

Factsheet

STeP by OEKO-TEX®

INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE PRODUCTION

STeP stands for **Sustainable Textile Production** and is a certification system for environmentally friendly and socially responsible production facilities along the textile chain. The goal of STeP by OEKO-TEX® is to continually improve safe and responsible production conditions relative to the environment, society, and the workplace.



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

STeP certification provides a robust, comprehensive assessment of a company's operations as they relate to sustainable production. The six STeP core modules are:

- Chemical management
- Environmental performance
- Environmental management
- Social responsibility
- Quality management
- Health & safety

The certification process includes an online assessment tool for the collection of all required operational data as well as a final company on-site evaluation by an OEKO-TEX® auditor to verify the information provided. Companies must meet at least 70% of basic criteria and all exclusion criteria to be eligible for STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification.

The STeP certification comprises a three-level scoring system:

- **LEVEL 1:** entry level
- **LEVEL 2:** good implementation of best practices with further optimisation potential
- **LEVEL 3:** exemplary implementation of best practices

Each company receives a detailed STeP report, including the results of the online assessment tool and the audit. The associated STeP certificate indicates both a final overall rating and the individual scoring for each of the six core modules.

THE COMPELLING BENEFITS

- The STeP certification is designed especially for textile production facilities and enables a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the sustainable production processes and conditions achieved.
- Services and certificates already provided or attained (e.g., ISO 14001, SA 8000, BSCI, ISO 9001) can be integrated into STeP by OEKO-TEX®, significantly reducing the cost of the certification.
- With STeP, companies are able to increase the efficiency of their production processes, improve social and environmental conditions as well as strengthen their economic situation and competitiveness.
- As part of the STeP certification, companies can also use our DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® analysis to determine and assess their status with regard to meeting the goals of the Greenpeace Detox campaign.

THE PATH TO STeP BY OEKO-TEX®

1. Submit the online application form on the OEKO-TEX® website and confirm the terms of use.
2. Login data will be sent for completing the online STeP assessment questionnaire.
3. The OEKO-TEX® institute evaluates the information provided and the documents submitted.
4. The OEKO-TEX® institute verifies the data obtained in the form of an on-site audit at the production facility.
5. The OEKO-TEX® institute draws up a detailed audit report including a final assessment and issues the STeP certificate.

VALIDITY

The STeP certificate is valid for 3 years.

