



Consumer products

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## EU commission updated the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for textile products

13 June 2014, EU published Commission Decision 2014/350/EU on Official Journal of the European Union establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the EU Ecolabel for textile products. This decision replaced the Decision 2009/567/EC which expired on 30 June 2014.

EU Ecolabel, came into existence in 1992, was in charged by EU Commission, the symbol of it is shown in Pic.1

9 July 2009, EU Commission published COMMISSION DECISION 2009/567/EC, which specified the raw materials that could be used in textiles, the limits of hazardous substances in textiles, the pollution restriction in fibre processing and the materials that could not be used in auxiliaries and finishing agents etc.



Picture 1: Eco-label

The newest edition updated below requirements:

1. Extend the scope of restricted products, including textile clothing and accessories, interior textiles and non-fibre parts consist in the products (such as zipper and button), but disposable products, wall to wall floor coverings and wall coverings are excluded, clothing, textiles and fibres containing electric equipment are also excluded.

2. Restrict the use of hazardous substances: specially listed out the limit for the hazardous substances listed in REACH SVHCs, and pointed out the environmental criterion that should comply when processing textile production.

In EU, it is not a mandatory provision to use ecolabel, but if textile and clothing producer

want to use ecolabel they have to comply with Commission Decision 2014/350/EU which has requirements to the use of formaldehyde, SVHCs, SCCP, heavy metal and phthalates etc.

The Ecolabel is backed by all EU Governments, and is a voluntary scheme. All the products that meet the requirements of ecolabel will be issued the ecolabel symbol which has the most comparable advantages for products because investigations show that 75% of the EU consumers are more likely to purchase the products with an ecolabel symbol.

Enterprises should positively follow the update of ecolabel regulations, keep up with the newest information, and positively apply for the ecolabel symbol to promote product level to facilitate the exportation of the products.