

C&A stops sandblasting of jeans

Fashion company informs suppliers about order stop.

Dusseldorf, 14th September, 2010. C&A confirms that it will stop selling jeans which are produced using the finishing technique known as sandblasting as part of the production process. The company has ordered its buying department not to write any further orders for sandblasted garments. Without proper safeguards in place, the health and safety of those workers exposed to this process can be affected in relation to the inhalation of dust particles which might result in serious diseases especially of the lungs.

"Via our auditing company (Socam), which carries out unannounced visits to all production units working for C&A, regular checks have been made to all involved factories, to ensure that the correct safety equipment and processes are in place, in line with instructions which were communicated some years ago", said Thorsten Rolfes, Company Spokesman. "Nevertheless, by taking the further step of abolishing the process of sandblasting completely, we avoid any residual risk." Sandblasting is one of a number of available techniques which help to create a "vintage" look for denim products in particular, but this specific process involves the use of high-powered application of particles including crystalline silica.

C&A will honour all outstanding commitments for products which have been made including the use of sandblasting, and in the meantime, "we will continue to control that the health and safety requirements in place are observed by the manufacturers concerned in any remaining production", said Rolfes. He also made clear that there is no threat to health to any consumer who may have purchased jeans which have been sandblasted. "The decision to stop working with this process is entirely related to further reducing the health and safety risk within the production process".

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