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 supply chain with solutions for product stewardship and sustainability.

With accredited testing and inspection services as well as broad industry and retail expertise, Hohenstein offers tailored solutions to assist with successfully managing market requirements.

From chemical management to environmentally friendly manufacturing and fair working conditions to product labels for transparent consumer communication, OEKO-TEX® services work together as a system of continuously refined and practically oriented standards.

With OEKO-TEX® you are always on the safe side.
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 accessories. The verification process ensures that substances fulfill specific requirements regarding sustainable textile production and environmentally friendly and socially responsible production.

Process control
STeP by OEKO-TEX® is an independent certification for environmentally friendly and socially responsible production facilities in the textile and leather supply chains that want to transparently document their commitment to sustainability through an assessment, company audit and final scoring.

DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® enables manufacturers to assess whether their chemical, wastewater and sludge management meet objectives of the Greenpeace Detox campaign through an annual status report.

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 annually updated requirements.

MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® is a label for products made with materials tested for harmful substances and produced in environmentally-friendly facilities under socially-responsible working conditions. The unique product ID provides consumers a transparent way to learn more about its manufacturing journey.

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 annually updated requirements.

Supply chain management
The MyOEKO-TEX® portal enables the systematic management and evaluation of your suppliers along the value chain in terms of sustainability and facilitates management of existing OEKO-TEX® certificates and labels.

OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide provides an online platform for marketing and sourcing products tested for harmful substances and access to products, brands and manufacturers certified according to OEKO-TEX® standards.
Multiple modules, fewer costs

Pre-certified inputs make certification at each stage easier by reducing costs and increasing traceability.

Certifications according to STANDARD 100 and LEATHER STANDARD require that all product components be tested in addition to the finished product.

These modular certifications encourage the use of pre-certified source materials including yarn, fabric, finished and dyed fabrics and accessories. Existing certificates for inputs are recognized at subsequent production stages to avoid double testing and reduce certification costs for all companies, especially those with complex products.

ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certified chemicals fulfill the RSL/MRSL requirements of STANDARD 100, LEATHER STANDARD and STeP by OEKO-TEX®.

ECO PASSPORT reduces effort and cost when testing for harmful substances to STANDARD 100 and LEATHER STANDARD or certifying environmentally friendly production to STeP.

Products tested for harmful substances to STANDARD 100 and sustainably produced in STeP certified facilities are awarded the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label.
**ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®**

Input control

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**Market Challenge**

Responsible chemical management avoids substances that are harmful to health or the environment. Industry initiatives such as ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) and the Greenpeace Detox campaign have set goals to remove harmful chemicals from textile production.

**Solution**

Ensure reliable control over the substances used in processes and products beginning with their procurement. ECO PASSPORT certification assists in the selection of chemicals that are environmentally friendly and safe for human ecology.

**ECO PASSPORT impacts input chemistry**

ECO PASSPORT is a multi-step verification process to assess whether dyes, auxiliaries and chemicals are suitable for environmentally friendly production and manufacturing safe textile and leather products. The certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed annually. The certification process includes a comparison with the OEKO-TEX® RSL and MRSL using the CAS number review, analytical laboratory testing and an on-site verification. Each step provides feedback for improvement.

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**BENEFITS**

- Detailed report and feedback during all verification steps
- 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 ECO PASSPORT is recognized as a preliminary certificate
- MRSL conformity with international initiatives and advantageous for OEKO-TEX® certified production facilities
- ECO PASSPORT certified chemicals are compliant with ZDHC MRSL Level 1 or Level 3
Market Challenge

In addition to responsible chemical use during textile production, brands and suppliers must ensure humane and safe working conditions in facilities worldwide. Demands from consumers and NGOs for environmentally friendly manufacturing processes must also be met.

Solution

STeP certification lays the foundation for a permanent conversion and continuous improvement of sustainable production and ethical working conditions throughout the supply chain.

**STeP = Sustainable Textile (and leather) Production**

STeP holistically analyzes each relevant area of a production facility, enabling transparent and meaningful sustainability evaluation. The certification includes an online assessment of the six STeP modules: chemical management, environmental performance, environmental management, quality management, social responsibility and workplace safety. Auditors validate the data and three-tiered score on-site. The audited results are shown on the certificate, which is valid for three years.

Hohenstein.US/STeP

**BENEFITS**

- Added economic value through optimized resource use and efficient business procedures
- Improvement of environmental performance and working conditions in production facilities
- Illustrative scoring benchmarks progress and shows which areas need improvement
- Transparent key performance indicators enable identification of possible risks in production facilities and compare manufacturers on specific criteria, allowing easier selection of the right operations for achieving specific sustainability goals
**Market Challenge**

The aim of the Greenpeace Detox campaign is to completely ban eleven dangerous chemical groups from textile production. Companies committed to meeting the Detox specifications require chemical management that identifies harmful substances with transparent documentation.

**Solution**

DETOX TO ZERO assists in establishing an efficient chemical management system by analyzing and assessing the chemical substances used.

**DETOX assesses and documents progress**

DETOX TO ZERO involves an online assessment with on-site company audit for validation, then provides an extensive status report. The report lists progress toward fulfilling Detox goals and gives recommendations for improving chemical management.

**BENEFITS**

- Step-by-step optimization and continuous monitoring of chemical management according to the Detox campaign goals
- Credible communication and documentation of Detox performance via an independent status report
STANDARD 100
by OEKO-TEX®

Output control

Market Challenge
Consumers expect textile products that pose no risk to health. Legal requirements are high in certain locations but remain inconsistent elsewhere. 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 rank high in the category of rejected products. “Chemical risks” are the second-highest reason for product complaints.

