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Inspire trust.**

Certification programme of TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH for certification procedures of products, packaging and semi-finished products in accordance with the certification programme „flustix LESS PLASTICS“ of flustix GmbH

1. General Information

TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH (hereinafter referred to as TÜV SÜD), as a product certification body approved by flustix GmbH (hereinafter referred to as flustix), offers its services to interested organisations for the certification of low-plastics products, packaging and semi-finished products. This enables organisations to provide proof of compliance with the requirements of the “flustix LESS PLASTICS” certification programme through an independent certification body.

2. Scope of application

The basis for this certification programme is the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” from flustix in the version dated February 2025.

The TÜV SÜD certification programme at hand is used in combination with the flustix certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” for all products, packaging and semi-finished products whose plastic content is to be tested. Depending on the products, packaging and semi-finished products to be certified, three variants of certification can be applied, namely the certification of

- a product,
- a packaging, or
- a total product (product incl. packaging).

The aim of certification is to reduce the plastic content in products, packaging and semi-finished products to a minimum and to ensure that this content does not exceed a specified limit value. Products, packaging and semi-finished products that only contain a minimum amount of plastic due to technical unavailability or residues and contamination are marked with the corresponding flustix certification mark.

The following scopes are adopted from the certification programme „flustix LESS PLASTICS“:

- Scope of application in accordance with section 1
- Test and Certification Specifications in accordance with section 2

In addition, the current version of the General Terms and Conditions of TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH apply: <https://www.tuvsud.com>

Furthermore, the Testing, Certification, Validation and Verification Regulation (TCVVR) of the TÜV SÜD Group in its current version also applies: <https://www.tuvsud.com>



3. Definition of terms

The definitions of terms according to section 3 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” apply.

The following terms are used as synonyms for the sake of clarity:

- total product: consumer goods

4. Types of testing

Initial test:

The initial test includes the certification of products, packaging and semi-finished products, which have not previously been certified by TÜV SÜD. The initial test process is described in section 6 of this certification programme.

Monitoring test:

The monitoring test is carried out at two-year intervals and includes a testing of the certified products, packaging and semi-finished products for compliance with the flustix and TÜV SÜD requirements. The scope of the monitoring test corresponds to that of the initial test. The validity of the certificate is maintained on the basis of the results of the monitoring test.

Supplementary test:

The supplementary test must be carried out if deviations occur in certified products, packaging and semi-finished products. Sections 5.2.3 and 6.10.1 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” apply.

Special test:

The special test is carried out on the basis of section 5.2.4 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS”.

In the event of deficiencies being identified, section 6.11 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” applies.

5. Requirements

Flustix places the following requirements on the packaging to be certified:

- see section 4.1 of the certification programme „flustix LESS PLASTICS“.

Flustix places the following requirements on the product to be certified:

- see section 4.2 of the certification programme „flustix LESS PLASTICS“.

Flustix places the following requirements on the total product to be certified:

- see section 4.3 of the certification programme „flustix LESS PLASTICS“.



6. Procedure

I. Preparation and application review

Interested organisations can submit their request for certification to flustix or TÜV SÜD and subsequently apply for certification with the respective organisation.

After the applicant has submitted the application for certification to TÜV SÜD or has been forwarded by flustix, TÜV SÜD will appoint a person responsible for the project (hereinafter referred to as project manager). This person is responsible for communicating with the applicant and, if necessary, requests further documents required for certification.

The application for certification must be checked by flustix or TÜV SÜD and shall be rejected if:

- the information provided is insufficient for certification and is not supplemented or cannot be supplemented despite further enquiry.
- the certification body does not have the necessary experience, competence and ability to carry out the certification activity and this deficiency cannot be remedied in the short term.
- the scope of the certification is not sufficiently defined and, despite enquiries to the applicant, no sufficiently precise definition can be made
- not all known disagreements between the certification body and the applicant can be resolved.
- if the resources to carry out all evaluation activities are not available.

If the result of the application review is negative, the applicant is to be informed immediately.

The project manager is responsible for preparing an offer. In the course of the offer, the applicant is informed of the certification contract, the certification programme and the general terms and conditions of TÜV SÜD.

Once the order is commissioned in writing and the certification contract signed, the project manager plans the activities required to carry out the certification.

II. Sampling

After the applicant has submitted all the required documents, TÜV SÜD will give permission to send the corresponding samples, including the necessary information, to the testing laboratory to be carried out, and to flustix.

