natureplus e.V.

Guideline 5001

Chemicals Directive

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for the awardance of the eco-label

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The natureplus eco label should serve a special role in protecting the environment and the health of users and consumers. Therefore products certified with the natureplus®-Quality Label should offer an above average level of safety performance in respect to the dangers posed to the environment and health by chemicals. To this end, two exclusion lists have been compiled which stipulate substances which may not be used in certified products. In these lists of prohibited substances, the substances are named or reference is made to other lists in which they are specified. The references to lists of national or international regulations or scientific committees, enables the automatic adjustment of the natureplus prohibited substance lists to legal classifications and scientific findings. In each case the highest national classifications are generally binding.

In so far as exceptions to the prohibited substances lists are permissible, these are only justified for reasons of sustainability and may only be approved subject to the constraints of the strictest national legal requirements applicable. An ecological benefit justifying the approval of the exception must be specified. Any exceptions granted are only applicable to particular product types and are explicitly listed in the corresponding award guidelines. Exceptions are not possible if the prohibited substance can be emitted by the product. The exceptions are issued in individual cases by the natureplus criteria commission.

The provisions set out in this directive apply only to ingredients that are intentionally added to the product. Contaminants carried over from precursor products are regulated elsewhere.

Products bearing the natureplus® quality label must consist of at least 85% renewable, recycled or mineral raw materials. Water in moist or liquid products is also included in the 85% calculation. The individual product guidelines may further restrict the content of renewable or mineral raw materials. The guidelines RL5002 Wood production and wood origin, RL5003 Nature conservation in the extraction of mineral raw materials and RL5004 Transparency and social responsibility contain specific requirements on the origin of wood, mineral raw materials and requirements for the supply chain.

In future, products made from 100% recycled non-renewable raw materials will become increasingly important in terms of the circular economy. Guidelines can also be created for such products. These must be drawn up with particular attention to the fact that there is no equivalent substitute made from renewable raw materials and that the 100% recycling rate is reliably maintained. The Criteria Commission is responsible for drawing up these guidelines.

After commissioning the natureplus institutes SCE to obtain the natureplus® quality label, the applicant shall provide the following documents at the start of the assessment.

- Complete list of all substances used in production. The full declaration to natureplus distinguishes between substances that remain in the product, substances that are converted into new compounds during manufacture, and production aids that do not remain in the product (e.g. separating or lubricating oils). Input aid: A5001
- If mixtures are used, the composition of the mixtures must be declared. Input help: A5001
- For all substances and mixtures, the suppliers and place of manufacture are specified. Input help: A5001
- All safety data sheets for the product and the substances used are provided in accordance with EU Regulation No. 1907/2006 Annex II (REACH), last updated by EU Regulation 2020/878. Due to ongoing work on the CLP Regulation and the REACH process, chemical substances are subject to continuous re-evaluation. For this reason, safety data sheets must not be older than four years.
- Technical data sheets

Chemicals used in natureplus-certified products must not result in the products being classified with the H and EUH statements listed in the table.

Products and articles that do not require Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are assessed according to the same rules as mixtures, provided they come into direct contact with consumers. The rules for articles (e.g. parquet flooring) are specified in product guidelines.

The plausibility of the classification and labelling on the safety data sheets is checked as part of the conformity assessment.

If chemicals are used in quantities that do not lead to the classification of the product, they are permitted. Appropriate health and safety measures, such as risk assessments and operating instructions, must be in place and documented in the production department.

H-Satz	Wording
H300	Fatal if swallowed.
H301	Toxic if swallowed.
H304	May be fatal if swallowed and enters the respiratory tract.
H310	Fatal in contact with skin.
H311	Toxic in contact with skin.
H317*	May cause allergic skin reactions.
H330	Fatal if inhaled.
H331	Toxic if inhaled.
H334*	May cause allergy or asthma-like symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled.
H340	May cause genetic defects.
H341	Presumed to cause genetic defects.
H350 (i)	May cause cancer.
H351	Presumed to cause cancer.
H360 (D, Df, F, fD, FD)	May impair fertility or harm the unborn child.

