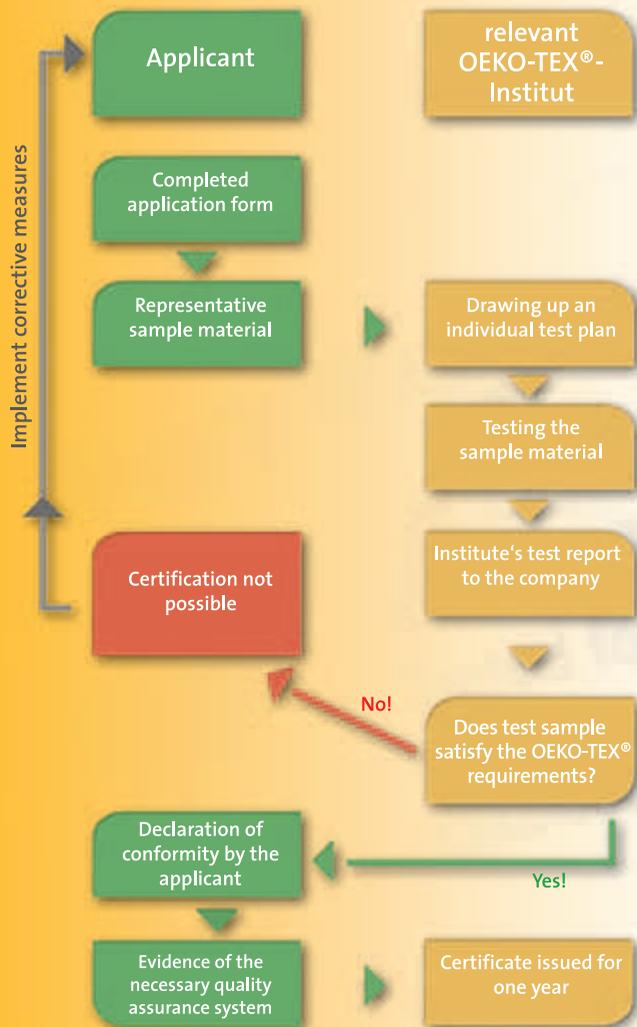




Questions and Answers

about certification in accordance
with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100





How can I best use this brochure?

The questions and answers here are listed in an order that reflects the sequence of all the key steps to certification. A **fold-out diagram** is provided to help you orient yourself during the individual stages.

If you are looking for an answer to a specific question, the **table of contents** gives you a good overview. You will see – it is simple – just as straightforward as the process of certification itself!

What is more, OEKO-TEX® member institutes are available to speak to you personally at any time. An address list is in the brochure.

And you can also find all the required documents, including the current catalogue of OEKO-TEX® certification criteria, and a great deal of background information at www.oeko-tex.com.



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What is OEKO-TEX® Standard 100?

The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 is a globally uniform testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and end products at all stages of production. Its aim is to ensure products are free of harmful substances.

Tests for harmful substances include those prohibited and/or regulated by law, chemicals that according to current knowledge are harmful to health, and testing parameters such as precautionary measures to safeguard health.

The tests are carried out exclusively by authorised, independent textile research and testing institutes with proven expertise. The basis for this is the OEKO-TEX® modular principle: certification is possible at every stage of processing and existing certificates from preliminary processing stages are recognised. A textile that has successfully passed the test may be marked with the OEKO-TEX® label.



Up to now, more than 90,000 certificates* have been issued and millions of products marked with the OEKO-TEX® label.

The slogan, “Confidence in Textiles” has become a synonym worldwide for responsible textile production, safety and transparency. It applies to industry and trade along the textile chain just as it does to users and consumers of stylish, functional and colourful textiles.



What other OEKO-TEX® certifications are there?

