

Notice and Apology Regarding an Issue Revealed Concerning Textile Product Certification

May 15, 2024

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

A certification-related issue has been revealed regarding Soalon® triacetate textiles (hereinafter “Soalon®”) manufactured and sold by Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (hereinafter, “MCC”). Details are still under investigation, but the facts so far recognized by MCC are set out below.

We deeply apologize to our customers and all other related parties for the inconvenience and concern caused by this issue. MCC takes this incident seriously and will strive to prevent the reoccurrence of similar issues as it works to enhance compliance.

MCC is currently investigating the existence of similar issues regarding other certifications obtained in connection with its business, and has detected the possibility of similar such issues. Going forward, if another issue is indeed revealed, MCC will give notice of it immediately.

1. Details of the issue

For fabrics made from Soalon®, copies of a certificate stating that the product has valid OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification (N-KEN18043)*¹ were submitted to customers despite such certification not having actually been obtained for the product.

The OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification is required to be updated every year through annual analytical tests. However, according to the results of the investigations made so far by MCC, no valid certification has been given to Soalon® fabrics for the periods described below. For the avoidance of doubt, this issue relates to Soalon® fabrics and certification for Soalon® yarns*² remains valid to date.

Period in which valid OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification was not obtained for Soalon® fabrics:

Products destined for the Middle East: In and after June 2022

Other products: In and after June 2023

2. Background to the occurrence of the incident

The certification is required to be updated every year. However, as revealed through internal investigations, the responsible personnel in charge of the certification at MCC failed to follow the necessary procedures for the updating the certification, including filing applications and annual analytical tests, and continued to sell the products by submitting copies of a forged certificate to customers.

3. Measures to be taken for customers

With regard to customers to whom copies of the forged certificate were submitted, MCC will inform respectively and discuss subsequent measures. For Soalon® fabrics, no changes have been made to the raw materials or to the manufacturing and processing methods since the certification for the fabrics was first obtained in 2019, and therefore the quality and safety of the products has remained unchanged. However, since there are separate criteria applied to some products destined for the Middle East, MCC is currently conducting investigations to check the conformity of the existing products to such criteria.

*1. OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification is given by the International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile and Leather Ecology (OEKO-TEX® Association) and is used as an indicator of the world's safest textile products.

*2. Soalon® yarns have been continuously certified to OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 in Annex 4, Class 1 since October 2013.

Contact for inquiries about this issue:

<https://www.mcgc.com/english/contact/contact/index.php?code=other>

Information is current as of the date of issue of the individual press release. Please be advised that information may be outdated after that point.