

## Customer Information

### OEKO-TEX® is way ahead of the European statutory requirement on nonylphenol ethoxylates

On 14 January 2016, European legislation on nonylphenol ethoxylates was published in the Official Journal for the European Union with the Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/26 from 13 January 2016.<sup>1)</sup> Based on this, an additional entry (46a) will be inserted into appendix XVII of Regulation (EC) no. 1907/2006 (REACH).

According to the regulation, textile articles, which can reasonably be expected to be washed in water during their normal lifecycle, are not allowed to be placed on the market after 3 February 2021, if the textile article or each part of the textile article contains nonylphenol ethoxylates in concentrations  $\geq 0,01$  % by weight ( $\geq 100$  mg/kg). A „textile article“ thereby is defined as any unfinished, semifinished or finished product which is composed of at least 80 % textile fibres by weight, or any other product that contains a part which is composed of at least 80 % textile fibres by weight. Second-hand textile articles and recycled textiles are treated separately.

In the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, nonyl- and octylphenols and nonylphenol- and octylphenol ethoxylates have been taken into account in material testing since 2012 (indicative introduction), or rather, since 1 April 2013 (mandatory requirement). As a result of the strict and staged tightening of requirements over the years, the OEKO-TEX® Association makes certificate holders ever more aware of the use of these chemical substances in their production processes.

With the new version of the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 published at the start of January 2016, the OEKO-TEX® Association has raised the requirements of the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 even further with regard to alkylphenol ethoxylates. On 1 April 2016, the following sum limit values will come into effect for all certification processes for nonylphenol (NP), octylphenol (OP), nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEO) and octylphenol ethoxylates (OPEO).

Sum NP + OP + NPEO + OPEO: < 100 mg/kg

Sum NP + OP: < 10 mg/kg

With these limit values, the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 is already taking into account, and even exceeding, the requirements specified for nonylphenol ethoxylates as per the legislation valid from 3 February 2021. Thus

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products certified in accordance with the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 are already contributing to a high level of consumer protection with regard to health and also to the improvement of environmental ecology.

Through its certification system STeP by OEKO-TEX®, which includes a tested evaluation based on transparent criteria and processes for sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially responsible production facilities along the textile chain, the OEKO-TEX® Association is going one step further. The intended use of nonylphenol, octylphenol, nonylphenol ethoxylates and octylphenol ethoxylates is strictly prohibited within the framework of STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification.

More information can be found under:

1) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0026&from=EN>



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