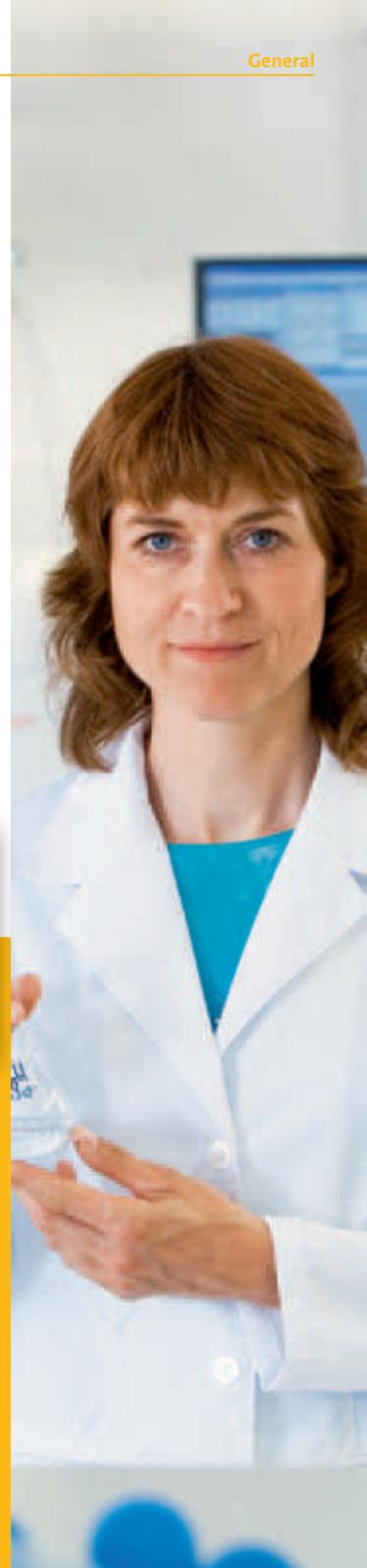
OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 applies to products. Its complement, OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000, is a testing, audit and certification system for environmentally friendly production sites.

In addition, there is also the product label OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 plus for companies that have successfully certified their products in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and

which have demonstrated that all production sites involved in making the item comply with the requirements set by OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000.

More detailed information about OEKO-TEX® certifications can be found at: www.oeko-tex.com and www.oeko-tex1000.com

* as of 8/2010





What are the criteria according to which OEKO-TEX® tests?

In order to guarantee the textiles are harmless to human health, the OEKO-TEX® testing association works with a comprehensive **catalogue of criteria** when certifying products.

The catalogue contains **more than 100 testing parameters**. It is binding for all authorised OEKO-TEX® test institutes.

The standard we have set ourselves is to test not only for **substances prohibited and/or regulated by law**, but also for **other substances** that according to current scientific knowledge are **harmful to health**.

Parameters that function as precautionary measures to safeguard consumer health are also part of the test. As a result, these criteria ensure a level of safety far beyond what is prescribed by law!

Which testing methods does OEKO-TEX® use?

OEKO-TEX® test methodology is based – among other things – on **simulation tests**, which take into account the possible ways chemicals could actually be taken up by the body:

Ingestion:

The ingestion of harmful chemicals plays a particularly important role in baby products. This is simulated in tests by using an artificial saliva solution.

Absorption through the skin:

Tests are carried out using a solution of artificial perspiration to discover whether and in what amount substances present in the textile could be released due to contact with perspiration.

Inhalation of harmful substances:

The OEKO-TEX® laboratories apply olfactometry and emission measurements to test the likelihood of inhaling potentially harmful substances from the surrounding air.

Which parameters are included in the OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue?

