

EL 25

Compostable paper products

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Introduction

Using compostable paper bags means to avoid waste.

Compostable paper bags are a valuable tool for the collection of biogenic wastes. They improve the hygienic conditions in collection containers and are important information carriers. The paper bags fulfil this information function in particular when they are used as carry bag before.

Strings, for example such as they are used in orcharding, horticulture and viticulture often end up on the ground after their use. Paper strings are biodegradable. By means of their use it is prevented that the commonly used plastic strings accumulate in the soil.

However, it is important that the paper used is produced in an environmentally compatible way. The wood for the pulp production must thus originate at least at 50 % from sustainable forestry. Furthermore, stringent air pollution and wastewater emission limits have to be met that reflect the best available techniques. The use of raw and auxiliary materials is subject to stringent limitations regarding health-affecting or environmentally harmful impacts of the chemicals. These requirements ensure that the environmental stress resulting from the production process is minimised.

Paper products must only be processed with low-polluting printing inks and glues. This is a prerequisite for ensuring that in the course of the composting of these products the composting quality is by no means impaired.

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1 Definition of the product groups

Compostable products made of paper such as e.g.

- Waste bags made of paper for the collection of biogenic wastes which are used in households for putting into waste collection containers. The previous use as carry bags is permissible.
- Paper strings such as they are used for example for tying works in viticulture, pomology, and horticulture.

2 Health and environmental criteria

2.1 General regulations for raw materials, auxiliary materials and feedstocks

The inspection body in charge of verification shall be notified of all materials and mixtures used in the manufacturing of fibrous material, in waste paper treatment and paper production.

Updated safety data sheets as specified in the REACH Regulation [1] shall be attached to the expert opinion in German or English language.

Materials and preparations which, during production, lose the below characteristics of hazardousness (e.g. where they have been allowed to react) shall be exempt from the quantitative restrictions mentioned.

Substances that are assigned any of the following R phrases according to the Dangerous Substances Directive [2] or H phrases according to the CLP Regulation [3], may be used as a maximum in the concentrations given in Table 1.

Table 1: Characteristics for classification and limit values

Annex VI to the Dangerous Sub- stances Directive	CLP Regulation	Limit value in mass % *
Very toxic		
R26, R27, R28	H300, H310, H330	0.1
R39/26, R39/27, R39/28	H370	
Toxic R23, R24, R25 R39/23, R39/24, R39/25 R48/23, R48/24, R48/25	H301, H331, H311 H370 H372	0.1
Carcinogenic	Carcinogenicity	
Cat.1, 2: R45, R49	Cat. 1A, 1B; H350, H350i	0.1
Cat. 3: R40	Cat.2: H351	1.0
Mutagenic	Germ cell mutagenicity	
Cat. 1, 2: R46	Cat. 1A, 1B; H340	0.1
Cat. 3: R68	Cat.2: H341	1.0
Toxic to reproduction	Reproductive toxicity	
Cat.1, 2: R60, R61	Cat. 1A, 1B; H360F, H360D, H360FD, H360Fd, H360Df	0.1
Cat.3: R62, R63	Cat.2: H361f, H361d, H361fd	1.0

Annex VI to the Dangerous Substances Directive	CLP Regulation	Limit value in mass % *
Addition lactation: R64	Toxic for reproduction on or via lactation: H362	1.0
Dangerous for the environment	Environmental hazards	
R50	Acute aquatic hazard: H400	1.0
R50/53	Chronic (long term) aquatic hazard Cat. 1: H410	1.0
R51/53	Cat.2: H411	1.0
R59	hazardous to the ozone layer: EUH 059.	0.1
	59 of the REACH Regulation, have been ate list. The version of the list of candidates up apply. [4]	0.1
Substances meeting the criteria for PB vPvB (very persistent and very bio acc	T (persistent, bio accumulative and toxic) or umulative) (REACH, Annex XIII)	0.1
	ustrian) Ordinance on Occupational Exposure e "clearly identified as carcinogenic agents" as carcinogenic substance groups or	0.1
	ustrian) Ordinance on Occupational Exposure assified as "reasonably suspected of having	1.0

^{*} The maximum quantities that may be used depend on the concentrations as from which the substances have to be mentioned in the safety data sheet. In cases where a specific limit value for the concentration has been laid down in the CLP Regulation, the lower value shall be used as the limit value.

Substances classified as "dangerous for the environment" shall be exempted from this provision; they shall be subject to the limit values given in the table.

