

STeP by OEKO-TEX®: New regulations in 2021

At the start of the year, the OEKO-TEX® Association as usual updates the applicable test criteria, limit values and requirements for its range of certifications and labels. The following new regulations for STeP by OEKO-TEX® come into effect on April 1, 2021 after a three-month transition period:

Due to the current Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) the OEKO-TEX® Association amends the STeP certification process and audit requirements for new and existing STeP customers as follows. The new procedure only applies to customers **where travel restrictions apply, and the usual STeP certification process cannot be followed.**

Self-Assessment:

The Self-Assessment must be completed by the customer in time and the Questionnaire will be reviewed by the STeP Auditor in time.

New STeP customers that applied the first time for STeP will be audited from the STeP Auditor via Remote Guided Audit (including a Virtual Office Audit), where an On-Site Audit is conducted by an OEKO-TEX® representative, guided by the STeP Auditor.

Existing STeP customers that are within the compliance process will be audited from the STeP Auditor via Virtual Office Audit. The STeP Auditor decides if there is a need to conduct additionally a Virtual Facility Tour.

Existing customers that are in a recertification process the following audit procedure applies: If no significant changes took place within the facility a Virtual Office Audit will be conducted by the STeP Auditor with the customer. If significant changes (management, units or processes, or, additional processes) took place within the facility the STeP Auditor conducts a Virtual Office Audit with the customer and a Virtual Facility Tour **or** an On-Site Audit within the next 9 months.

New substance additions to the STeP / DTZ by OEKO-TEX® Chemical List:

- **Titanium dioxide (CAS 1317-70-0; 1317-80-2):** Addition of titanium dioxide (TiO₂) for particles of respirable size to group 14 of the STeP MRSL

Updated air emission limit values to ANNEX 5 “Limit values for air emissions”

- SO₂ limits for solid and liquid fuel have been strengthened

SO₂: For plants with a thermal value between 0.3 MW and 2 MW, 2 MW and 50 MW

Solid fuel	mg/Nm ³	Minimum: before: 2000 / after: 750	Advanced: before: 1000 / after: 500
Liquid fuel	mg/Nm ³	Minimum: before: 1700 / after: 650	Advanced: before: 800 / after: 400

SO₂: For plants with a thermal value > 50 MW

All fuels	mg/Nm ³	Minimum: before: 1700 / after: 650	Advanced: before: 800/ after: 400
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Further development of the STeP Questionnaire regarding the below topics:

- GHG (Green House Gases) emissions within the facility
- Safety in and around the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Awareness regarding living wages
- Prevention/action plan concerning epidemics/pandemics

For more information on the new OEKO-TEX® test criteria, please contact OEKO-TEX® (info@oeko-tex.com) or your responsible OEKO-TEX® Institute (www.oeko-tex.com/institutes).



After a three-month transition period, the new STeP by OEKO-TEX® regulations will become binding on April 1, 2021.