

## Criteria for allergy-friendly hair dryers

### BACKGROUND

The heat stream of a hair dryer can destroy the inner cuticle of the hair and also damage the scalp. Blow-drying not only removes the moisture from the hair, but also from the scalp. The heat can dry out the scalp.

This triggers a domino effect where the water stored in the hair fibre condenses into water vapour and causes permanent damage.

This can result in a dry scalp in allergy sufferers with atopic dermatitis, with symptoms such as itching, irritation and dandruff, as well as damaged hair. Blow-drying the hair stresses the scalp, which is why a suitable hair dryer should be used in cases of sensitive and dry, neurodermitic skin.

Allergy-friendly hair dryers have various functions that allow gentle treatment of the hair and scalp. The ECARF Seal of Quality is awarded if the following criteria are met:

### 1. CRITERIA

#### 1.1. Required product properties

The European Centre for Allergy Research Foundation (ECARF) awards the ECARF Seal of Quality to hair dryers that have been sample tested:

- Between 1,200 and 2,300 watts of power
- Intelligent temperature control to protect the hair from overheating
- Maximum volume at highest level < 80 dB (sound power level)
- Review of the operating instructions (GS Mark required)
- Many dust, germs and allergens accumulate in a hair dryer. They not only get caught on the closing lid, but also behind it inside the casing. The operating instructions must explain the proper procedure for cleaning the filter.
- Accessories (attachments) especially for sensitive scalps that allow blow-drying with limited maximum temperature

### 2. QUALITY CONTROL AND COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

**The manufacturer has established a functional system of quality control that effectively documents, processes and follows up complaints.**

The following is also ensured:

- The manufacturer's contact details, such as the address, telephone number and/or email address, are clearly visible on the product packaging;
- Consumer complaints are handled and followed up in an appropriate manner by qualified and experienced personnel of the manufacturer;
- The assessment of consumer complaints and, if applicable, any inferred areas of improvement are reapplied to product quality and safety. The manufacturer agrees to make this data available to ECARF on an ongoing basis.