

### 1) The Nickel Regulation

You shall neither produce nor distribute products

- that are intended to come into direct and prolonged contact with the human skin,
- but only for those parts that have a direct and prolonged contact with it,
- if the rate of nickel release from the parts of these products coming into direct and prolonged contact with the skin is greater than  $0,5 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$  or in the case of being coated this limit is not respected for at least 2 years in ordinary use.

### 2) Practical Consequences for Clothing Fasteners

There is no need to „empty the baby out with the bath“: only what comes into direct and prolonged contact with the human skin has to be free of nickel. Naming tack buttons, rivets and zippers is only exemplary, and furthermore the ban on nickel does only apply for those parts of clothing fasteners that come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin.

In practice that all means:

- With tack buttons or rivets & burrs only the inner tacks have to be free of nickel. Nickel, antique nickel or stainless steel remains an option for the creation of caps. Whereas the inlaying tack does, these caps will never ever come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin.
- With snap fasteners the inner rivet has to be free of nickel when the garment is designed to be worn directly on the skin. Snap fasteners on outerwear or skiwear can continue to be nickel plated in all its four parts when they are typically not worn directly on the skin. Same applies to parts that are covered with fabric or lie covered in a flap.

A safe and simple rule is, however, not to use nickel plated finishes for all openly visible inner parts. We have at your disposal a large selection of nickel-free finishes. Stainless steel contains some 10% of nickel, what we use, however, is all tested according to DIN EN 12472 + 1811 but also according to Oeko-Tex 100 and been given „o.k.“ with regard to their non-release of nickel. When many do the blackening of stainless steel with nickel BERNING, however, does that on a nickelfree basis.

The fact that BERNING is the only company in the field being certified as to DIN ISO 9001:2008, OHSAS 18001:2007, EMAS and ISO 14001:2004 should give you warrant that we are not only committed to the environment but also have the knack of our „processes“.