2.2 Specific regulations for raw materials, auxiliary materials and feedstocks

2.2.1 Paper additives and manufacturing auxiliaries

Only the paper additives and manufacturing auxiliaries listed in the 36th Recommendation of the BfR (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung - Federal Institute for Risk Assessment) commission for commodity goods [6] may be used. The limit values specified in this Recommendation must not be exceeded.

No chlorine or chlorinated agents may be used for fibre preparation (TFC – totally chlorine-free bleaching). The use of ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA) is prohibited.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) must not be detectable in the finished product (detection limit: 0.005 mg/kg dry matter).¹

The wet strength agents used in the finished product must comply with the limit values of the 36th Recommendation of the BfR, the values measured must be recorded in the audit protocol.

Except for fillers and bonding agents no further additives may be added to the paper (e.g. plasticizers, preservatives, dyes etc.). In particular the use of the following chemicals in bonding agents and/or wet strength agents is prohibited.

- Diisocyanates
- Resins containing free epichlorhydrin

In the finished product (except for paper towels) antimicrobially effective substances must not be detectable (provision according to ÖNORM EN 1104 [7]).

The use of phenol resins as retention agents and flocculants is prohibited.

No aromatic and halogenated organic compounds may be added to the solvents in washing and cleaning fluids.

Alkyl phenol ethoxylates or other alkyl phenol derivatives must not be added to cleaning substances, de-inking substances, foam inhibitors, dispersants or coatings (stroke). Alkyl phenol derivates are defined as substances that upon degradation produce alkyl phenols.

The active components in biocides or biostatic agents used to counter slime-forming organisms in circulation water systems containing fibres shall not be potentially bio-accumulative. Biocides' accumulation potentials are characterised by log Pow (log of the octanol/water partition coefficient) < 3.0 or an experimentally determined bioconcentration factor ≤ 100. For this purpose, one of the below test methods shall be applied: OECD 107, 117 or 305 A-E.

Measuring method: Kunsstoffe im Lebensmitelverkehr (Plastic in the food trade) [2], Section B/IV (studies of paper, cardboards and paperboards point 4.4.3: polychlorinated biphenyls,

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2.2.2 Fibrous material

At least 50 percent of the timber used must come from sustainably managed forests².

This shall be demonstrated by means of a Chain-of-Custody certificate from an accredited certification body or by the eco-label verification body.

For the annual output of paper products of the product group concerned, the following shall be demonstrated with respect to the wood or organic agricultural residues that are used for fibre production:

- a) Origin and type of wood of the agricultural residues
- b) Quantity of the wood used or of the agricultural residues
- c) Output of paper products

Exclusively unbleached pulp is to be used.

The pulp production plant must be equipped with a chemical recovery plant (alkaline cycle closed at at least 98 %, lime cycle closed at at least 95 %).

2.3 Production

2.3.1 General requirements concerning the production sites.

- Official requirements and legal provisions, in particular concerning air, water, waste, environmental information and employee protection, shall be complied with. Both for domestic production sites and for production sites abroad the relevant national provisions shall be met.
 In cases where EU provisions are more stringent than national provisions, such EU provisions shall be complied with in any event. The applicant shall confirm compliance with this requirement.
- ➤ A waste management concept shall be presented. It has to contain the items listed in the Decree of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Environment, Youth and Family BMUJF (now Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management BMLFUW) [8] on the completeness of company-level waste management plans.

For production sites registered in accordance with the EMAS Regulation [9] or certified in accordance with the Austrian Industrial Standard ÖNORM EN ISO 14001 [10] the above-mentioned requirements shall be deemed satisfied.

2.3.2 Specific requirements concerning the production of pulp and paper

Emissions to water and air and fossil CO_2 emissions relating to the production of pulp and paper shall be determined according to the requirements of "paper profile – environmental product declaration for paper" [11]. The determination of the SO_2 and NOx emissions originating from combined heat and power plants and for the calculation of the CO_2 emissions shall follow the explanations in Annex 3.

² Wood certified in accordance with PEFC or FSC or other certification systems based on the criteria of Section 15 of the European Forest Strategy of 15 December 1998 complies with these requirements.

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Depending on the composition of the fibrous material/pulp, the emission values, expressed in points, shall be calculated according to Table 2 and/or table 3.

Production sites having an environmental management scheme certified in accordance with the Austrian standard ÖNORM EN ISO 14001 or validated in accordance with the EMAS Regulation can provide this evidence by means of the records on the wastewater, exhaust air and CO₂ emissions given in the environmental reports or by means of a duly signed paper profile. In any other case the evidence shall be provided by the eco-label verification body.

The weighted total number of points shall not exceed 100; each of the individual emission values must remain below the indicated limit values.

