



OEKO-TEX® STeP: New regulations in 2024

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 OEKO-TEX® STeP come into effect on April 1, 2024 after a three-month transition period:

ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program

The STeP – ZDHC cooperation and their ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program continues. Starting in 2024 we can offer our certified STeP facilities the following discounts in the ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program.

- ZDHC foundation level (level 1) – 100% discount for STeP customers
- ZDHC progressive level (level 2) – 50% discount for STeP customers

If certified STeP customers wish to join, they should contact their certifying institute.

New Chapter 4.2.8 Microplastic

Microplastics pose a challenge to biodiversity and overall health of ecosystems. The facility shall identify risks/sources where microplastics could potentially be generated and released during production.

The facility should take measures to avoid the release of microplastics into the environment.

STeP Standard 01.2024

With the new edition we have extended the applicability and industrial laundries can now also apply for STeP certification.

Due to increased sustainability requirements in the market, we see the need to reinforce our sustainability criteria in below modules with following new **Exclusion Criteria in STeP Standard**.

Environmental Performance

4.2.1 Hides for food industry

Required permits for the handling of hides as raw materials for the food industry shall be available.

4.2.8 Handling waste of hides for food industry

Hides as raw material for the manufacture of products for the food industry shall be collected and processed in separately designated areas



Social Responsibility

4.4.7 Wage deductions

Any wage deductions shall be recorded in writing in the facility personnel file and workers shall be informed about any deductions in an understandable manner.

4.4.7 Living wage

The facility shall define a strategy or roadmap how to achieve living wage for all employees.

4.4.9 Worker representation

The company shall explicitly promote on alternative means of representing workers in countries whose national laws prohibit or impede union organizing to promote and defend the interests of workers or employees.

Health and Safety

4.6.4 Hazard identification

Risk assessment of the ongoing hazard identification at workplace shall be performed on a regular basis.

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



STeP

After a three-month transition period, the new OEKO-TEX® STeP regulations will become binding on April 1, 2024.