Sampling of the products, packaging and semi-finished products to be certified is generally carried out by the applicant, although additional requirements for sampling by TÜV SÜD may be specified in individual cases. These are to be taken into account by the applicant and may include, for example:

- sampling with digital recording,
- sampling under the supervision of an independent person (on-site or remote) or
- sampling by TÜV SÜD, from commercially available products,

The costs associated with this are to be borne by the applicant.

III. Analytical testing

As part of the certification process, TÜV SÜD commissions a testing laboratory recognised by TÜV SÜD to carry out the analytical tests. This testing laboratory must be accredited in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 and fulfil additional TÜV SÜD requirements.

After receiving the samples and documents, the testing laboratory analyses at least one sample per type (see description according to section 6.2 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS”). The determination of polymers is carried out using spectroscopic or thermoanalytical methods in a two-stage procedure. In the first step,



Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) is used, followed by Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA), Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC), Mass Spectrometry (MS) or Raman Spectroscopy. Alternatively, Thermal Extraction Desorption Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (TED-GC/MS) can also be used.

If the result of the analytical test does not allow a statement to be made regarding the solid to be identified, further analyses may be necessary in individual cases to determine the identity of the ingredients. If an individual test has to be carried out, the applicant will be contacted by the person responsible for the project. Before the analytical test is carried out, the applicants must confirm the additional test and bear the associated costs.

After completion of the analytical test, the testing laboratory sends the test report to TÜV SÜD. The test report must meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 and contain a detailed description of the samples and the analysis.

IV. Conformity assessment

Following the analytical test, the conformity assessment is carried out by TÜV SÜD. The products, packaging and semi-finished products for certification are evaluated using a checklist and must comply with the requirements of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” in section 4. During the systematic evaluation based on the checklist, an assessment is carried out as to whether all requirements of flustix and TÜV SÜD have been met. If necessary, the applicant will be consulted.

A conformity assessment is deemed to have been passed or failed. Tolerance of major non-conformities is not permitted. Minor non-conformities in small numbers can only be tolerated if they are formal deviations, but not if they do not fulfil quality requirements (such as the maximum content of plastics in the product).

V. Dealing with non-conformities

Major non-conformities must be rectified by the applicant. The rectification must be verified by TÜV SÜD in an appropriate manner.

If one or more major non-conformities are detected during an initial test, no certificate can be issued. If one or more major non-conformities are identified during a monitoring test, the certification body is authorised to withdraw or revoke the existing certificate, in particular if

- the certified product, packaging and semi-finished product does not comply with the underlying certification requirements.
- the certified product, packaging and semi-finished product does not fulfil its intended purpose as determined by the applicant.
- the certified product, packaging and semi-finished product exposes users, operators or third parties to considerable risks.
- the certificate holder violates conditions/requirements relating to certification.

VI. Certification decision

If the conformity assessment is passed, the project manager makes a recommendation for certification. The checklist and the associated documents are submitted to a veto examiner for assessment. If the assessment is favourable, the veto examiner approves the certification.

The certification decision is made by the person responsible for the product certification or the management of the product certification body.

VII. Issue of certificate

The classification of types and subtypes of certificates is described in sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” and is also applied to this certification programme.



The certificate is produced by the certification body on the basis of the print order for the certificate. The certificate is sent to the applicant. An electronic copy of the issued certificates is stored in the TÜV SÜD back office. The certificate is registered in the flustix certificate database and published at [Certification Database \(flustix.com/certified\)](https://flustix.com/certified).

The certificate is valid for a maximum of 6 years. To renew the certificate, the certification body must carry out a test of the certified products, packaging and semi-finished products in good time before the certificate expires, which corresponds to the scope of the initial test.

VIII. Monitoring

The monitoring test is carried out every two years and must be completed within +/- three months from the date of issue of the certificate (day and month). In the event of non-compliance with the specified monitoring test, the certification body is authorised to suspend, withdraw or revoke the validity of the existing certificate.

The applicant or certificate holder must ensure that the quality characteristics of the certified products, packaging and semi-finished products are maintained.

7. Use of the certification mark

The right to use the respective certification mark is granted by flustix when the TÜV SÜD certificate is issued. TÜV SÜD charges the applicant an annual licence fee for this. The right to use the respective certification mark also expires upon expiry of the certificate.