Table2: Emission limit values for paper predominantly made of chemical pulp

			(CALCULATION	NC
Parameter	Limit value	Refere valu		Weighting	Calculation of points
COD	≤ 37.5kg/t	25	kg/t	10 %	P _{CSB} = 10 x (CSB _{paper} /CSB _{reference})
AOX	0 kg/t	0	kg/t	20 %	20 points
SO ₂	≤ 1.35kg/t	0.9	kg/t	10%	P _{SO2} = 10 x (SO _{2paper} / SO _{2reference})
NOx:	≤ 3.45 kg/t	2.3	kg/t	10 %	$P_{NOx} = 10 \text{ x } (NOx_{paper}/NOx_{reference})$
CO _{2 fossil}	≤ 1100 kg/t	733	kg/t	40 %	$P_{CO2} = 40 \text{ x } (CO_{2 \text{ fossil papier}}/CO_{2 \text{ fossil reference}})$
FIBRE _{Cert/Rec}	≥ 50 %			10 %	P _{FIBRECert/Rec} = 10 * (2 *(100 - % _{FIBRECert/Rec} /100)
Points					$P_{\text{TOTAL}} = P_{\text{CSB}} + P_{\text{SO2}} + P_{\text{AOX}} + P_{\text{NOx}} + P_{\text{CO2}} + P_{\text{WOOD}}$
				EVALUATIO	
NUM	BER OF POINTS				$P_{TOTAL} \leq 100$

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Table 3: Emission limit values for paper predominantly made of wastepa	Table 3: Emission	limit values for	paper predominant	ly made of wastepape
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			CALCULAT	ΓΙΟΝ
Parameter	Limit value	Reference value	Weighting	Calculation of points
COD	≤ 6 kg/t	4 kg/t	10 %	P _{CSB} = 10 x (CSB _{paper} /CSB _{reference})
AOX	0 kg	0 kg/t	20 %	20 points
SO ₂	≤ 0.75kg/t	0.5 kg/t	10%	P _{SO2} = 10 x (SO _{2paper} / SO _{2reference})
NOx:	≤ 1.65 kg/t	1.1 kg/t	10 %	$P_{NOx} = 10 \text{ x (NOx}_{paper}/NOx_{reference})$
CO _{2 fossil}	≤ 1100 kg/t	733 kg/t	40 %	P _{CO2} = 40 x (CO _{2 fossil Papier} /CO _{2 fossil reference})
FIBRE _{Cert/Rec}	≥ 50 %		10 %	P _{FIBRECert/Rec} = 10 * (2 *(100 - % _{FIBRECert/Rec} /100)
Points				$P_{\text{TOTAL}} = P_{\text{CSB}} + P_{\text{SO2}} + P_{\text{AOX}} + P_{\text{NOx}} + P_{\text{CO2}} + P_{\text{WOOD}}$
			EVALUAT	ION
NUM	BER OF POIN	TS		P _{TOTAL} ≤ 100

The wastewater of the production site must go through a biological waste water purification plant which complies with the best available techniques. Definition of the best available techniques according to the IED Directive³ [12] and/or the relevant reference document [13].

For the residues (in particular from waste paper recycling and/or bark and fibre residues), proof of material or energy recovery shall be furnished³. If this is not possible, this shall be justified in a conclusive way and proof of orderly disposal as provided for in the Austrian Waste Management Act (AWG) shall be furnished.

2.3.3 Specific requirements concerning the production of paper products

2.3.3.1 Colouring/printing

For the colours used the respective safety data sheet has to be submitted and to be evaluated by the reviewer.

For printing only dye recipes may be used which according to Food Act 75 (LMG 75) [14] as well as respective additive ordinances and/or decrees based on them, are suitable and permissible for the printing and dying of food packages made of paper, paperboard and cardboard.

2.3.3.2 Adhesives

For the colours used the respective safety data sheet has to be submitted and to be evaluated by the reviewer.

³ For the definition, see Annex 1.

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Permitted are water-based dispersion adhesives as well as starch-based adhesives which comply with the Food Act 75 Lebensmittelgesetz LMG 75) (Evaluation in line with the respective Recommendations of the BfR (Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung – Federal Institute for Risk Assessment) Commission for commodity goods), according to which the contact of plastics with foodstuffs is regulated).

2.4 Packaging

Those putting packaging in circulation shall either take such packaging back themselves and utilise it or verifiably take part in a collection and recovery system. The provisions of the Austrian Packaging Ordinance shall apply [15].

2.4.1 Packaging paper bags

- The principle is to act on minimising packaging as far as possible.
 Permitted are either papers corresponding to the above-mentioned requirements regarding the use of raw materials in the paper production process (point 2.2.2) or papers made of secondary fibres.
- As regards the printing and the bonding of the package the requirements stipulated under point 2.3.3 shall apply.

