

## Press Information

### **OEKO-TEX® awards new certification for leather goods that have been tested for harmful substances**

Zurich | December 2016 (hm) From 2017 onwards, producers and suppliers of leather goods can also have their products certified to be tested for harmful substances by the International OEKO-TEX® Association. The basis for the certification is the new LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®, which was launched during the annual meeting of the General Managers of the OEKO-TEX® institutes in Ostend, Belgium at the start of November. Formed in 1992 and celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017, the OEKO-TEX® Association, in response to the latest developments in the textile, leather goods and footwear market, is adding the leather sector to its extensive testing and certification system that has focused so far on textile products and accessory materials.

In the future, the International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile and Leather Ecology (OEKO-TEX®) will use the new LEATHER STANDARD product label to distinguish products that meet the strict requirements of the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue. The test criteria and limit values in many cases go far beyond applicable national and international standards. The LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® therefore contributes to a high and effective level of product safety and reliability from the consumer's perspective and lets manufacturers of leather goods in all stages of production distinguish their products to show that they have been tested for harmful substances, providing a reliable decision-making tool for consumers who purchase leather products.

The OEKO-TEX® Association is delighted to have obtained the Research Institute of Leather and Plastic Sheeting (Forschungsinstitut für Leder und Kunststoffbahnen - FILK) in Freiberg, Germany and the Test and Research Institute Pirmasens (Prüf- und Forschungsinstitut Pirmasens e.V. - PFI), who are highly acclaimed in their specialist areas in the leather industry, as additional partners for leather goods testing. Together with six other OEKO-TEX® institutes that have been established for many years now, the two new establishments FILK and PFI will also carry out testing and certification according to the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® from next year onwards.

“We are delighted to see our network of meanwhile 18 OEKO-TEX® institutes growing steadily and that we managed to obtain such experience and renowned expertise in the field of leather goods production with our two new members. Ultimately, our greatest concern is ensuring consumer protection and environmentally friendly production throughout every area of textile and leather processing”, says Georg Dieners, General Secretary and CEO at OEKO-TEX®.



*From January 2017 onwards, the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® will provide independent testing of leather products for harmful substances.*

### **About OEKO-TEX®**

*With 25 years of experience, OEKO-TEX® leads the world in empowering and enabling consumers and companies to protect our planet by making responsible decisions. OEKO-TEX® provides standardised solutions which optimise customers' manufacturing processes and help deliver high quality, more sustainable products to the market. All of the products within the OEKO-TEX® portfolio are used to strengthen our customers' systems, processes or products and, ultimately, they help to create more sustainable companies. To date, 10,000 manufacturers, brands, and retailers in almost 100 countries are working with OEKO-TEX® to ensure that their products are tested for potentially harmful substances and millions of consumers around the world look for OEKO-TEX® labels before making buying decisions. OEKO-TEX® certified products and suppliers can be located in the OEKO-TEX® Online Buying Guide at [www.oeko-tex.com/products](http://www.oeko-tex.com/products). Connect with OEKO-TEX® on [Facebook](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and on [Twitter](#).*