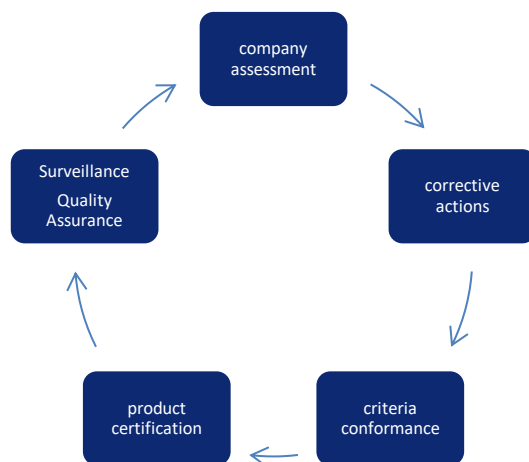


## Nonconformities & Consequences

bluesign partners with the textile industry to reduce adverse impact across the value chain.

Companies and products meeting the requirements defined in the bluesign Criteria and the limit values of the bluesign System Black Limit BSBL and the bluesign System Substances List BSSL are the foundation on which sustainable textile production stands.

Nonconformities are part of the continuous improvement process. They might be detected in company or product assessment, in monitoring activities or with complaints. Settling nonconformities increases the performance of companies and products.



Bluesign System Partner agree to comply with the bluesign Criteria by signing the bluesign system partner agreement. Precondition for certification of chemicals, articles and consumer products is criteria conformance<sup>1</sup> of the system partner and the production site/brand, if not identical.

What are the consequences of these principles?

- Certification of chemicals, articles, consumer products can start as soon as 'criteria conformance status' is reached. This is shown in the CUBE with the bluesign progress bar of the company profile.
- Certification continues as long as corrective actions for nonconformities follow the agreed roadmap. The 'criteria conformance status' remains valid.
- For nonconformities in company re-assessment there is granted a period of 3 months after roadmap meeting for remedy of critical nonconformities and 6 months for major nonconformities. Deviating timelines may be agreed depending on the type of nonconformity.
- If the company fails to regain criteria conformance within the agreed timeline:

<sup>1</sup> Criteria conformance means no critical and major nonconformities

- The status will be downgraded to 'System partnership' after written notification. This information in CUBE allows other parties to take appropriate actions.
- Certification will be withdrawn, if applicable.
- 3 months after notification and change to 'System partnership' status all certified products will be deleted from Finder/Guide.
- Products ordered during the 3-month period are accepted for usage in other certified products.
- Nonconformities of specific products which cannot be settled as agreed lead to deletion of the affected products from Finder/Guide. The 'criteria conformance status' remains unchanged.
- Companies which do not reach criteria conformance before next re-assessment cannot continue their system partnership.

Note: Above procedure is not applicable if consumer safety and legal compliance is endangered. It needs prompt actions which might include immediate withdrawal of certificate, contractual penalties or termination.

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