

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

SOFTLINES

NO. 062/15 APRIL 2015

JAPAN ANNOUNCES AZO RESTRICTION IN TEXTILE PRODUCTS

The Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) officially released the amendment to the existing “Act on Control of Household Products Containing Harmful Substances”, where azo compounds are designated as hazardous substances. Twenty-four (24) specified aromatic amines are regulated and cannot be used in household products in amounts exceeding the established limit. The amended ordinance will enter into force on 1 April 2016.

The new ordinance restricts azo compounds that can break down to release any of the 24 toxic aromatic amines (Table 1) with a threshold limit less than 30 mg/kg when tested using a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer.



TABLE 1. SPECIFIED 24 AROMATIC AMINES AS “HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES”

NO.	NAME OF SUBSTANCE	CAS NO.	NO.	NAME OF SUBSTANCE	CAS NO.
1	4-aminobiphenyl	92-67-1	13	3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane	838-88-0
2	benzidine	92-87-5	14	p-cresidine	120-71-8
3	4-chloro-o-toluidine	95-69-2	15	4,4'-methylene-bis-(2-chloro-aniline)	101-14-4
4	2-naphtylamine	91-59-8	16	4,4'-oxydianiline	101-80-4
5	o-aminoazotoluene	97-56-3	17	4,4'-thiodianiline	139-65-1
6	2-amino-4-nitrotoluene	99-55-8	18	o-toluidine	95-53-4
7	p-chloroaniline	106-47-8	19	2,4-toluenediamine	95-80-7
8	2,4-diaminoanisole	615-05-4	20	2,4,5-Trimethylaniline	137-17-7
9	4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane	101-77-9	21	2-methoxyaniline	90-04-0
10	3,3'-dichlorobenzidine	91-94-1	22	4-aminoazobenzene	60-09-3
11	3,3'-dimethoxybenzidine	119-90-4	23	2,4- xylidine	95-68-1
12	3,3'-dimethylbenzidine	119-93-7	24	2,6-xylidine	87-62-7

Reference: SGS-Safeguard 034/15

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Recommended Test Method:

- JIS L 1940-1:2014 (ISO 24362-1:2014) – Textiles – Methods for determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants – Part 1: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants accessible with and without extracting the fibres
- JIS L 1940-3:2014 (ISO 24362-3:2014) – Textiles – Methods for determination of certain aromatic amines derived from azo colorants – Part 3: Detection of the use of certain azo colorants, which may release 4-aminoazobenzene



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