

Consumer protection from the first day of life: With its labels, OEKO-TEX® helps parents choose human-ecologically harmless textiles and leather goods

Azo colourants in romper suites, organophosphorus compounds in rain jackets or pesticides in sheepskins. Again and again, frightening results on children's clothing and other items from testing laboratories unsettle many parents. With the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and the new LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®, OEKO-TEX® makes consumer labels available to retailers and manufacturers to help address the growing and affluent target group of health-conscious parents directly with respect to effective product safety.

During their young lives, babies, children and adolescents come into contact with many textile products and leather goods including bedding, towelling, baby sheepskins, play rugs, baby carriers and car seats, backpacks, pillows and blankets, strollers and, of course, clothing to name just a few. For many parents, in addition to the fashion and financial aspects, the question of health safety is important. To simplify this buying decision for parents, OEKO-TEX® offers three labels that communicate at a glance that the articles bearing them have been successfully examined for harmful substances.

STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®

Since 1992, the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® label has been an independent certification for products throughout the textile value chain. The strictest criteria apply to Product Class I, which covers articles for babies and toddlers up to the age of 36 months, such as clothing, bibs or bedding. The more intensive the skin contact, the stricter the limit values, which cannot be exceeded. The tests for harmful substances comprise legally banned and controlled substances and chemicals as well as chemicals for which the detrimental impact on health is known but not yet subject to any legal controls. The requirements of the STANDARD 100 go beyond the existing national legislation. Products are only marked with the STANDARD 100 label if all constituent parts, such as metal buttons or plastic zippers, fulfil the required criteria.

STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® - Supplement for special items

So that parents can also be certain that other products with textile components have been tested for harmful substances, in addition to the standard textiles and garments, OEKO-TEX® also offers an addition to the STANDARD 100 – a supplement for special items. These are products that cannot be covered by the OEKO-TEX® testing system as a whole, but their textile components can be tested in accordance with the STANDARD 100 test criteria. Examples of this are outer fabrics and inserts of strollers, bassinets, school backpacks, helmets, heating cushions and heating blankets, chairs and loungers or toys and much more. As with the STANDARD 100 for textiles, with the supplement

for special items, the prescribed limit values are also standardised, so that it does not make any difference where the products are manufactured or sold.

LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®

The LEATHER STANDARD is the latest label in the OEKO-TEX® portfolio and now also includes leather products in the demanding OEKO-TEX® tests for harmful substances. Since the beginning of 2017, retail companies, retailers and producers of leather materials are able to certify leather goods, such as sheepskins, jackets, children's backpacks, belts or bags.

Whether a children's article is made completely of fabric or leather or only contains textile components, OEKO-TEX® has a comprehensive certification system in order to ensure higher product safety of textiles and leather goods used by children. So that retailers and companies can decide quickly and easily on OEKO-TEX® certified products, the OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide is available free of charge at www.oeko-tex.com/products. The tool assists them with the procurement of raw materials and products, as well as in the selection of cooperation partners and suppliers along the textile chain. Therefore, OEKO-TEX® offers companies and retailers an entire ecosystem of labels and services – and thus a crucial sales tool for health-conscious parents.

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.