Solution
STANDARD 100 certification ensures legal conformity for products in all important consumer markets. The STANDARD 100 product label’s widespread market recognition is the ideal instrument for marketing ecologically safe textile products.

STANDARD 100 facilitates product control and consumer safety
STANDARD 100 is an independent certification system for textiles tested for harmful substances from all processing stages. For advertising purposes, the STANDARD 100 label is used to mark end products at retail. For B2B, the certificate serves as proof of adherence to delivery conditions. Representative samples from production are tested in our lab, followed by a detailed report. The certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed annually. The on-site visit offers targeted support of operational quality assurance.

BENEFITS
• Practical assistance for operational quality assurance
• Consumer protection through human-ecological, legally compliant textile products
• Cost savings through the use of already certified raw materials (modular system) – even for complex products
STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® – additional services.

Certification to Annex VI
The majority of STANDARD 100 certificates align with traditional Annex IV, which is scientifically focused on human ecological safety. Annex VI extends the criteria catalogue to test for stricter limits aligned with the Greenpeace Detox Campaign.

The stricter requirements include the environmental performance of production and are not related to human ecology.

Testing of organic cotton for GMOs (genetically modified organisms)
The trend towards organic cotton is growing rapidly. However, the higher prices are only justified if independent proof of organic production is provided. Time and again, genetically modified cotton is incorrectly labeled with certifications that skip laboratory tests or only take random seed samples. Hohenstein has developed a molecular biological detection system for cotton products from all stages of the supply chain, from raw cotton to yarns and fabrics to end products. Manufacturers, brands, certifiers and consumer protection organizations benefit from clear yes/no results for GMO-free cotton products, in addition to STANDARD 100 criteria.

Supplement for special articles
Articles with special requirements are regulated under a separate supplement. The conditions apply exclusively for end products that are ready to sell, such as tents, curtain sets, strollers and bassinets, chairs and loungers, heating cushions, helmets or toys that have a textile content but are not completely covered by the STANDARD 100 criteria.

Supplement for personal protective equipment (PPE)
PPE and material that is used to manufacture PPE is certified according to the special conditions of the STANDARD 100 supplement for PPE. Certain limit values are adjusted for PPE to ensure the protective effect of PPE while guaranteeing the product doesn’t harm user health. Limit values differ from the usual STANDARD 100 requirements for 1-Methyl-2-pyrrolidon (NMP), 1,2 dichlorobenzene and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and their salts.
Market Challenge
Consumers have a growing interest in textiles that are safe for their health and responsibly produced. Political initiatives and NGOs are also demanding credible proof of product responsibility from companies along the entire supply chain.

Solution
The MADE IN GREEN label informs consumers that you and your suppliers act responsibly by preserving the environment, respecting human rights and ensuring strict product safety.

MADE IN GREEN facilitates transparency
MADE IN GREEN is a 3rd party consumer label for all types of textiles. Items bearing the label come from verified environmentally friendly production (STeP certified), were manufactured under fair working conditions (STeP) and offer effective protection from harmful substances (STANDARD 100 certified). Consumers use the product ID on the label to trace the production facilities and countries in which the item was produced.
LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®

Output control

Market Challenge

Consumers expect that leather products like jackets, belts, shoes, furniture or bags pose no health risks. Strict legal requirements must also be considered.

Solution

LEATHER STANDARD certification ensures legal conformity of products in all important consumer markets. The 3rd party verified LEATHER STANDARD label is the ideal tool for marketing leather products.

LEATHER STANDARD ensures product control and consumer safety

LEATHER STANDARD is an independent certification system for leather goods tested for harmful substances from all stages of production. The LEATHER STANDARD label can be used on end products at retail for advertising purposes. For B2B, the certificate serves as proof of compliance with the required criteria. Representative samples from production are tested in our lab, followed by a detailed report. The issued certificate is valid for one year and can be renewed annually. Products receive either a LEATHER STANDARD or a STANDARD 100 certificate/label depending on whether it consists predominantly of leather or textiles.

BENEFITS

• Practical assistance for operational quality assurance

• Consumer protection through human-ecological, legally compliant textile products

• Cost savings through the use of already certified raw materials (modular system)
OEKO-TEX®
Buying Guide.
Procurement & marketing

Market Challenge
Companies need a network of trustworthy partners along the supply chain when sourcing raw materials and implementing product responsibility and sustainability strategies. Suppliers need a platform to market certified materials and products.

Solution
The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide is a free online tool for procuring raw materials, accessories and finished goods along with the selecting partners and suppliers along the supply chain. OEKO-TEX® certified facilities and products are promoted on the Buying Guide’s international platform.

Buying Guide Promotes Sustainability
The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide at oeko-tex.com is an online directory of over 14,500 companies with OEKO-TEX® certified materials, chemicals, products and services.

The search interface offers various selection criteria (type of OEKO-TEX® certification, geographical region, product level, material, scope of application) that can be combined to view relevant results.

Benefits
- Targeted search and contact with certified suppliers/service providers:
  - Chemical manufacturers (ECO PASSPORT)
  - Textile manufacturers (STANDARD 100, STeP, MADE IN GREEN)
  - Manufacturers of leather goods (LEATHER STANDARD)
- Brands and retailers easily locate certified products and search for STeP certified production facilities
- Companies with OEKO-TEX® certificates advertise for free on an online, high-traffic, worldwide portal

Hohenstein.US/BuyingGuide