OEKO-TEX®
Committed to Solutions.
A sustainable future with OEKO-TEX®

As a founding member of the OEKO-TEX® Association, Hohenstein supports companies along the textile value chain in matters of product stewardship and sustainable management.

With our accredited testing and inspection services as well as our broad industry and retail know-how, we offer you tailored solutions with which you can successfully cope with the growing requirements of the market. From chemical management, environmentally friendly manufacturing processes and fair working conditions to product labels with which you can present your services to the consumer transparently.

The OEKO-TEX® system provides the optimal basis for this as it continually refines its standards and is always practically orientated to current market trends. With OEKO-TEX® you are always on the safe side – now and in the future, naturally!
The textile supply chain and our solutions.

Input control

ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® is an independent certification for textile and leather chemicals, dyes, and auxiliaries. The three stage verification process ensures that the substances fulfill specific requirements in regards to sustainable textile production and that the manufacturers of the chemicals adhere to environmentally friendly and socially responsible production conditions.

Process control

STeP by OEKO-TEX® is an independent certification for environmentally friendly and socially responsible production facilities of the textile supply chain that want to document their sustainable commitment transparently by means of an assessment, a company audit and a concluding scoring.

DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® enables manufacturers along the textile supply chain to assess, on the basis of an annual status report, whether their chemical management and the quality of their waste water and sludge meet the objectives of the Greenpeace Detox campaign.

Output control

STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® is an independent certification system for textiles from all stages of production that have been tested for harmful substances. The certificate is awarded when all elements of an item fulfill the necessary requirements, which are updated annually.

MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® is a product label for textiles from materials tested for harmful substances that were manufactured in environmentally friendly facilities and under socially responsible working conditions. The product ID on the label facilitates the transparent tracing of the product and provides a way to learn more about its manufacture.

Supply chain management

STeP by OEKO-TEX® database enables the management and evaluation of your suppliers along the textile value chain in terms of sustainability. At the same time it facilitates a clear management of existing OEKO-TEX® certificates.

OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide provides an attractive platform for bringing attention to your product line that has been tested for harmful substances, in addition to your own marketing activities. In our online directory you will find products, brands and manufacturers certified according to OEKO-TEX® standards.

LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® is an independent certification system for leather articles from all stages of production that have been tested for harmful substances. The certificate is awarded when all elements of an item fulfill the necessary requirements, which are updated annually.
The OEKO-TEX® concept is built modularly. Product certifications according to STANDARD 100 and LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®, for example, enable the use of certified source materials. At subsequent production stages, existing certificates are recognised for individual findings so that double checks can principally be avoided and the costs for certification remain within manageable limits for all companies.

Through the use of textile chemicals that are certified according to ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®, the testing effort is reduced for the testing for harmful substances according to STANDARD 100 and LEATHER STANDARD as well as the effort for the certification of environmentally friendly production conditions according to STeP by OEKO-TEX®. Both systems recognise the ECO PASSPORT as proof of the fulfilment of the respective existing RSLs/MRSLs.

If you have your products tested for harmful substances according to STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and prove with STeP certification that you produce them under environmentally and socially responsible conditions, then you are entitled to mark your products with the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label.

Your foundation for more sustainability.
Benefit from the OEKO-TEX® modular system.

Multiple modules, less costs

What are your specific benefits?

- Quality assurance at every stage of the textile value chain.
- Cost savings with the targeted use of preliminary certificates.
- Facilitated selection of findings and suppliers with the OEKO-TEX® certificate.
The market situation
Responsible chemical management refrains from the use of substances harmful to health and the environment. The Greenpeace Detox campaign and industry initiatives such as ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) have set a specific deadline for 2020, after which harmful chemicals shall be banned from textile production.

How do you deal with this?
The ECO PASSPORT certification assists you in the selection of chemicals that are environmentally friendly and harmless in terms of human ecology. You have reliable control over the substances used, right from their procurement, even before you feed them into your production process.

What is this?
The ECO PASSPORT is a multiple step verification process to assess whether dyes, auxiliary agents and other chemicals are suitable for the environmentally friendly production processes and manufacture of safe textile and leather products. The certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed annually. The certification includes a comparison with the OEKO-TEX® Association RSL and MRSL lists using the CAS number, analytical laboratory testing for the exclusion of unwanted impurities as well as an assessment and on-site visit to the chemicals manufacturer to test whether the information given regarding the production conditions is fulfilled.

