

AATCC has published test method TM 212 on fiber fragment release during home laundering for textiles

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products

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Micro plastic pollution has been in the focus of academia, NGOs, legislators, brands and retailers over the past few years. Textiles have been identified as a contributing source of those particles and fiber fragments, found in the sea and the marine environment.

As a first standardization body worldwide, the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) has published a test method addressing the quantification of fiber fragments in an accelerated laundry setting - Test Method TM212 – Version 2021 on Fiber Fragment Release During Home Laundering. Fiber fragments are quantitatively determined under standardized conditions using existing methods to simulate home laundry, filter and weigh out the residues.

The method has been developed with various stakeholders, one of the most important being The Microfiber Consortium (TMC). The terms 'Fiber fragment' and 'micro fiber' are described and defined.

This method will enable brands and retailers to make informed decisions based on the amount of fiber shed from different types of fabrics. It will also provide a possibility to create a benchmark for assessing different fabric types. The method explicitly also includes fabrics made from natural and cellulosic materials, since a big portion of fiber fragments found in marine environments is not synthetic.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Other groups are also addressing this issue and the industry organization Cross Industry Agreement (CIA) has contributed to more research and method development on a European Standard Commission (CEN) level.

It is expected that a test method proposal will soon be published as an EN standard and most likely also an ISO standard in the near future.

Sources:

[AATCC Method Quantifies Fiber Shedding - AATCC](#)

[Cross Industry Agreement - EURATEX](#)

[The Microfiber Consortium](#)

Further information on current legal changes can also be found on our homepage at www.tuv.com or <https://www.tuv.com/regulations-and-standards/en/>.

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