 1. Print must be clearly marked on the schematic drawing of the product. Alternatively, a product sample or picture may be provided.

Requirement 5 – Control of Artwork

Artwork/label/packaging must be sent for approval. The use of the logo (The Blue Label) must conform to the rules set by Asthma-Allergy Denmark.

Documentation: Artwork/label/packaging.