



Zurich, 18 July 2018

Press Release:

TESTEX opens new PCR-Laboratory for the screening of GMO-Cotton in Zurich!

TESTEX opens a new laboratory for the testing of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in cotton products.

"With our new PCR-Laboratory we enable our customers to test cotton for genetic modifications – independently and transparently. The DNA-analysis allows us to make a yes/no-statement regarding genetic modifications in cotton. We would like to emphasise that the procedure is applicable to all textiles within the textile value chain – from the cotton fields to the store." Says Dr. Andreas Kapaklis, Team Leader Ecology at TESTEX, about the new laboratory.

Reasons for a GMO-Screening

Today, about 70% of the cotton grown globally is genetically modified. Because of their genetic modification, certain cotton types are for example resistant to pests or pesticides. Whether the modified cotton actually lives up to this promise out in the fields, is being questioned more and more. Meanwhile the demand for organic clothing further increases. To distinguish cotton as organic or free of genetic modifications within the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® certification, a set of comprehensive criteria must be met. For this it is essential that the cotton plants have not been genetically modified.

The testing procedure

The testing procedure is a GMO-screening on a DNA-level, where samples are measured by the qPCR-Method, a real-time polymerase chain reaction. Thereby a sample is tested for a specific sequence (genetic markers) that would disclose a genetic modification. These sequences can be identified up to a value of 0.1%.

With the opening of the new PCR-laboratory, TESTEX widens its testing spectrum and offers manufacturers, brands and customers new possibilities of verification within molecular biology.

For detailed information about the GMO-Screening, please visit the [OEKO-TEX® Website](#).

TESTEX is a globally operating, independent Swiss testing and certification organisation with focus on textile and leather testing. Founded in 1846 and originally known as the "Seidentrocknungsanstalt Zurich", the TESTEX Group now operates more than 20 branches with more than 200 employees worldwide (including TESTEX and OETI) from its head office in Zurich. TESTEX is a member institute of the OEKO-TEX® Association and the official representative in Australia, Canada, the P.R. China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Switzerland, South Korea and Taiwan. Learn more on [testex.com](#) and [Wikipedia](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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