

# SAFEGUARDS

## CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

SOFTLINES

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## KOREA – UPDATED SAFETY AND QUALITY LABELLING STANDARDS FOR LEATHER PRODUCTS

The Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS)<sup>1</sup> has announced an updated amendment to Annex 3 of the Safety and Quality Labelling Standards – Leather Products. The effective date of adoption is December 21, 2013.

### MAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE UPDATED STANDARD

- The scope of artificial leather has been divided into coated leather, laminated leather, recombinant leather and synthetic leather.
- Requirements for hazardous substances are classified by the age of a person and the duration of skin contact.
- Requirements for Phthalates, Organotin compounds, Lead, Cadmium, Nickel release and Arylamines have been added.
- Model classification and filling material have been eliminated from label information.

### HIGHLIGHTS FOR DEFINITION OF TERMS

- “Leather products” shall refer to products where more than 60% of the total surface is made of natural leather (hide) or synthetic leather (hide) or natural fur (fur).
- If the surface of a product labeled as natural leather is laminated or coated with resin to impart color or waterproofing, the thickness of the resin or lamination shall not exceed 0.15mm.
- Coated leather refers to a leather product whose surface may be coated with various pigments, binders and synthetic resins applied by means of spray, padding, roll coating, etc. The thickness of this surface layer, however, shall not exceed one-third of the total thickness of the product but should be more than 0.15mm.
- “Laminated leather” pertains to a composite of two or more layers of leather or a layer of leather and one or more layers of another sheet of film of plastic or some other material. The thickness of the materials other than the layers of leather shall be more than 0.15mm and account for more than one-third of the total thickness.
- “Leather products for infants” refer to leather clothing and other products

especially for infants  $\leq$  36 months.

- “Leather products for children” refer to leather products including inner wear, mid wear, outer wear, clothing, bedding, bags (including school bags), etc., for children  $>$  36 months but  $<$  14 years.
- All leather products other than those for infants and children shall be classified as “inner wear”, “mid wear”, “outer wear”, “bedding”, and “others”.

### GENERAL SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Small components used in leather products for infants shall comply with the “Test for Small Component” and “Tension Test for Small Component” in accordance with Self-Regulatory Safety Confirmation Standard Annex 36 – Toys.
- Any harmful magnet or magnet component defined in the “Safety Standard for Restricted Substances Commonly Applied to Industrial Products for Children” shall not be used for industrial products for

<sup>1</sup> KATS - <http://www.kats.go.kr/html/news/announcement.asp#n> (in Korean)

infants and children in leather products (e.g. children's textile goods, children's apparel, childcare products, children's jewellery, etc.).

- Cord and tightening strings applied to leather products should comply in accordance with KS K 0941 or EN 14682.

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES

- Products used in fabric materials must meet the safety requirements for toxic substances as stated in Self-Regulatory Safety Confirmation Standard Annex 4 – Textiles for Infants and Safety and in Quality Labeling Standards Annex 1 – Household Textiles.
- The requirements apply to the upper of leather shoes, shoe lining, and inner soles if the product is for children or adults. For infant footwear, the entire product must meet the safety requirements.

**TABLE 1.**

NAME OF RESTRICTED SUBSTANCE		PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION	LEATHER PRODUCTS FOR INFANTS	LEATHER PRODUCTS FOR CHILDREN	INNER WEAR	MID WEAR	OUTER WEAR, BEDDINGS AND OTHERS
Formaldehyde (mg/kg)			≤ 20	≤ 75			≤ 300
Chlorinated phenol (PCP) (mg/kg)			≤ 0.5	≤ 5.0			
Chromium VI (mg/kg)			≤ 0.5	≤ 3.0			
Dimethyl fumarate (mg/kg)			≤ 0.1				
Arylamines (mg/kg)			≤ 30				
Phthalates	DEHP, DBP, BBP		≤ 0.1%	≤ 0.1%	-	-	-
	DINP, DIDP, DNOP		≤ 0.1%	-	-	-	-
Organotin Compound (mg/kg)	DBT (dibutyltin)		≤ 1.0	-	-	-	-
	TBT (tributyltin)		≤ 0.5	≤ 1.0			
Lead (mg/kg)			≤ 90	≤ 90	-	-	-
Cadmium (mg/kg)			≤ 75	≤ 75	-	-	-
Nickel (µg/cm <sup>2</sup> /week)			≤ 0.5				

**LABELING REQUIREMENT FOR LEATHER PRODUCTS** (The label should be written in Korean and with the "KC Mark")

- Product Name (as Leather Product)
- Types of Material
- Size
- Manufacturing Date
- Name of Manufacturer
- Name of Importer (for imported products)
- Address and Telephone No. of the certifier (domestic manufacturer or importer)
- Country of Origin
- Product Care Instruction

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