Usage ranges

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Usage Ranges

Usage ranges classify consumer goods according to their consumer safety relevance.

Exposure scenarios concerning oral, dermal and inhalative exposure are the guiding principles for the definition of limit values to ensure consumer safety and the basis for setting usage ranges. Dermal exposure (exposure to human skin) is the main criteria used to allocate usage range. Other exposure routes may override this allocation if a more stringent usage range would result.

Three usage ranges (A, B, C) are defined with A being the most stringent category concerning limit values/bans:

- Usage Range A: Next to skin use and baby articles (0 to 3 years)
- Usage Range B: Occasional skin contact
- Usage Range C: No skin contact

This means a garment is at least usage range B unless the wearing properties and expected consumer behavior require a classification in usage range A.

The following table lists common consumer goods and allocates usage ranges. This classification is typically valid for the complete product. Exceptions are defined in the list.

Consumer goods	Usage range A	Usage range B	Usage range C	
Automotive			x	Seat fabric - usage range B
Baby wear and textile articles (0 – 3 years)	x			
Backpack			x	Shoulder straps, harness and backrest that have contact with the skin must be usage range A
Bed linen	x			
Bike shorts	x			
Blouse		x		
Bra	x			
Carpet		x		
Cleaning cloth		x		
Curtain			x	
Dress		x		
Furnishing fabric		x		e.g. Seat cover
Geo textiles			x	e.g. building-/construction textiles, erosion protective textiles
Gloves/Mittens	x			
Harness		x		
Headdress	x			
Hummock		x		
Jacket		x		
Leggings	x			
Long sleeve t-shirt	x			
Mosquito net			x	
Pants		x		
Pullover		x		
Ropes & slings		x	x	Depends on use
Scarf	x			
Shirt		x		
Skirt		x		
Sleeping bag		x		Lining must be usage range A
Sleeping mattress	x			
Socks	x			
Sport shirt	x			
Sweatshirt		x		
Swim wear	x			
Tent			x	Tent floor must be usage range B
Tie		x		
Tights	x			
Towel		x		
T-Shirt	x			
Underpants (long/short)	x			
Undershirt	x			