

Criteria for allergy-friendly toilet papers, non-wet wipes and tissues

BACKGROUND

Toilet papers can provoke local allergic reactions due to the ingredients they contain, such as preservatives or fragrances. The ECARF Seal of Quality certifies toilet papers as allergy friendly if the manufacturer of the products is able to provide evidence of efficient quality management. This must include an analysis of the raw materials, the product composition, a product test on human subjects, and an effective complaint management system.

ECARF-certified toilet papers have demonstrated in scientific tests that they do not cause side effects and there is no expected risk that a new allergy will develop through their use. However, despite meticulous product formulation and testing, local allergic reactions cannot be completely ruled out in individual cases. Manufacturers of allergy-friendly toilet paper provide evidence that their products have undergone the following tests:

1. CRITERIA

1.1. Necessary Product Features

Allergy-friendly toilet paper must not contain irritating ingredients. This property must be confirmed through the tests listed below. In principle, all categories of toilet paper must not contain any ingredients with known allergenic potential.

The manufacturer provides proof (through test results from recognized external and independent testing institutes) via documents (test protocols, safety data sheets, product information, manufacturer declarations) regarding the following parameters:

- free from fragrances, lotions & dyes
- soft, non-irritating texture
- unbleached, without chlorine and colophonium
- 100 % cellulose or bamboo (no additives)
- Adhesives, diffusion-proof plastics and preservatives should be avoided or used in minimal concentrations.
- No residues of per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFAS)
- All product properties must be documented by the manufacturer and verified by ECARF.

1.2. Subject testing

The product's tolerability must be proven in clinical tests involving human subjects suffering from atopic eczema.

Tolerability is demonstrated in a usage test corresponding to the product application, in which at least 20 volunteers with medically diagnosed atopic dermatitis use the toilet paper. Allergy friendliness will be considered clinically proven if none

of the subjects experience significant worsening of their condition within 7 days of use, apart from typical variations in skin condition due to atopic dermatitis.

2. QUALITY CONTROL AND COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

The manufacturer has a functioning, quality-assured system that effectively handles any consumer complaints.

Compliance with the following is ensured:

- The manufacturer's contact details, such as telephone number or email address, are clearly visible on the product packaging;
- Complaints are followed up in an appropriate manner by experienced personnel of the manufacturer;
- An efficient organisational structure is in place to systematically record complaints, evaluate them and integrate them into product safety. The manufacturer agrees to make this data available to ECARF on an ongoing basis and to suggest improvements in the event of unexpected problems