- banned MAK amines in specific AZO dyes
- other carcinogenic and allergenic dyes
- formaldehyde
- pesticides
- chlorinated phenols, phthalates, PFOS, PFOA
- chloroaromatic compounds
- extractable heavy metals and heavy metals in digested sample
- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)
- pH value, colourfastness, odours
- organic tin compounds
- emissions of volatile components
- biocides and flame-retardant treatments are regulated separately
- company visits

The current and complete criteria catalogue can be found at:
www.oeko-tex.com/limitvalues

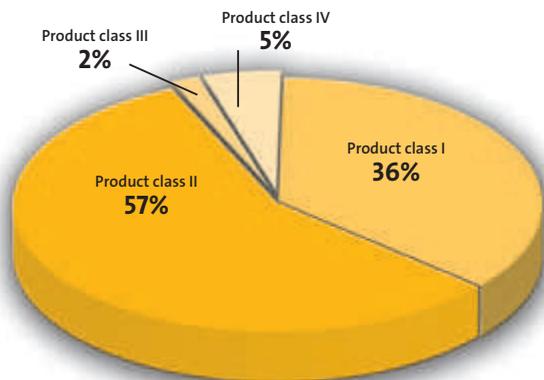
What is the significance of the four product classes with respect to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100?

Tests for harmful substances according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 are always based on the intended use of the textile. That is why the following principle is applied: The greater the intensity of textile contact with the skin (and the greater the skin sensitivity), the greater are the human ecological requirements that must be met.

Infants require special protection. All textiles and textile toys for infants are in product class I. They are subjected to the strictest of criteria with tests simulating the sensitivity of babies'

skin. Finishes containing formaldehyde are excluded. Saliva-fast colours are required because dyes and prints must not run or come off when babies suck on them.

Many firms voluntarily have their products tested in accordance with the requirements set for product classes I and II.



Proportion of certificates according to product class

All companies that have their products certified in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 can be found at: www.oeko-tex.com/companies

Which product classes are there?

Product class I

Textiles and textile toys for babies and small children up to the age of three:

underwear, romper suits, bed linen, bedding, soft toys, etc.

Product class II

Textiles that have a large part of their surface in direct contact with the skin:

underwear, bed linen, terry goods, shirts, blouses, socks and stockings, etc.

Product class III

Textiles that do not come into contact with the skin or only have a small part of their surface in contact with the skin:

jackets, coats, interlining materials, etc.

Product class IV

Materials for interior decorating and decorative purposes:

table linen, curtains, upholstery



What are the costs of certification?

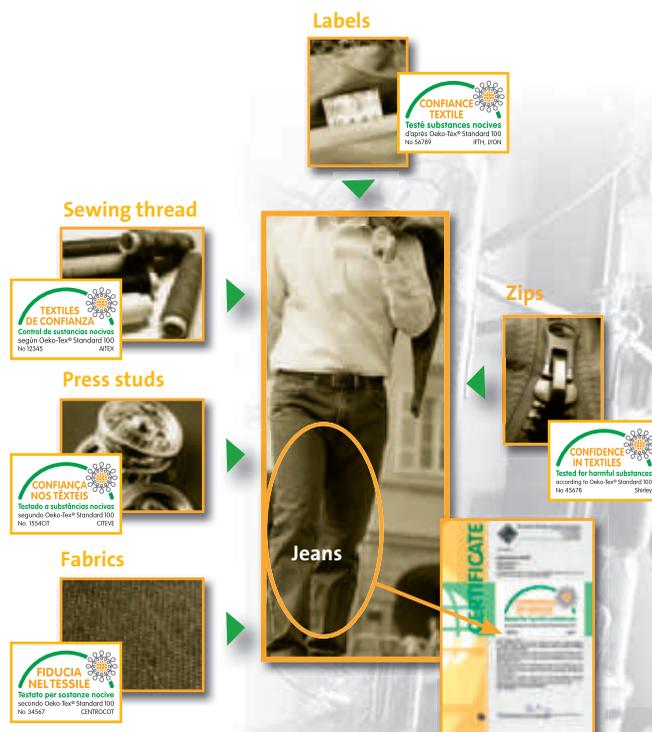
The financial cost of certification according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 consists of a licence fee and laboratory costs. The precise costs for tests for harmful substances depend on the tests involved for each product in question. A preliminary estimate of these costs can be obtained from the OEKO-TEX® institute that has been commissioned to carry out the test.

