

Press information

OEKO-TEX® launches new ECO PASSPORT certification for sustainable textile chemicals

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Zürich (tm) The OEKO-TEX® Association is pleased to announce the official launch of the new ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification for sustainable textile chemicals. The six month pilot phase with manufacturers has been successfully completed. The results were very positive and the first certified textile chemical producers have already accessed the key benefits of the new ECO PASSPORT concept. ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® offers textile chemical manufacturers a confidential and independent method to reassure their customers that chemicals, colorants, and auxiliaries are in line with the industry's sustainability requirements and initiatives. ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certified chemicals protect consumers, textile industry workers, and the environment from the potential dangers of harmful substances.

ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® is a two-step verification procedure by which manufacturers of textile processing chemicals and chemical compounds are able to confirm that their products meet the criteria for environmentally responsible textile production. Based on customer and market feedback during the six month pilot test phase, OEKO-TEX® modified the original ECO PASSPORT concept to improve functionality. The workflow between applicants, testing institutes, and the OEKO-TEX® Secretariat was refined and the certification and lab testing procedures were optimized.

Textile chemicals, colorants, and auxiliaries are analyzed in a two-step process that confirms that the compounds and each ingredient meet specific criteria for sustainability, safety, and regulatory compliance. In the initial analysis, chemical compounds are checked against a comprehensive Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL) that incorporates the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 RSL and the STeP by OEKO-TEX® MRSL, both of which are compliant with REACH and ZDHC guidelines. Next, the textile chemicals, colorants, and auxiliaries are analyzed within a well-reasoned laboratory testing framework to ensure that they do not contain any unsafe contaminants. Compounds that pass these two phases are granted the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification which indicates that the certified textile chemical is safe to use in OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certified textile products and in STeP by OEKO-TEX® certified manufacturing facilities.

More information about the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification is available at www.oeko-tex.com.

More about OEKO-TEX®

The International OEKO-TEX® Association, headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, was founded in 1992 by the Austrian Textile Research Institute OETI and the German

Hohenstein Research Institute. Currently, its membership includes 16 independent textile research and testing institutes with their representative offices in 60 countries worldwide. To date, more than 150,000 OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certificates have been issued—with more than 14,000 issued per year—and 10,000 manufacturers, brands, and retailers in 98 countries are working with OEKO-TEX® to ensure that their products are tested for potentially harmful substances. Now available are the STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification for sustainable textile product manufacturing facilities, the MySTeP by OEKO-TEX® database management tool, the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification for textile chemical compounds, and the Made in Green by OEKO-TEX® label for OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certified products produced in accordance with OEKO-TEX® guidelines. OEKO-TEX® certified products and suppliers can be located in the OEKO-TEX® Online Buying Guide at www.oeko-tex.com/products. Connect with OEKO-TEX® on Facebook at www.facebook.com/oekotex, on Twitter at www.twitter.com/OEKO_TEX_Int, and on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/oeko-tex-international.



The new ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification offers textile chemical suppliers the possibility to have their products assessed for sustainable aspects by a third-party institution. Picture: © gettyimages/westend61