

Press release

OEKO-TEX® certificates and REACH compliance

New OEKO-TEX® test criteria become mandatory on 1 April

Zurich (hm) The new test criteria for product certification under OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 which were published by the International OEKO-TEX® Association at the beginning of the year became mandatory for all certification processes on 1 April, when the three-month transitional period comes to an end. The OEKO-TEX® Association would like to take the opportunity to point out to all companies that OEKO-TEX® certification also covers all textile-relevant SVHCs (substances of very high concern) on the ECHA candidate list - including the eight chemicals added most recently on 15 December 2010 under the REACH legislation. Each OEKO-TEX® certificate also confirms that the certified articles comply with the current requirements of Annex XVII of the REACH regulations on restricted substances such as azo dyes and nickel.

With its extensive and annually updated list of test criteria, the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 has been ensuring since 1992 that undesirable substances are effectively excluded from the manufacture of textile products of all kinds, while, in its human ecology specifications, it goes well beyond legal requirements in some cases. Ever since the REACH regulations were first implemented, the OEKO-TEX® Association has also been paying close attention to the SVHC substances that are identified and published in the candidate list. If new candidate substances are relevant to textile production and are not yet included in the list of criteria as separate test parameters, then OEKO-TEX® checks whether to include them explicitly, so as to facilitate comparisons with other harmful substance regulations. This is why, for example, short-chain (C₁₀ to C₁₃) chloroparaffins and tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate have been listed by name in the OEKO-TEX® criteria since the start of the year, even though both groups of chemicals have long been banned under the OEKO-TEX® Standard for use as flame retardants in clothing textiles.

Under the current terms of the REACH regulations, all companies in the EU are obliged to inform customers and end users and (as of the start of the year) from 1 June 2011 also to notify the ECHA if the goods they produce contain SVHC substances in volumes of more than 0.1 per cent by mass and the total volume exceeds one tonne per year.

The latest version of the ECHA candidate list of SVHC substances and the recommendations published so far on SVHC substances to be included in Annex XIV of the REACH regulations can be found on the Internet at the following addresses:

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- http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp
- http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/annex_xiv_rec_en.asp

More information on the new OEKO-TEX® test criteria and REACH compliance can be obtained from member institutes of the International OEKO-TEX® Association (www.oeko-tex.com/institutes).



By complying with the latest OEKO-TEX® test criteria, companies can be confident that they are also complying with the relevant conditions of the REACH regulations on harmful substances.