Financial outlays can be reduced by using source materials that have already been certified to

avoid duplicate tests. Tests are only carried out on any new materials added at each individual stage of production.

The modular principle distributes testing costs amongst companies all along the textile production chain.

OEKO-TEX® testing criteria can be applied at every stage of production. A high testing density along the textile production chain reduces testing costs for individual firms. (see diagram)



Modular principle:
All the components of a certified product must have been tested.

Certified source materials reduce testing costs and time.

How long does certification take?

The time it takes from application to the issue of a certificate varies greatly and is highly dependent on individual factors. You can influence them positively by preparing well – for example by providing information and documentation that is

as complete as possible along with your application. The testing institute will then be happy to discuss the costs of testing your products and how long the procedure will take. All you need to do is ring!

To whom do I apply?

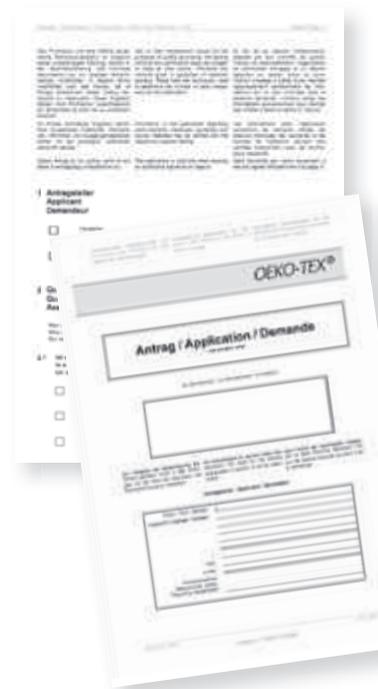
If you would like to have your products certified in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, please submit an **application in writing** to one of the 15 authorised OEKO-TEX® institutes in Europe or Japan or one of their information centres.

Where do I obtain the application forms?

You can quite simply download the application forms at www.oeko-tex.com/downloads or you may consult with one of the test institutes or a certification centre.

What does the application consist of?

- Description of the products to be tested
- Account of details of the stages of processing carried out in order to make the textile
- A list of all dyestuffs and auxiliaries used
- Safety data sheets for finishing agents
- Names of all the suppliers of all components of the product, from source fabrics to inlays to accessories (ready-made products)
- Copies of certificates for already certified source materials
- By request, inclusion in the international OEKO-TEX® reference list or the shopping guide on the Internet.



The 5 steps to certification

- 1 Submission of application and test samples
- 2 Testing according to the parameters of the OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue
- 3 Compilation of test report
- 4 Submission of a declaration of conformity
- 5 Issue of certification following successfully passed tests



What must I be aware of when choosing samples for testing?

Test samples should be chosen so that the entire product group is covered. This representative selection is the basis for the article description on the certi-

cate. An incomplete selection of samples may result in restrictions on the certified article group.

Are there special packaging requirements for samples for testing?

The packing of test samples must satisfy specific quality requirements in order to protect the samples and guarantee accurate, reproducible and meaningful test results.

Among the requirements are packing test samples individually in tear-resistant polyethylene film.



What happens during testing carried out by the test institute?

The commissioned test institute systematically records product and production data. The institute then draws up an individual test plan for the article (groups) to be tested.

The textile is then tested according to the parameters of the OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue.

A specific “worst-case” methodology is used. Articles with the most added coating, the darkest colouring or the highest quantity of finishing agent are tested.



How and when do I receive the test results?

You will receive a written report of the results upon completion of the laboratory tests. Certification requirements have been met if the article has successfully completed the laboratory tests and the documents of the contract are in compliance. These results, however, do not yet grant authorisation to mark the product with the OEKO-TEX® label.

How and when do I receive the certificate?

