



TESTEX

brings Oeko-Tex to Australia

Testex has opened its first representative office in Australia, located in Melbourne, Australia's unofficial textile capital.

LED BY OFFICE manager Kate Barry, the new office will introduce and advocate for quality standards in the Australian textile industry.

"Textiles play a very important role in the lives of Australians; Australia is a renowned worldwide importer of textiles as well as an exporter to Europe and the US, and the market has a strong commitment to sustainability and ethical supply," Barry says.

"However, at the moment there are no controls on chemical substances in textile imports, and only exports are subject to various safety requirements.

"Examples include the American Apparel Footwear Association (AAFA) Restricted Substances List, the US Consumer Product Safety Commissions (CPSC) list of mandatory banned harmful substances, the Reach requirements of EU and the international Oeko-Tex standard 100."

Barry says Testex Melbourne is looking forward to the opportunity to raise awareness of the Oeko-Tex standard 100 certification, on which basis it intends to help the Australian textile industry meet

global standards of safety and quality.

Testex is a Swiss Textile Testing Institute that was founded in 1846, with headquarters located in Zurich. Testex has a subsidiary in Hong Kong and representative offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta.

"Testex offers a wide range of services from standard physical and chemical textile tests, certifications including Oeko-Tex Standard 100, Oeko-Tex Standard 1000, UV Standard 801, Eco-Passport, Product certification of PPE," Barry says.

"We also order analytical testing of dyestuff analysis, human ecological analysis, residue analysis and trace analysis.

"The Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is a globally uniform testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and finished products."

The certification of raw, semi-finished and finished products according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 ensures products are safe because they are free from harmful substances.

In order to guarantee the textiles will not harm human health, the Oeko-Tex testing association works with a comprehensive catalogue of criteria when certifying products.

"The catalogue contains more than 100 testing parameters."

Examples of parameters that are included are: specially prohibited AZO dyestuffs, carcinogenic and allergenic dyes, formaldehyde, pesticides, and extractable heavy metals.

"Testex also organises the Garnrundtest (Yarn Round Robin Test), the Rundtest Colour Fastness (Round Robin Test for Colour Fastness) and the Rundtest Fabric Properties (Round Robin Test for Fabric Properties), all already well known and established worldwide.

Barry says that all Round Robin Tests comply with ISO/IEC Guide 43-1.

Testex has been a member of the Oeko-Tex Association since 1993. It is amongst 15 well-known, independent textile testing and research institutions in Europe and Japan that are members of the Oeko-Tex Association.