



Press release OETI – Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation – 06.07.2016

OETI broadens its OEKO-TEX® portfolio with the new “ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®” certification for textile chemicals

ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® offers textile chemical manufacturers a confidential and independent method to reassure their customers that chemicals, colorants and auxiliaries comply with the industry’s sustainability requirements and initiatives like ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals).

Key factors for OETI customers: Two-step certification and MRSL Screening

Textile chemicals, colorants and auxiliaries are analysed in two process stages. This two-step verification procedure confirms whether compounds and single ingredients meet specific criteria for an environmentally responsible, safe and legally compliant textile production. Certified chemicals contribute to the protection of textile industry workers, consumers and the environment from the potential dangers of harmful substances.

- Stage I: Chemicals are screened at the ingredient level against the OEKO-TEX® Restricted Substance Lists (RSLs) and Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL). Complying with MRSL means to meet the requirements of industry initiatives like ZDHC as well as legal requirements based on the EU REACH-regulation.
- Stage II: Analytical verification of textile chemicals, colorants and auxiliaries within a well-reasoned laboratory testing framework at our OETI lab to ensure that chemicals do not contain any unsafe contaminants.

Compounds that pass these two phases are granted the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification.

Further benefits: Global potential und transparency

Helene Melnitzky, who is OETI’s head of ecology and responsible for OEKO-TEX® stresses the advantages for OETI customers: “The ECO PASSPORT 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. It rounds off our OEKO-TEX® product portfolio and consequently we close the loop on chemicals, production and product.”

The global potential for suppliers of OEKO-TEX® certified businesses is huge. To date, more than 150,000 OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certificates have been issued 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. Further, the Made in Green by OEKO-TEX® label is a consumer label for textiles tested for harmful substances and sustainably produced and STeP by OEKO-TEX® is a certification for the sustainable management of textile production facilities of all processing stages.

Currently, about 280 companies are undergoing the assessment or auditing process for STeP or are already STeP certified.

Ms. Melnitzky states further: „Transparency is also a huge factor. The ECO PASSPORT standard’s criteria are easily accessible on the OEKO-TEX® website as is the OEKO-TEX® buying guide. The buying guide lists certified products and allows brands, retailers and manufacturers to source sustainable and safer chemicals. Also, the certified product carries a unique tag.

Contact:

Helene Melnitzky, Ecology Department, melnitzky@oeti.at, Tel: +43 699 16060817

ÖTI - Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation GmbH
OETI – Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation
Spengergasse 20
1050 Wien