

## OEKO-TEX® Standard 100

### Description

The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 is an independent test and certification system for textile raw, intermediate and end products at all stages of processing.



Examples of articles that can be certified: yarns, fabrics, treated fabrics, manufactured articles (clothing of all kinds, domestic and household textiles, bedding, towels, soft toys and many more)

### Criteria

The tests for harmful substances cover

- legally banned and controlled substances
- chemicals known to be harmful to the health (but not yet legally controlled)
- parameters for health protection

Taken in their entirety, the requirements go far beyond existing national legislation.

### Laboratory tests and product classes

The OEKO-TEX® testing for harmful substances is always geared towards how the textile will actually be used. The more closely the product is in contact with the skin, the stricter the human ecology requirements that it must meet.

A distinction is made between four product classes:

- Product class I: textile articles for babies and toddlers up to 3 years old (clothing, toys, bedding, towels etc.)
- Product class II: textiles used close to the skin (underwear, bedding, T-shirts etc.)
- Product class III: textiles used away from the skin (jackets, coats etc.)
- Product class IV: furnishing materials (curtains, tablecloths, upholstery etc.)

### Certification

The prerequisite for textile products to be certified under the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 is that all components of an article, without exception, comply with the required criteria - so not only the outer material, but also the sewing threads, linings, prints etc and any non-textile accessories such as buttons, zips, rivets etc.

## Certification procedure

- The company applies to one of the 16 OEKO-TEX® member institutes for certification, including submitting representative samples of the materials for laboratory testing.
- The institute in question carries out the laboratory testing. The test report is sent to the applicant.
- If the testing is successful, the applicant must present a written statement of conformity, declaring that the articles he is producing are identical to the tested samples. Credible evidence of an appropriate quality control system for testing this must be presented to the OEKO-TEX® institute.
- Certificates are issued for a period of one year - in Germany and France by the relevant Certification Centre, and in other countries by the OEKO-TEX® member institute in question.

## Company audits

In the interests of providing targeted assistance with optimising operational quality control at the companies around the world that are involved in the OEKO-TEX® system, a compulsory element of the certification process is for the OEKO-TEX® member institutes to carry out an audit of the company applying for certification. This monitoring of the company takes place immediately before or shortly after the certificate has been issued and is repeated every three years.

## Control testing

The OEKO-TEX® Association conducts annual control testing of certified products, at a rate of at least 25% of all certificates issued. It tests articles bearing the OEKO-TEX® Label that are available in retail shops and also samples of materials from factories. In addition, independent auditors carry out random checks of companies holding OEKO-TEX® certificates, in the form of unannounced inspections.

## Publisher and contact details

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