The basis for issuing the certificate is what is known as a “Declaration of Conformity” in accordance with ISO 17050-1. In this declaration, you guarantee the products manufactured and/or sold shall correspond to the tested samples with respect to type, composition and production throughout the entire period of the validity of the certificate.

OEKO-TEX® Association to monitor and carry out production site audits throughout the entire validity period of the certificate.

In the Declaration of Conformity you also agree to permit the



What is the significance of the OEKO-TEX® certificate?

The OEKO-TEX® certificate verifies the articles listed have been successfully tested according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and satisfy the requirements of a common product class.

Verified products may only be distinguished following receipt of the certificate, and only in combination with a licence

number and the name of the test institute. The report number also provides evidence of the latest test that has been carried out.

If you so desire, you can also get an electronic template of the label in various file formats.



How do I apply for extension of a certificate?

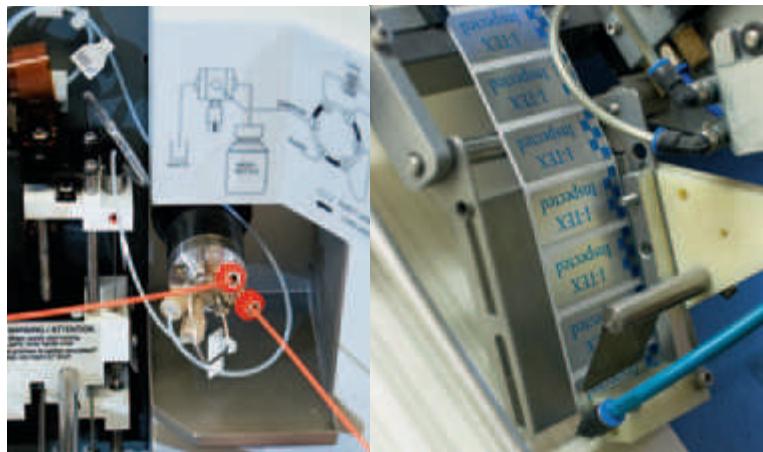
The scope of existing OEKO-TEX® certificates can be extended at any time by the manufacturer by making an informal application to the relevant test institute. As usual, representative sample material is used to test new articles. You will again receive a test report from the institute commissioned to con-

duct the test. You must also confirm by means of a Declaration of Conformity that the quality of the additional products corresponds to tested samples. The duration of the certificate remains unaltered by the extension. The additional products will be listed in the article descriptions on the certificate.

How much does extending a certificate cost?

A processing fee and the cost of new tests will be charged for certificate extensions. These are

related to the test complexity for the new products being added.



When do I need an order certificate?

For handling special orders, the International OEKO-TEX® Association has recently introduced a new version of certificate known as an **order certificate or excerpt**.

Although based on the general, initial certificate of the firm, it also describes the relevant, non-interchangeable order articles.

The prompt securing of OEKO-TEX® parameters is particularly significant for firms working sporadically with their pool of suppliers, in other words, on a commission basis. Using the certificate number and supplementary code on the order certificate, merchants can check the validity of the certificate and conformity of the delivered articles on the Internet.

What happens after a certificate expires?

An OEKO-TEX® certificate is valid for 12 months. At the end of this time, it can, if so desired, be renewed for another year. This approach is recommended

to ensure continuous product safety and smooth processes all along the textile production chain.

How much does renewing a certificate cost?

As is the case with initial certification, a licensing fee and laboratory testing costs (variable according to test complexity) are charged for renewals. Your

test institute will be happy to inform you about the expected, individual costs. As a rule, charges for renewals are less than they are for initial certificates.

Do I need an internal quality assurance system?

Yes. Set-up of a suitable quality assurance system to guarantee product conformity is a prerequisite. The system must also be recognised by the commissioned institute.

As of April 2010, the OEKO-TEX® Association has been using a quality assurance package world-wide in order to support operational quality assurance on-site. OEKO-TEX® experts' visits to production facilities, including meetings with the company's quality assurance commissioner, serve to determine representative samples from actual production runs, the scope of laboratory testing, and descriptions of article groups listed on the certificate in an optimal way. On-site monitoring of production facilities is to take place every three years.



