



Press release

Unterfoehring, Germany, June 2008

Eco-aware solutions

Sympatex[®] becomes bluesign[®] certified, further strengthening its commitment to environmental protection

With Sympatex, ecology is top of the agenda. That's why all its products now bear the label "bluesign[®] approved". As a certified bluesign[®] partner, the functional systems specialist has subjected its production to the very strictest EHS (environment, health and safety) standards.

With a 100 percent recyclable membrane and fully recyclable Ecocycle SL laminate to its name, Sympatex has always been a pioneer in the design of sustainable and environment-friendly functional systems. As a natural consequence of this commitment, the company has now entered a bluesign[®] partnership and obtained the coveted bluesign[®] certification.

Certification is based on a set of tough environment protection, health and safety demands placed on each individual production plant. The independent bluesign[®] organisation aims at ensuring maximum resource productivity throughout the production chain in compliance with strictest EHS requirements. The bluesign[®] standard is based on five guiding principles all favouring sustainable production: resource productivity, consumer protection, exhaust air reduction, waste water management and work safety.

"Our primary goal is to combine the best possible performance for our products with maximum environmental sustainability," explains Thomas Baierlein, Managing Director of Sympatex Technologies GmbH in Unterfoehring, Germany. "By achieving maximum consumer and environmental protection coupled with resource optimisation, the bluesign[®] standard brings us a big step closer to this goal. The guidelines of bluesign technologies ag make up the toughest standard known in the industry today. That's the yardstick by which we want to measure ourselves."

The Sympatex membrane is 100 percent water- and windproof while providing exceptional breathability. Because it is made from a mixture of polyester and polyether, it leaves no harmful residues when it is burned, and is fully biodegradable. In contrast to this, conventional fabric membranes based on PTFE (fluorine) are

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perceived as a potential threat to health and the environment since the production of PTFE involves so-called perfluoroalkyl compounds – a group of chemicals potentially hazardous to the environment. After its useful life, PTFE remains in the environment, as it cannot be broken down naturally. Many major suppliers from the sports, leisure and contract & workwear industries have recognised these flaws, preferring to base their products on the environmentally sound Sympatex membrane. Excellent performance set apart, the bluesign® certification is another strong argument in favour of Sympatex solutions.

“The aim of the bluesign® standard is not to test finished products for harmful substances. Rather, we want to offer manufacturers tried-and-tested, approved components which, if used correctly, lead to environmentally and consumer-friendly products,” explains Detlef Fischer, Vice President of bluesign technologies ag. “The inclusion of the Sympatex membrane is a very exciting addition to the already wide range of products bearing the “bluesign® approved” label – which textile manufacturers can access via our bluefinder™ platform.”

Further information is available at:

www.sympatex.de

www.bluesign.com

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