
OEKO-TEX® Test Criteria 2019 – New regulations finally entered into force on 1 April

Consumer protection and sustainability along the textile value chain have always been fundamental issues for the OEKO-TEX® Association. For this reason, the existing guidelines of the OEKO-TEX® product portfolio are updated at the beginning of each year, so that the latest scientific findings and industry trends are adapted. After the transitional period, the new OEKO-TEX® regulations for all certification systems and services finally entered into force on April 1, 2019. An overview of the new regulations can be found here. The latest changes relate to the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® standard.

ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®

The basis for sustainable production of textiles and leather goods is the use of environmentally friendly chemicals. The ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification is expressly aimed at the avoidance of unwanted chemicals, even before they enter the global supply chain. For this, numerous chemicals, including dyes, boiling agents, adhesives, inks, pigments and accessories, are analysed in a confidential, three-stage process, which confirms that the formulation and individual ingredients fulfil specific criteria with respect to sustainability, security and compliance with legal provisions.

An overview of the changes:

Inclusion of leather chemicals

Following the introduction of the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® for leather products that have been tested for harmful substances, as well as the Sustainable Textile & Leather Production certification (STeP) for environmentally friendly and sustainable leather products, in addition to textile chemicals, leather chemicals will shortly also be able to be tested and certified according to the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® standard.

New substances in the limit value catalogues

Various substances have been newly added to the limit value catalogues. In addition to quinoline, which was already subject to monitoring by OEKO-TEX®, these include the softener and viscosity regulator TCEP (Tris(2-chlorethyl) phosphate), the propellant ADCA (diazene-1,2-dicarboxamide) and the siloxanes D4, D5 and D6. Newly included in Annex 6, are the arylamines 4-chloro-o-toluidinium chloride, CAS No. 3165-93-3, 2-naphthylammoniumacetate, CAS No. 553-00-4, 2,4-diaminoaniline sulphate, CAS No. 39156-41-7, 2,4,5-trimethylaniline hydrochloride, CAS No. 21436-97-5 and the flame retardant, disodium octaborate, CAS No. 12008-41-2.

New additions to the limit value catalogues

In Annex 4 of the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® limit values were also tightened up for various parameters. This particularly relates to the starting point for the production of dyes, aniline, the solvent, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP), N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMAC), N,N-dimethylformamide

(DMF), the flame retardants, penta-, hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ether, various fire retardants and per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFCs). There were also changes in the limit value catalogue for the substances, OPP, CMK, TCMTB, for leather chemicals.

Additional important changes in the OEKO-TEX® product portfolio:

OEKO-TEX® already complies with the new “REACH Annex XVII CMR Legislation”

Through the limit value requirements of benzene, amine salts, as well as quinoline in STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®, these now already cover the requirements of the new “REACH Annex XVII CMR Legislation” (Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/1513).

Glyphosate under observation

From 2019, two new product groups will be monitored in STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®: glyphosate and its salts, as well as the carcinogenic N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosatable substances.

A free webinar on the new regulations for 2019 for all OEKO-TEX® products is available at www.oeko-tex.com/webinars.



The ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification is also expressly aimed at the avoidance of unwanted chemicals. © OEKO-TEX®

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. All of the products within the OEKO-TEX® portfolio are used to strengthen our customers' systems, processes or products and, ultimately, they help 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. Connect with OEKO-TEX® on Facebook, on LinkedIn, and on Twitter.