

**General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China**

Top Priority

AQSIQ Document No. [2008] 202

**Notice on Strengthening the Testing of Hazardous Chemical Substances in Fur, Leather and Related Products**

To all CIQs directly under AQSIQ,

Fur, leather and related products are China's traditional export products, with both annual output and export taking about 70% of the global market. To promote clean production technology, protect environment, ensure products' safety/quality, break foreign trade technical barriers and maintain sustainable development of the industry, China introduced standard GB 20400-2006 Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Leather and Fur, setting the content limits of hazardous substances in fur and leather products such as banned Azo dyestuffs and formaldehyde. The standard has taken effective since Dec. 01, 2007.

To strengthen the inspection on banned Azo dyestuffs and formaldehyde in fur, leather and related products, the AQSIQ requires the local inspection and quarantine authorities to take the following measures:

1. Since the date of this notice, all imported and exported fur, leather and related products listed in the Catalogue of Import and Export Commodities Subject to Inspection and Quarantine by Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Authorities shall take additional testing on banned Azo dyestuffs and formaldehyde, and the failed products are not allowed to be imported or exported. Please refer to Annex 1 for test methods and assessment index.
2. The drafting authorities of existing inspection procedures on fur, leather and related products shall make necessary revisions to the procedures as soon as possible, and add the above standard and the latest overseas technical requirements.
3. To keep updated with safety and quality conditions of China's exporting leather, fur & related products, improve the efficiency of inspection and supervision, the inspection and quarantine bureaus in the main production regions shall carry out sample testing on the safety and quality of exporting fur products immediately, and submit all the testing results to AQSIQ by May 10. Amongst, Hebei Bureau, Henan Bureau and Zhejiang Bureau are required to carry out at least 20 inspection batches, and cover the A, B and C three categories of products stipulated in standard GB 20400; Shandong Bureau, Jiangsu Bureau, Inner Mongolia Bureau, Liaoning Bureau, Jilin Bureau, Heilongjiang Bureau and Sicuan Bureau shall inspect at least 10 batches.

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## Annex 1:

### Testing method and assessment requirements on banned Azo dyestuffs and free formaldehyde in fur, leather and related products.

#### A. Testing Methods and Standards:

(1) Banned Azo dyestuffs: GB/T 19942-2005 Leather and Fur – Chemical Method to Determine the Banned Azo Dyestuffs (equivalent to ISO/TS17234:2003).

(2) Free formaldehyde: GB/T 19941-2005 Leather and Fur – Chemical Method to Determine the Content of Free Formaldehyde (equivalent to ISO/TS17226:2003)

#### B. Assessment Requirements:

(1) Imported Products

It should conform to China Standard GB 20400-2006 Leather and Fur – Limitation of Hazardous Substances.

(2) Exported Products

a. It shall abide by the related law of the country of destination.

b. If the country of destination doesn't have such requirements, GB 20400-2006 should be adopted as criteria for conformity assessment.

Please refer to following table for testing and assessment requirements for exported fur, leather and related products:

Country	Name of Hazardous Chemical Substance and Content Limit			
	Free Formaldehyde (mg/kg)			Banned Azo Dyestuffs (mg/kg)
	Infant Products	Products with direct skin contact	Products with indirect skin contact	
China	≤ 20	≤ 75	≤ 300 (White Sheared Fleece ≤ 600)	< 30
Japan	Not Detected	≤ 75	≤ 300	Not specified, follow China standard
Finland	≤ 30	≤ 100	≤ 300	< 30
Norway	≤ 30	≤ 100	≤ 300	< 30
France	≤ 20	≤ 200	≤ 400	< 30
Germany	≤ 100		Shall be labeled if over 1500	< 30
Austria	≤ 100		Shall be labeled if over 1500	< 30
Other EU Countries	Follow China Standard			< 30
Other countries and regions	Follow China Standard			< 30

**(Note: The English version is only translated according to the Chinese version for reader's reference, and shall not be granted with any legal validity. If there is any ambiguity, the Chinese version shall prevail.)**