How is product conformity ensured?

Conformity is guaranteed daily because the firm has committed itself to **internal quality controls** in the declaration of conformity.

The test institutes also carry out **annual monitoring tests** for at least 15 % of the certificates issued. For this aim, tests on products from the preliminary sector are carried out on sample materials submitted for certification by subsequent manufacturers.

The institutes also carry out **product tests through testing trade bought articles**. Also, auditors visit and inspect production sites.

Other important components of ensuring compliance are the pursuit of misuse under civil and criminal law and possible withdrawal of certification.



When may finished textile products be marked with an OEKO-TEX® label?

One prerequisite is that **all components** must correspond to the required test criteria

without exception. Finished products must each have their **own certificate**.

Where can I obtain a label template?

Digital label templates can be obtained free of charge from your test institute. These label

templates are available in various languages.

More detailed information about using OEKO-TEX® labels can be found at:
www.oeko-tex.com/labelling



What must specialist traders look for when using the OEKO-TEX® label?

A product marked with an OEKO-TEX® label does not in itself constitute sufficient evidence of successful testing for freedom from harmful substances. That is why, when making purchases of your articles or materials, you should insist suppliers produce a valid OEKO-TEX® certificate.

The details on the test label (test number and test institute) must essentially correspond to those on the accompanying certificate. Products not listed on the certificate may not be marked with the OEKO-TEX® label.

The validity of an OEKO-TEX® label can be checked at any time on the Internet:
www.oeko-tex.com/validity



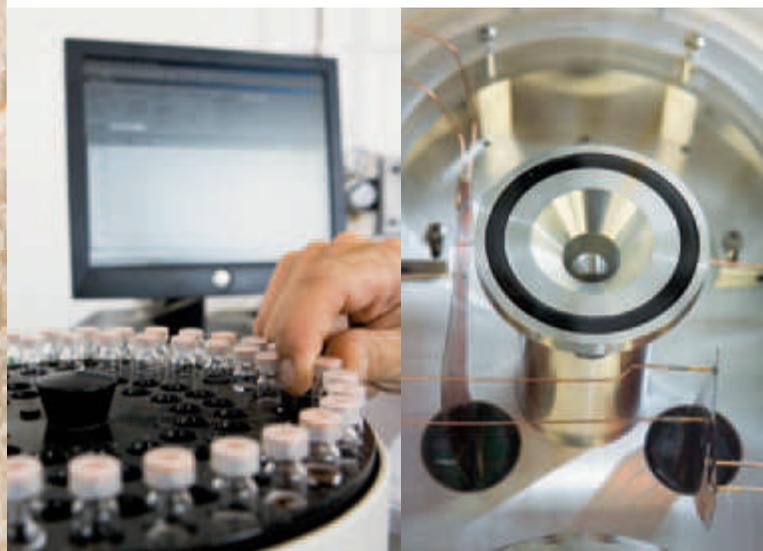
What is the International OEKO-TEX® Association?

The International OEKO-TEX® Association is an alliance of 15 well-known textile, research and test institutes in Europe and Japan, with branches and information centres in more than 50 countries world-wide.

With their diverse and wide-ranging competencies, OEKO-TEX® member institutes pro-

vide important impetus for innovation within the textile and garment industries around the world. Depending on their orientation, the individual institutes work on basic research or applied problem-solving at all stages of textile production (household and decorating textiles, garments and technical textiles).

To find contacts at test institutes please see:
www.oeko-tex.com/institutes



What is the mission of the OEKO-TEX® testing institutes?

