



Case Study

Fashion supplier MEBA secures UL bio-based validation for its resins, increasing availability of more sustainable options for designers

meba bio  
resine



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# Introduction

The fashion industry is waking up to the importance of sustainability and the sector's role in climate change. As designers and manufacturers in the fashion and luxury industry strive to offer increasingly sustainable products, they must select sustainable components and materials. However, amid bold environmental messages mixed with self-attributed marketing claims and complexity, companies committed to meaningful sustainability action need a way to objectively assess and communicate their claims' validity.

## The challenge:

For more than half a century, MEBA has provided the fashion industry with materials for buttons and fashion accessories in a variety of colours and patterns. MEBA manufactures artistic fashion accessories made of resin. Increasingly concerned with the environmental impact of their products, MEBA decided to replace its traditional polyester resin with MEBA BIORESINE®, a material made with biopolymers. Seeing a confusing array of green marketing claims in the market, MEBA committed to validating the accuracy and reliability of their environmental claims about MEBA BIORESINE and the benefits of their products to the fashion industry.

## The solution:

MEBA found a credible, reliable testing and validation partner in global safety science leader UL. Seeking a knowledgeable team that could support their operation with local expertise and testing, MEBA was impressed with UL's international presence and respected brand name worldwide.

"We are dedicated to leading the fashion industry toward a more sustainable future, starting with our own company and products. We wanted a team that could support our initiative to introduce our innovative bio-based resin product as well as partner with us in the future on other sustainability initiatives. In UL, we selected a reliable partner to support our trusted brand," said Gianluca Sclavi, CEO of MEBA.

MEBA decided to validate MEBA BIORESINE's bio-based content through the UL Environmental Claim Validation (ECV) program. Designed to evaluate and specify the amount of bio-based material used in a product, UL's program validates that bio-based products are wholly or partly derived from materials of biological origin, excluding fossilized materials and those embedded in geological formations. The bio-based (carbon) content claim on the ECV label represents a calculation of how much of the product derives from biomass components versus petroleum-derived components.

UL's validation process involves a thorough audit that includes evaluating raw materials, formulations, suppliers, manufacturing processes and final product traceability. To maintain the ECV, UL performs annual surveillance audits to ensure the integrity of Mark usage over time. "By choosing to develop bio-based products, MEBA is helping reduce the use of fossil resources and thereby our impact on climate and the environment. MEBA is a pioneer in the fashion industry by validating their resins for buttons for bio-based content, setting an important benchmark for others in the sector and increasing availability of more sustainable products for fashion," said María José Monteagudo Arrebola, UL Senior Environmental Project Handler. Independent third-party validation enables transparency, which is essential in sustainability.

## The results:

Having successfully completed the validation process, MEBA's BIORESINE products now proudly display the UL ECV badge, confidently showcasing the company's sustainability achievements to both fashion and luxury buyers and consumers. "Stakeholders are investigating more closely the true meaning of superior sustainability performance. Fashion accessories made with renewable raw materials also help reduce carbon emissions, lower product toxicity and enable easier waste disposal," noted Sclavi.

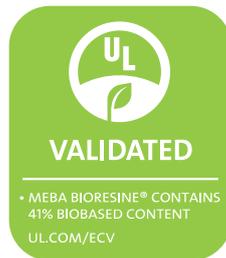
MEBA is proud to help drive greater sustainability in the fashion industry by offering bio-based validated components (primarily buttons). The market response has been very positive and the MEBA brand is proud to demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment to sustainable fashion.

### What is ECV 9798 bio-based content?

A biobased product is wholly or partly derived from material of biological origin, excluding fossilized materials and those embedded in geological formations. On the basis of UL ECV 9798, testing against ASTM D6866 is requested on final products (if homogeneous) or on components. If testing is performed on components, the UL ECV 9798 standard includes a method for calculating final biobased content in products which contain heterogeneous materials. ASTM D6866 measures carbon 14 to quantify how much of a product is derived from plant components versus petroleum-based components.

Validation includes:

- Supplier declaration
- Material technical specifications
- Testing
- Production records
- Quality manuals
- Standard procedures
- Testing formulation
- Annual audits



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*- Gianluca Sclavi, CEO of MEBA.*

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## About UL

Global safety science leader UL helps companies demonstrate safety, enhance sustainability, strengthen security, deliver quality, manage risk and achieve regulatory compliance. UL is well-positioned to support the fashion industry with a variety of testing, certification and advisory services to help create more sustainable fashion. [Contact us for more information.](#)





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