

## LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® test criteria: New regulations in 2021

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At the start of the year, the OEKO-TEX® Association as usual updates the applicable test criteria, limit values and requirements for its range of certifications and labels. The following new regulations for LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® come into effect on April 1, 2021 after a three-month transition period:

### Changes of limit values

- The **PFOA** (perfluorooctanoic acid) and **salts** belonging to the perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl compounds, as well as **PFOA-related substances** that were still under observation in 2020, are newly included in the criteria catalogs Appendices 4 and 6 of the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®.
  - PFOA and salts Sum: 0.025 mg/kg
  - PFOA relates substances Sum: 1.0 mg/kg

**Note: already in effect since 9th of September 2020.**

- The limit value for **Bisphenol-A** (PC I-IV) in the criteria catalogue of the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® is reduced to the following:
  - Bisphenol-A: 100 mg/kg
- A limit value for total heavy metal content and extractable (heavy) metal content in **accessories made from glass** (PC II-IV) of 0.1 % is introduced. This affects **Lead** and **Cadmium**. The new footnote 3 is the following:  
For accessories made from glass: 0.1 %

**Use of the terminology Chrome-free and metal-free tanned products**

If an applicant wants to have the terms “chrome-free tanned leather” and/or “metal-free tanned leather” mentioned in the scope of the certificate the following requirements need to be fulfilled:

The definition of “chrome-free tanned leather” and/or “metal-free tanned leather” according to ISO 15115 (:2019) has been considered in tanning process and fulfills the requirements of 3.20 and 3.57 of the ISO 15115 (2019) respectively.

And additional lab test for proof shall be performed and the according limit values can be found in Annex 4.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Chrome-free tanned | Total content of chromium $\leq 0.1\%$ on dry weight                                |
| Metal-free tanned  | Total content of all tanning metals (Cr, Al, Ti, Zr, Fe) $\leq 0.1\%$ on dry weight |

Overall, the strict requirements for residues in leather materials also lead to a lower burden on the environment, employees and consumers. In many cases the limit values for the LEATHER STANDARD go beyond national and international requirements. Therefore, the OEKO-TEX® strategy has been to be proactive in the field of consumer protection as a pioneer and not to wait for legislation. This makes any article or product certified with the STANDARD 100, LEATHER STANDARD and ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® also compliant with the limit values of the Appendix XVII of the REACH Regulation.

**Further acceptance criteria:**

The leather white list is now also published in the LEATHER STANDARD and contains:

**sheep; lamb; goat; cattle; calf; pig; horse; red deer and reindeer**

**New definitions in the LEATHER STANDARD:**

Exact definitions of the terms leather and furs are now included in the LEATHER STANDARD.

**Self-Assessment**

Due to the COVID 19 related travel restrictions, personal On-Site Visits are almost impossible. To bridge this situation temporarily, a Self-Assessment process was implemented. Self-Assessments are a temporary solution for our customers to get a certification without neglecting the On-Site Visit.

For more information on the new OEKO-TEX® test criteria, please contact OEKO-TEX® ([info@oeko-tex.com](mailto:info@oeko-tex.com)) or your responsible OEKO-TEX® institute ([www.oeko-tex.com/institutes](http://www.oeko-tex.com/institutes)).



*After a three-month transition period, the new LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® test criteria and limit values will become binding for all certifications on April 1, 2021.*