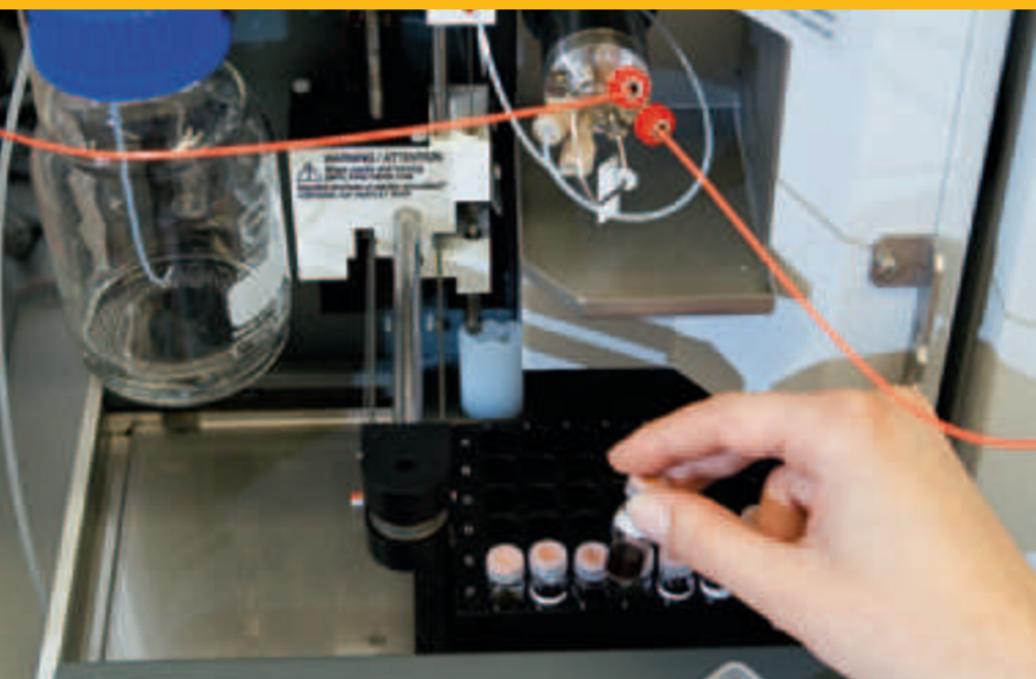
The main task of the test institutes is to keep problematic materials from entering any of the stages of the textile production chain. Its aim also includes the further development of the requirements for human ecologically optimised products that go

far beyond compliance with existing legal regulations. The institutes are also dedicated to the development of scientific criteria and corresponding testing methodologies.

How do the testing institutes ensure the level of testing?

An internationally-used system of testing, regular meetings of technicians, groups of experts, and a high level of research and development activity ensure high quality testing. Training

courses and regular exchange of experience and round-robin tests between the institutes continually guarantee a uniformly high level of testing.



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Textile Testing Services
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Hohenstein Institute Vietnam
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ASQUAL
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de l'Assurance Qualité dans la
Filière Textile Habillement
- Germany**
OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre,
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Secretariat

- Switzerland**
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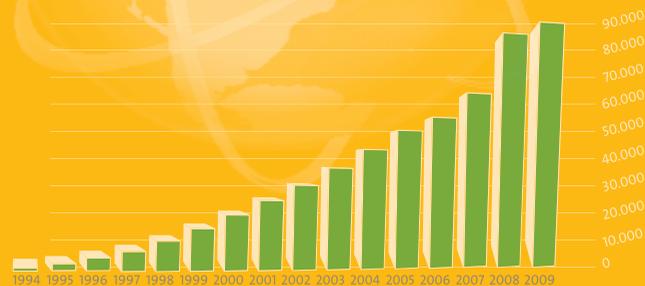
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A success story – OEKO-TEX® Standard 100:

With more than 90,000 certificates issued, the label
“Confidence in Textiles” is the world’s best-known and
most widespread indicator that a textile has been in-
dependently tested and found free of harmful sub-
stances.

More than 9,500 textile and garment manufacturers
in 80 countries have their products tested and certified
by OEKO-TEX® institutes.



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