3 Fitness for use paper bags

The products must comply regarding

- paper quality
- mechanical resilience of the paper
- heavy metal content
- compostability

with the requirements set forth in ÖNORM 3593 [16].

Appropriate documents for the proof of compostability of the bag material (e.g. composting experiment, certificates of composting plant operators) are to be submitted and to be evaluated by the reviewer.

A differentiated offer of various sizes for waste bags (e.g. for households or by putting them into large-scale containers) has to be proved. Exempted are those products which are sold as carry bags.

4 Declaration paper bags

- Eco-label licence number
- The application of the Eco-label is only permitted in combination with the title of the present guideline (complete wording) and only in connection with the purpose declared in the guideline.
- Exemplary listing of wastes suitable for composting for the purposes of the Ordinance on the separate collection of organic wastes [17].
- Exemplary listing of wastes not suitable for composting.

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Reference to regionally different situations concerning wastes which are only to a limited extent suitable for composting (e.g. meat, bones, cooked left-over food).

If carry bags bear and information or advertising print, the size relation between the wording of the Guideline "Compostable paper bags for biogenic wastes" and the Eco-label must be balanced. The typeface must be at least 12 point size or bigger. In any case the application of the label must take place in such a way that misleading confusion and/or associations with the information or advertising print are excluded.

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ANNEX 1

1. 'best available techniques'

shall mean the most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation which indicate the practical suitability of particular techniques for providing in principle the basis for emission limit values designed to prevent in general, and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole;

- 'techniques' shall include both the technology used and the way in which the installation is designed, built, maintained, operated and decommissioned;
- 'available' techniques shall mean those developed on a scale which allows implementation in the relevant industrial sector, under economically and technically viable conditions, taking into consideration the costs and their benefits, whether or not the techniques are used or produced inside the Member State in question, as long as they are reasonably accessible to the operator;
- 'best' shall mean most effective in achieving a high general level of protection of the environment as a whole.

Considerations to be taken into account generally or in specific cases, when determining best available techniques bearing in mind the likely costs and benefits of a measure and the principles of precaution and prevention:

- 1. the use of low-waste technology
- 2. the use of less hazardous substances
- 3. the promotion of recovery and recycling of substances generated and used in the process and of waste, where appropriate
- 4. comparable processes, facilities or methods of operation which have been successfully tested on an industrial scale
- 5. technological advances and changes in scientific knowledge and understanding
- 6. the nature, effects and volume of the emissions concerned
- 7. the commissioning dates for new or existing installations
- 8. the length of time needed to introduce the best available technique
- 9. the consumption and nature of raw materials (including water) used in the individual process and their energy efficiency
- the need to prevent or reduce to a minimum the overall impact of the emissions on the environment and the risks to it
- 11. the need to prevent accidents and to minimize the consequences for the environment
- 12. the information published by the Commission pursuant to Article 16 (2) or by international organizations.

2. "recovery"

means any operation the principal result of which is that the waste inside a plant or in the economy is destined in an environmentally benign way to a useful purpose

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a) by replacing other materials which would otherwise have been used to fulfil a particular function, or

b) in the case of preparation for re-use, by waste being prepared to fulfil this function.

'recovery' shall mean the preparation for re-use, the recycling and any other recovery (e.g. energetic recovery, the preparation of materials destined for use as fuels, or the filling), including the pre-treatment preceding these measures.

'material recovery'

shall mean the ecologically expedient treatment of wastes in order to utilize the material properties of the original material with the main purpose of using the waste or the materials recovered from it as a direct substitute for raw materials or products manufactured from primary raw materials, except where the waste or the materials recovered from it undergo thermal recycling.

3. Packaging

To achieve a water vapour barrier needed to maintain the paper functionality, a polyolefin rate of no more than 10 mass% in the packaging is permitted. Proof shall be furnished of the recyclability of the packaging.

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ANNEX 2

The following aromatic amines shall not be generated as a result of reductive cleavage of the azo group(s) contained in the pigment and/or must not be detected in the procedures of the indicated methods.

Methods:

Test methods according to the Austrian Industrial Standards ÖNORM EN 14362-1 [18] and ÖNORM EN 14362-3 [19].

If these methods are not deemed a validated method of analysis for a printing substrate according to the present Guideline, the use of the prohibited azo pigments shall not be deemed established for amounts not exceeding 30 mg per amino component in one kilogramme of sample material.

