

# SAFEGUARDS

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

SOFTLINES

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## INDIA - AZO REQUIREMENT ON IMPORTED APPAREL AND TEXTILE PRODUCTS

Consumer goods which contain listed aromatic amines originating from azo dyes are currently prohibited from manufacture and sale in many countries in the global marketplace. India was the first Asian country to launch a chemical regulation in 1997 to ban specific azo dyes from being used in apparel and textile products.

India has published legislation prohibiting the handling of a total of 112 azo- and benzidine-based dyes. In 1993, the Government of India prohibited the handling of 42 benzidine-based dyes. The Ministry of Environment and Forests further [prohibited the handling of an additional 70 azo dyes](#) in 1997. According to the Indian import policy, import of textiles and textile articles is permitted subject to the condition that they do not contain any of the hazardous dyes (azo dyes) whose handling, production, carriage or use is prohibited in India under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This amendment was made to the Indian legislation by the [Notification No. 03 \(RE-2001\)/1997-2002](#) dated on 31 March 2001.

Under the Notification of Ministry of Commerce No. 03 (RE-2001), a pre-shipment certification is required declaring that the shipment is free of azo dyes. The pre-shipment certification must be from a textile testing laboratory accredited to the National Accreditation Agency of the country of origin, certifying that the products do not contain any of the prohibited dyes. It is required for all imported textile products, that testing must be done for every consignment on every model and color in order to ensure compliance to the azo requirement.

The amendment of the regulation by [Public Notice No. 12 \(RE-2001\)](#), clarified that if imported consignments carry a pre-shipment inspection certificate issued by a textile testing laboratory accredited by a National Accreditation Agency of the country of origin, is not required that testing be done during customs clearance. Otherwise, testing and certification will be required before importation is allowed.

### Textile Products Imported with Pre-shipment Inspection Certificate

- Imported textile products with a pre-shipment inspection certificate can expedite custom clearance
- If testing is required at the port of loading, samples must be collected by a third party inspector.
- Mandatory testing parameters are fibre composition and azo dyes



- Testing can be carried out by a textile testing laboratory from the country of origin. The laboratory must be accredited to ISO 17025 by a national accreditation agency and the accreditation agency logo must be on the testing report
- Testing reports with “pass” result should be given to the inspection team for pre-shipment inspection certificate issuance

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## Textile Products Imported without Pre-shipment Inspection Certificate

- For textile products imported into India without any testing, importers are required to reserve 25% of their shipment for random testing by India Customs
- Testing will be done by an India laboratory which is approved by the Ministry of Textiles
- Mandatory testing parameters are fibre composition and azo dyes
- Shipment will be released after a "pass" result is obtained

is currently checking on the list of banned amines that will be released from certain of the azo dyes during the reductive cleavage. The list of banned amines is the same as those regulated under EU Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 (REACH) Annex XVII.

Although the Ministry of Environment and Forests has prohibited the handling of 112 dyes in textile products which are capable of releasing any of the harmful amines, it

**TABLE 1 – LIST OF BANNED AMINES**

NAME	CAS NO.	NAME	CAS NO.
4-Aminodiphenyl	92-67-1	3,3'-Dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7
Benzidine	92-87-5	3,3'-Dimethyl-4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane	838-88-0
4-Chloro-o-toluidine	95-69-2	p-Cresidine	120-71-8
2-Naphthylamine	91-59-8	4,4'-Methylene-bis-(2-chloroaniline)	101-14-4
o-Aminoazotoluene	97-56-3	4,4'-Oxydianiline	101-80-4
2-Amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8	4,4'-Thiodianiline	139-65-1
4-Chloroaniline	106-47-8	2-Aminotoluene	95-53-4
2,4-Diaminoanisole	615-05-4	2,4-Diaminotoluene	95-80-7
4,4'-Diaminodiphenylmethane	101-77-9	2,4,5-Trimethylaniline	137-17-7
3,3'-Dichlorobenzidine	91-94-1	2-Methoxyaniline	90-04-0
3,3'-Dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4	4-Aminoazobenzene	60-09-3

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