

MAURITIAN MS 188:2016 STANDARD

First edition
2016-07-23

Criteria for Ecolabeling for Textile products

ICS 03.080.30; 03.200



**Mauritius Standards Bureau
Moka**

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PREVIEW



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Foreword

This Mauritian Standard is identical with the **EU Directives 2014/350 of 05 June 2014** establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for textile products. It was drawn up in 2016 by the **Textile, Clothing and Footwear Standards Committee** through its **Subcommittee on Ecolabel for Textile Products**. It was approved by the **Standards Council** on **15 June 2016** and was notified in the **Government Gazette** on **23 July 2016***.

For the purposes of this Mauritian Standard the following changes should be made:

The scope of applicability of the standard should

1. include exterior textiles
2. exclude animal skin

* **General notice no 1048 of 2016**

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Introduction

The Ecolabel criteria reflect the best environmental performing products on the market of textiles. Whilst the use of chemical products and release of pollutants is part of the production process, a product that bears the Ecolabel guarantees the consumer that the use of such substances has been limited to the extent technically possible without prejudice to the fitness for use.

The criteria exclude, whenever possible, or restrict at minimum the concentration (required for providing specific functions and properties) of a number of substances identified as hazardous or potentially hazardous to the human health and the environment that are used to manufacture textiles. Only where a substance is required to meet consumer performance expectations or mandated requirements for the product (for instance flame retardancy), and where there are no applied and tested available alternatives, derogation for such a substance to be used in the Ecolabel is granted. Derogations are evaluated on the basis of the precautionary principle and scientific and technical evidence, especially if safer products are available on the market.

Product testing for restricted hazardous substances is important in order to provide a high level of assurance to consumers. Strict conditions are also imposed on the manufacturing processes for textiles to control pollution of water and air, and to minimise exposure of the workforce. The verification of compliance with the criteria is formulated in a way that provides a high level of assurance to consumers, reflects the practical potential for applicants to obtain information from the supply chain and excludes the potential for 'free riding' by applicants.

In order to show compliance with the criteria the applicant is required to declare the following information about the product(s) and their supply chain: Each criteria contains detailed verification requirements which require the applicant to compile declarations, documentation, analyses, test reports and other evidence relating to the product(s) and their supply chain.

The competent bodies are recommended to take into account the implementation of recognised environmental management schemes, such as EMAS, ISO 14001 and ISO 50001, when assessing applications and monitoring compliance with the criteria (it is not required to implement such management schemes).

The functional unit, to which inputs and outputs should be related, is 1 kg of textile product at normal conditions (65 % RH \pm 4 % and 20 °C \pm 2 °C; these norm conditions are specified in ISO 139 Textiles — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing).

Criteria for Ecolabelling for Textile products

1 Scope

This standard specifies the criteria for awarding an Ecolabel for the textile products. It includes criteria that any textile business should seek to achieve:

- minimization of the use of environmentally harmful substances
- reduction of water and air pollution
- reduction of energy consumption & GHG emissions, and
- minimization of waste generation
- sourcing from more sustainable forms of agriculture and forestry

All requirements are generic and are intended to be applicable to the greatest extent practicable to any textile business regardless of their type, size and location. This criteria document can be used independently or integrated with other management systems. It may also be used for certifications to obtain ecolabel award.

This standard is applicable to the textile sector covering all textile and non-textile products as shown below:

- a) **Textile clothing and accessories:** clothing and accessories consisting of at least 80 % by weight of textile fibres in a woven, non-woven or knitted form.
- b) **Interior and exterior textiles:** textile products for interior and exterior use consisting of at least 80 % by weight of textile fibres in a woven, non-woven or knitted form.
- c) **Textiles fibres (natural, synthetic and man-made cellulose), yarn, fabric and knitted panels:** intended for use in textile clothing and accessories and interior textiles, including upholstery fabric and mattress ticking prior to the application of backings and treatments associated with the final product.
- d) **Non-fibre elements:** zips, buttons and other accessories that are incorporated into the product, Membranes, coatings and laminates.
- e) **Cleaning products:** woven or non-woven fabric products intended for the wet or dry cleaning of surfaces and the drying of kitchenware

The standard is **not** applicable to floor coverings, animal skin and to garments, fabrics and fibres that containing the following:

- (a) electrical devices or which form an integral part of electrical circuitry
- (b) devices or impregnated substances designed to sense or react to changes in ambient conditions.