4-Aminoazobenzene 00060-09-3 o-Anisidine, 2-Methoxyaniline 00090-04-0

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ANNEX 3

Determination of emission parameters

SO₂ and NOx emissions from combined heat and power generation

In case of co-generation of heat and electricity at the same plant, the emissions of SO₂ and NOx resulting from electricity generation can be subtracted from the total amount. The following equation is used to calculate the proportion of the emissions resulting from electricity generation:

$$2 \times (MWh(electricity))/[2 \times MWh(electricity) + MWh(heat)]$$

The electricity in this formula is the electricity produced at the co-generation plant. The heat in this formula is the net heat delivered from the power plant to the pulp/paper production.

Fossil CO₂ emissions

The CO₂ emissions have to be calculated for the combustion of fossil fuels generated at all paper and pulp production sites during the production of the relevant type of paper for the production of heat and electricity as well as for the electricity purchased.

The following parameters of the paper profile shall be used for the determination of the CO₂ emissions and added:

- CO₂ level in kg/t paper for emissions generated from the combustion of fossil fuels during the production of pulp and paper.
- ➤ Figure for the purchased electricity in kW/h For the determination of the CO₂ emissions resulting from purchased electricity in kW/h a figure of 400 g CO₂ emissions per kWh is to be assumed. It is also possible to use the actual CO₂ emissions of the electricity supplier for the calculation, if they are plausibly presented in the expert opinion.

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5 Other applicable standards, acts and other regulations

The documents referred to hereinafter contain provisions which are part of this Ecolabel Guideline. Legal provisions shall always be applied as amended. Dated references to other documents do not cover later modifications or revisions of the publication.

In the case of undated references the most recent version of the referenced document shall apply.

Austrian acts can be consulted in a binding way at http://www.ris.bka.gv.at 4. The current versions of European Union Regulations and Directives are electronically retrievable at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/de/index.htm

- [1] Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive No 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Directive (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives No 91/155/EEC, No 93/67/EEC, No 93/105/EC and No 2000/21/EC, Article 31 and Annex II; Amendment No 552/2009; Federal Law Gazette II 158/2005
- [2] Council Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances and its adaptations to technical progress.
- [3] Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council of 16 December 2008 on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives No 67/548/EEC and No 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.
- [4] The current list of candidate substances is available at: http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp
- [5] Federal Law Gazette II No. 429/2011) Austrian) Ordinance on Occupational Exposure Limits (GWV 'Grenzwerteverordnung') 2011, of 20 December 2011
- [6] 36th Recommendation, Papers, cardboards and paperboards intended to come into contact with foodstuffs (BfR – Bundesamt für Risikobewertung Federal Institute for Risk Assessment), www.bfr.bund.de

No responsibility is accepted for the correctness and completeness of the legal information system. It is exclusively the wording of the legal provisions published in the Federal Law Gazette, in a Provincial Law Gazette or in another publication medium that is decisive.

- [7] ÖNORM EN 1104, Paper and board intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, determination of the transfer of antimicrobial constituents, 1 November 2005
- [8] Austrian Federal Ministry of Environment, Youth and Family Affairs (now Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management): "Erlass zum Abfallwirtschaftsgesetz und seinen Verordnungen" (Decree on the Waste Management Act and its ordinances) of 16 August 1995 (ref. no. 47 3504/404-III/9/95), Guideline on the Waste Management Concept http://www.lebensministerium.at/umwelt
- [9] Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) Official Journal No L 342 of 22 December 2009 p. 0001-00045
- [10] ÖNORM EN ISO 14001; Umweltmanagementsysteme Anforderungen mit Anleitung zur Anwendung, (environmental management systems requirements with instructions for implementation) 15 August 2009
- [11] Paperprofile, www.paperprofile.com
- [12] IED Directive (Industrial Emissions Directive) Directive No 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)
- [13] Reference Document on Best Available Techniques in the Pulp and Paper Industry BREF; December 2001
- [14] Federal Law Gazette No. 86/1975, Food Act 1975 [Lebensmittelgesetz 1975 LMG 1975]
- [15] Federal Law Gazette No 648/1996, "Verpackungsverordnung" (Austrian Packaging Ordinance), 29 November 1996
- [16] ÖNORM EN 13593 Packaging Paper sacks for household waste collection -Types, requirements and test methods, 1 April 2003
- [17] Federal Law Gazette No 68/1992 Ordinance on the separate collection of organic wastes
- [18] ÖNORM EN 14362-1, Textiles Methods for determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants Part 1: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants accessible with and without extracting the fibres, 2012-04-01
- [19] ÖNORM EN 14362-3, Textiles Methods for the determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants

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Part 3: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants which may release 4-aminoazobenzene, 2012-08-15