What are your specific benefits?
- You receive a detailed report on all verification stages.
- The ECO PASSPORT is seamlessly integrated into the OEKO-TEX® modular system.
- Costs for the STANDARD 100 and LEATHER STANDARD laboratory tests can be reduced as the ECO PASSPORT is recognised as a preliminary certificate.
- MRSL conformity with international initiatives (e.g. advantageous for OEKO-TEX® certified production facilities).
- ECO PASSPORT certified chemicals are compliant with ZDHC MRSL to Level 1 or Level 3.
The market situation

The aim of the Greenpeace Detox campaign is to completely ban eleven dangerous chemical groups from textile production, as they are very harmful to the environment and can also, through their persistence, accumulate in the human body. Companies that have committed themselves to meeting the Detox specifications by 2020 require chemical management which enables them to identify harmful substances and to transparently document the services they perform.

How do you deal with this?

DETOX TO ZERO assists you in setting up an efficient chemical management system and in analysing and assessing the chemical substances you use.

What is this?

DETOX TO ZERO includes an online assessment (survey) and a company audit, in which we validate the information provided on site and then extensively evaluate it in a status report. The yearly issued report lists to what extent you already fulfil the detox goals and consequently gives you concrete recommendations on how you can further improve your chemical management.

What are your specific benefits?

- Step-by-step optimisation and continual monitoring of your chemical management according to the goals of the detox campaign.

- Credible communication/documentation of your achieved detox performance with all stakeholder groups with the independent status report.
The market situation

In addition to the responsible use of chemicals in textile production, humane working conditions and workplace safety are specific requirements that brands and their suppliers must now meet worldwide. In turn, they face demands from NGOs like Greenpeace and consumers, for environmentally friendly manufacturing processes. For this purpose, the market offers numerous solutions and certifications, but no system is specifically tailored to the needs of the textile industry.

How do you deal with this?

With STeP certification you create the basis for a permanent conversion and continuous optimisation of sustainable production and working conditions in your supply chain’s production facilities.

What is this?

STeP holistically analyses every relevant area of your production facilities, in order to enable the most transparent and meaningful evaluation possible of the sustainability achieved. The certification includes an assessment (online survey) with your data on the six STeP modules: Chemical management, environmental performance, environmental management, quality management, social responsibility and safety at the workplace. Our auditors subsequently validate the data on site in the facilities. The results are given on the certificate, which is valid for three years, in the format of three-stage scoring.

What are your specific benefits?

- Economic added value through optimised resource use and efficient business procedures.
- Improvement of environmental performance and working conditions in your production facilities.
- By means of the illustrative scoring, you will see which areas of operation are in need of further improvements.
- Transparent key performance indicators enable you to identify possible risks in the production facilities and compare manufacturers to each other on the basis of specific criteria, allowing you to select the right operations for achieving your sustainability goals.
The market situation

Consumers have a growing interest in textiles that pose no health risks and at the same time are produced in a socially responsible way. More and more, NGOs like Greenpeace and political initiatives like the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles are also increasingly demanding credible proof of product stewardship from textile companies along the entire value chain.

How do you deal with this?

With the MADE IN GREEN label you can directly inform consumers that you and your suppliers act responsibly – in that you preserve the environment, respect the human rights of your workers, and ensure high product safety.

What is this?

MADE IN GREEN is a verifiable consumer label for all types of textiles. Awarded articles are demonstrably produced in an environmentally friendly way and are manufactured under fair working conditions according to the STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification. Simultaneously, the textiles are certified according to STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and therefore offer effective protection against harmful substances. Consumers can use the product ID on the label to trace back in which countries and production facilities the item was produced.

What are your specific benefits?

- You receive a transparent communication tool to inform your consumers and other stakeholder groups about the responsible acting of your supply chain in regard to sustainability and consumer protection.
- You establish sustainable production and working conditions in your supply chain.
- More efficient production processes through STeP certification enable you to obtain economic advantages and savings.
- You ensure harmful substance conformity with the STANDARD 100 certification of your products.
**STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®**

Output control

The market situation

For consumers in markets such as Europe it is a given that purchased textile products pose no risk to health. The legal requirements are correspondingly high. Nevertheless there are repeated complaints and recalls of textiles due to harmful chemicals. In the latest Rapex reports by the European Commission clothing, textiles and fashion articles for example are among the top ranks in the category of rejected products. “Chemical risks” are even the second-highest reason for product complaints.

How do you deal with this?

With STANDARD 100 certification, you ensure legal conformity of your products in all important consumer markets. At the same time, the STANDARD 100 product label gives you an ideal instrument for marketing your textiles, due to its high recognition and prevalence.

What is this?

STANDARD 100 is an independent certification system for textiles from all processing stages that have been tested for harmful substances. For advertising purposes, you can use the STANDARD 100 label to mark end products sold in retail. In B2B, the certificate serves as proof of adherence to the requested delivery conditions. The testing of your textiles in our laboratories takes place on representative samples from your running production and you will receive the results in a detailed report annually. The issued certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed after this. The certification further includes a site visit to your company for the targeted support of your operational quality assurance.

