

New environmental certification for Austria's textile producers

OETI certifies its first customer according to STeP. STeP stands for Sustainable Textile Production and is the new certification system of the internationally recognised OEKO-TEX® Association especially tailored to the needs of textiles companies.

STeP's objective is the permanent implementation of environmentally friendly production processes and socially acceptable working conditions in production facilities along the textile chain. It allows for a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of areas such as chemicals and their use, environmental management and protection, social responsibility, health and safety and quality management. STeP replaces the previous certification according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. STeP places greater emphasis on social responsibility and health and safety than its predecessor. As a completely new area chemical's management has been added to the certification criteria catalogue.

OETI as one of the founding members of the OEKO-TEX® Association is proud of its first STeP customer in Austria – premium sportswear producer Löffler. OETI's CEO Robert Löcker in this regard: "Löffler as innovative company was happy to take the lead and be the first textile producer in Austria to have their production assessed according to STeP's criteria."

Why is STeP relevant for companies?

Companies are held increasingly accountable for their ecological and social impact. With its 16 member institutes in Europe and Japan and over 90 contact offices worldwide OEKO-TEX® has a strong presence. STeP is a globally recognised and standardised certification, which is especially designed to meet the needs of textile companies. STeP accepts common management systems such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

Löffler CEO Otto Leodolter about the advantages of the new certification-system: "STeP allows Austrian companies to show their customers that they are producing in a fair way and that they are willing to go the extra (environmental, sustainable and social) mile. With the STeP certificate and logo companies are able to communicate their environmental performance to its customers as well as the public."

Helene Melnitzky, Head of OETI's Ecology Department concludes: "STeP allows companies to constantly improve on their processes".

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