The following also apply:

- the provisions in section 6.5 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS” and
- the correct use according to the „Style Guide“ under [LESS PLASTICS – flustix | TÜV SÜD in Österreich \(tuvsud.com\)](https://tuvsud.com)

8. Obligations and responsibilities of the certification body

The certification body undertakes to employ only competent personnel and to treat all information made available to it about the applicant's organisation as confidential and to use it only for the agreed purpose. Documents made available will not be passed on to third parties. Excluded from this are information and reporting obligations pursuant to national laws, regulations and any applicable EU directives. The applicant may release the certification body from its duty of confidentiality.

Furthermore, the requirements of EN ISO/IEC 17065 apply to TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH (certification body).

The liability of TÜV SÜD is set out in the General Terms and Conditions of TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH.

The certification body is obliged, as far as possible, to ensure the correct presentation of the certification in advertising measures by the applicant.

The certification body maintains a list of certified companies. Information on the validity of a defined certification can be requested in writing by interested parties.

9. Obligations of the applicant

All necessary technical documents, data, reports and other documentation required for processing and carrying out the activities shall be made available.

The applicant undertakes to fulfil the certification requirements after the certificate has been issued, to implement



any changes to the certification requirements in good time and to notify the certification body immediately in writing of any matters that may affect the certification requirements. Such matters may include changes to:

- the legal or organisational form, the economic or ownership structure,
- organisation and management (e.g. key personnel in management positions, decision-making or specialist personnel),
- contact address and locations,
- the field of activity covered by the certification and
- any significant changes to the quality assurance system and processes.

When certification is granted for an ongoing production, appropriate measures must be taken to ensure that the certified product continuously meets the specified product requirements.

Certificate holders may use the certificate for business purposes, e.g. as proof to purchasers and authorities and as proof of due diligence in cases of liability. Misleading use of the certificates and the certification mark, e.g. in distorted extracts or in such a way that a false impression of certification is created, is not permitted.

The applicant recognises both certification programmes in the respective valid version.

10. Withdrawal, suspension, restriction or cancellation of the certificate

The issued certificate remains the property of the certification body at all times.

The certificate holder is granted a right of use, provided that all certification requirements are continuously fulfilled.

The certification body has the right to withdraw a certificate that has been issued if:

- the certificate is misused,
- the monitoring reveals that essential requirements that were fulfilled at the time the certificate was issued are no longer met
- the monitoring cannot be carried out for reasons for which the organisation is responsible,
- the monitoring, including the rectification of deviations, does not take place by the due date,
- financial claims of the certification body against the certificate holder are not paid despite reminders (even in the case of partial non-payment),
- bankruptcy proceedings have been opened against the organisation's assets or an application to open bankruptcy proceedings against the organisation is rejected for lack of assets, certification is prohibited by order or court order,
- further use of the certificate is not justifiable with regard to its informative value on the market due to facts that could not be clearly identified at the time of the conformity assessment.

A certificate may be cancelled if the certificate holder is not at fault but other reasons for a cancellation exist. Such reasons may be:

- a self-identified deviation, or
- cancellation of the certification contract by the certificate holder, or
- legal dissolution of the certification body (e.g. due to bankruptcy), or
- cancellation of the cooperation between flustix and TÜV SÜD. In this case, issued certificates remain valid until the next monitoring test and will be transferred by flustix to another certification partner in a timely manner.

Conditions of flustix for certificate cancellation are specified in section 6.9 of the certification programme "flustix LESS PLASTICS" and are also valid for this certification programme.



11. Complaints and appeals

The complaints system of TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH is available to applicants or certificate holders, their customers and uninvolved third parties. Complaints should be submitted in writing, preferably directly to the management or the head of the certification body for products of TÜV SÜD Landesgesellschaft Österreich GmbH in Vienna, or alternatively can be submitted using the contact form www.tuvsud.com/de-at/kontakt or by email to info.at@tuvsud.com. This regulation also applies to objections, which can be submitted in writing as well to the person responsible.

12. Storage

The certification body keeps records of reports and certificates showing that the service has been provided. Unless other legal provisions apply, the retention period for these documents is at least ten years after the certificate has expired, in accordance with the Accreditation Act.

13. Change in the certification basis

The current versions of the documents on the TÜV SÜD homepage apply: [LESS PLASTICS – flustix | TÜV SÜD in Österreich \(tuvsud.com\)](#)

The certificate holders will be notified in writing of any changes to the certification basis, which will be made on the basis of section 6.10.2 of the certification programme “flustix LESS PLASTICS”.