What are your specific benefits?

- Practical assistance for your operational quality assurance.
- Consumer protection through human-ecological, faultless, legally compliant textile products without you having to reserve resources for yourself.
- Cost savings through the use of raw materials that are already certified (modular system) – even for complexly created products.
STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® – additional services.

Certification according to Annex VI

Do you pay particular attention to the goals of the Detox campaign? Then you have the opportunity to have your products checked in accordance with the extended criteria catalogue as per Annex VI. The aim of the stricter limit values in comparison to the usual STANDARD 100 test in accordance with Annex IV is to improve the environmental performance of production. The stricter requirements are thus not related to human-ecological aspects.

Testing of organic cotton for GMOs (genetically modified organisms)

If you would like to list articles made of organic cotton with descriptions such as “organic” or “made of organically grown cotton” on your STANDARD 100 certificate, you must also have the products tested for genetically modified organisms (GMO) during the OEKO-TEX® laboratory tests. This gives you and your customers the security of knowing that your organic cotton products actually contain what they claim – genuine organic quality. If requested, the GMO test is of course also available for your articles made of conventionally grown cotton.

Supplement for special articles

In order to allow you to certify, according to STANDARD 100, complex article groups that fulfil special conditions due to their construction, technology or use, OEKO-TEX® offers a separate supplement in which the special requirements for such articles are regulated. The conditions apply exclusively for end products that are ready to sell, such as tents, curtain sets, prams and bassinets, chairs and loungers, heating cushions, helmets or toys that have a textile content but are not usually (completely) covered by the STANDARD 100 criteria.

Supplement for personal protective equipment

Similar to special articles, you can also have PPE and material that is used to manufacture PPE certified according to the special conditions of the STANDARD 100 supplement for personal protective equipment. In order to ensure the sufficient protection effect of PPE at the same time as ensuring the safety of the product, limit values different from the usual STANDARD 100 requirements apply for 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidon (NMP), 1,2 dichlorobenzene and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and their salts.
LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®
Output control

The market situation
With leather products, consumers likewise expect that purchased articles like jackets, belts, or bags pose no health risks. Strict statutory requirements also exist in this area.

How do you deal with this?
With LEATHER STANDARD certification you ensure legal conformity of your products in all important consumer markets. At the same time you have the LEATHER STANDARD label at your disposal, and the ideal instrument for marketing your leather products.

What is this?
LEATHER STANDARD is an independent certification system for leather goods from all stages of production that have been tested for harmful substances. You can use the LEATHER STANDARD label for advertising purposes to mark end products sold in retail. In B2B, the certificate serves as proof of compliance with the required criteria. The testing of your leather goods in our laboratories takes place on representative samples from your running production and you will receive the results in a detailed report. The issued certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed three months before expiry. You will receive either a LEATHER STANDARD certificate/label or a STANDARD 100 certificate/label, depending on whether your product predominantly consists of leather or textiles.

What are your specific benefits?
- Practical assistance for your operational quality assurance.
- Consumer protection through human-ecological, faultless leather products without you having to reserve resources for yourself.
- Cost savings through the use of raw materials that are already certified (modular system) – even for complexly created products.
The market situation
If you are looking for suitable suppliers, raw materials or sales products to implement your product stewardship and sustainability strategy, you require a reliable network from which you can select your partners along the value chain on the basis of verified criteria.

How do you deal with this?
The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide is a tool that can be used free of charge and can assist you in the procurement of raw materials and products, as well as in the selection of cooperation partners and suppliers along the textile supply chain. If your products or your business are OEKO-TEX® certified, the Buying Guide gives you the opportunity to advertise them on a popular international platform.

What is this?
The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide at oeko-tex.com/products is an online directory in which one can search for certified products, businesses and brands or present one’s own OEKO-TEX® certified product line. With the OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide you currently have access to more than 10,000 companies that actively collaborate with OEKO-TEX®. The search interface offers various selection criteria which you can combine in order to see the most optimal results.

What are your specific benefits?
- Targeted search and contact with suited suppliers/service providers:
  - Chemical manufacturers (ECO PASSPORT)
  - Textile manufacturers (STANDARD 100, STeP, MADE IN GREEN)
  - Manufacturers of leather goods (LEATHER STANDARD)
- Trading and brand-name companies can locate certified articles for their product line quickly and easily, and search for STeP certified production facilities which meet the desired environmental and social requirements for suppliers.
- Companies with OEKO-TEX® certificates can advertise themselves for free on an online portal which is well-visited worldwide.
Your partner for textile expertise.

Hohenstein
Schlosssteige 1
74357 Bönnigheim
Germany
customerservice@hohenstein.com
hohenstein.com

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