New EU Azocolourants Test Method Published

The EU azocolourants test methods for textiles articles and materials with direct, prolonged skin contact, EN 14362-1 & 2:2003, have been consolidated and replaced by EN 14362-1:2012. The new standard has just been published by BSI as BS EN 14362-1:2012, the UK’s national standards body.

The following is a list of the main technical changes:

- Part 2 (prior extraction for certain types of textile fibres, such as polyester) of EN 14362 has been integrated into Part 1 (reductive cleavage of the azocolourants and determination of the primary aromatic amines, including the addition of Annex D (informative) "Explanatory table of dyestuffs used in various textile materials"");
- Addition of Annex F (normative) "Colorants - Methods for determination of certain aromatic amines";
- The calculation, previously Annex B (normative) has been moved to Subclause 9.6.

Please note, the new 2012 technically version of EN 14362-1 remains an unofficial test method until the list of official test methods in Appendix 10 of REACH Annex XVII is amended.

Also, a new EN 14362-3, covering the determination of 4-aminoazobenzene (4AAB), is due to be published by CEN in July 2012. However, it will not become publicly available until published by one of the CEN national standard bodies, which is likely to be a few months afterwards.

This additional method is necessary as the current EN 14362-1 & 2:2003 methods will further reductively cleave 4AAB into aniline and p-phenylenediamine. These two primary aromatic amines may also be found during testing from other unrestricted azo dyes. Hence finding both of them cannot provide a conclusive result without more investigation. One option would be further testing with another test, such as the German official method § 64 LFGB B82.02-9, on which the new EN 14362-3 is based.

To recap, the current official test methods for the EU azocolourants requirements in textiles remain as EN 14362-1:2003 and EN 14362-2:2003. These are the EU mandatory test methods per entry 43 of REACH Annex XVII with their references listed in Appendix 10 to Annex XVII. These new methods are expected to replace them as the official methods in due course, but are expected to be at least several months away.

Intertek has developed analytical methods to verify the release of primary aromatic amines from textiles and leather. By leveraging our local services and global network, we enable our customers to dedicate their primary energies to their core business activities. We offer comprehensive programs and services which draw on our industry specific knowledge and technical expertise. Please contact your local Intertek laboratory for further details of this and our other services.

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