H-Satz	Wording
H361 (d, f, fd)	May probably impair fertility or harm the unborn child.
H362	May harm infants via breast milk.
H370	Causes damage to organs.
H371	May cause damage to organs.
H372	Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.
H373	May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure.
H400	Very toxic to aquatic organisms.
H410	Very toxic to aquatic organisms with long-lasting effects.
H411	Toxic to aquatic organisms with long-lasting effects.
H420	Harmful to human health and the environment through ozone depletion in the outdoor atmosphere.
EUH380	May cause endocrine disruption in humans.
EUH381	Suspected of causing endocrine disruption in humans.
EUH430	May cause endocrine disruption in the environment.
EUH431	Suspected of causing endocrine disruption in the environment.

H-Satz	Wording
EUH440	Accumulates in the environment and in living organisms, including humans.
EUH441	Accumulates heavily in the environment and in living organisms, including humans.
EUH450	May cause long-lasting and widespread contamination of water resources.
EUH451	May cause very long-lasting and widespread contamination of water resources.

*: For H statements H317 and H334, a limit value of 0.01% applies. Above this value, products must be labelled with a warning. Exceptions to this rule are permitted.

If natureplus products are labelled with hazard symbols other than those listed here, it must be ensured that the user is provided with sufficient information on safe use and disposal.

Exceptions may be permitted by natureplus. These exceptions must be scientifically justified and result in a special duty to inform consumers.

Products that contain hazardous substances but do not have to be labelled with hazard symbols as products must be listed by the manufacturer in the SKIP database. In addition, the natureplus product guidelines set out further requirements for products and their components.

The lists of prohibited substances apply to mixtures and products.

The substances listed in the lists of prohibited substances may not be used in products bearing the natureplus label. This also applies to their use in preliminary products. In scientifically justified cases, exceptions may be granted by the Criteria Commission.

1. Candidate list of substances of very high concern (SVHC) under the REACH Regulation

2. Substances subject to authorisation according to Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation

3. Carcinogenic substances, classified in various lists

- TRGS 905
- MAK List III1 and III2
- IARC Group 1 and 2a
- Chemicals with the H statement H350

4. Substance groups

- APEO (alkylphenol ethoxylates)
- Bisphenol (-A, -S, -F)
- Organohalogen compounds, HBCD
- Compounds containing the following heavy metals: arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury
- PFAS – per- and polyfluorinated alkyl compounds
- Organotin compounds
- Organohalogen phosphates
- Pyrethroids
- Phthalic acid esters, terephthalic acid esters (except PET), DINCH
- Nanomaterials that can be absorbed through inhalation
- Zirconium salts.

5. Exemptions

General exemptions

- Substances that react during manufacture to form a new substance and no residues of the starting substances remain in the final product are not covered by the list of prohibited substances. (Example: substances that polymerise during processing to form polyurethane)
- Substances that are firmly bound in the final product and can no longer be released individually. (Example: quartz sand in stones)

Justified exceptions

The Criteria Commission may define exceptions to the list of prohibited substances. These exceptions must be scientifically justified. Reasons for exceptions may include, for example:

- Conflicting objectives between individual requirements. (Example: A substance causes increased contamination of a heavy metal in the product. However, the

same substance is only available at a price that reflects very long transport distances and the associated significant deterioration of other environmental properties of the end product).
- There are no sustainable alternatives for a classified product and the product can be used safely without risk to the user.

Exceptions may only be granted if it is ensured that consumers and users cannot come into contact with the substance.

The exceptions are recorded in the list of exceptions to Guideline 5001 together with the reasons.

6. Preservatives and anti-mould agents

The use of preservatives in aqueous solutions is permitted. The selection is restricted by the requirements of the lists of prohibited substances. The preservative content in the solutions is intended solely for pot preservation. No bactericidal effects may be present on the surface after drying.

List of prohibited preservatives

- Formaldehyde or formaldehyde-releasing compounds
- Organic halogen compounds
- Isothiazolinones

Substances that inhibit mould growth during use are permitted. However, they must comply with the restrictions set out in the lists of prohibited substances.

  - CLP Regulation: (EC) No. 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP) [implementing the Globally Harmonised System (GHS)]
  - REACH Regulation: (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Regulation (EEC) No. 793/93, Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1488/94, Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC