

## OEKO-TEX® new regulations for 2018 have come into effect

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The OEKO-TEX® Association is again making every effort to provide support in the areas of consumer protection and sustainability along the textile value creation chain in 2018. The modifications of the existing guidelines in the OEKO-TEX® product portfolio have now finally come into effect on 01 April 2018 following a three-month transition period and are valid for all certification systems and other services.

The updating of the OEKO-TEX® standards and guidelines is based on a continual exchange of experiences with stakeholders from the industry, cooperation with initiatives and the monitoring of statutory regulations. The work by the OEKO-TEX® expert groups takes into account on-going scientific innovations and findings as well as current market developments.

The most important changes are listed below with reference to the individual OEKO-TEX® products:

### **STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®**

Textiles made of organic cotton or with organic cotton parts must undergo an additional laboratory test for genetically modified organisms (GMO) if the applicant company intends to recognise its articles with corresponding quality designations such as “Organic” or “Bio” on the STANDARD 100 certificate. The laboratory test proves whether or not genetic engineering has been applied to the cotton materials used. Organic marks and certificates currently available on the market do exclude the use of genetic engineering, however they do not require any obligatory laboratory tests or only require random tests on the cotton seed as proof of this. The molecular biology laboratory test that has been specifically optimised for textiles will provide certainty for product suppliers and consumers in the future within the framework of product certification in accordance with STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®. An overview with all additional new regulations in the STANDARD 100 product certification is available from [www.oeko-tex.com/std100-updates-2018](http://www.oeko-tex.com/std100-updates-2018).

### **ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®**

The previous two-level process for issuing an ECO PASSPORT certificate has been expanded to include an additional level. From 01 April 2018, chemicals, colourants and other auxiliaries for textile production must still undergo a comparison with the OEKO-TEX® RSL and MRSL (level 1) and also an analytical test for possible contaminations (level 2) but also, during an on-site check of the applicant company, OEKO-TEX® now checks whether the applicant or producer is actually compliant with the information provided with regard to the manufacturing conditions. The company visit means that OEKO-TEX® is able to take a close look at both environmental management and the measures taken with regard to product stewardship. Three-level ECO PASSPORT certification is possible from summer 2018. Companies who have their chemicals certified can currently choose between two certification models - the existing two-level test or the new three-level verification including CAS number comparison, laboratory test and on-site company visit. From 2019 on,

the three-level process will be mandatory for all certifications in line with ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®. With the three-level certification process, the ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) accepts the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® as proof of conformance of certified chemicals with Level 3 of the ZDHC list of restricted substances for textile production (MRSL).

### **DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®**

The comparability of the DETOX TO ZERO MRSL with the valid MRSL for STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification means that DETOX TO ZERO can be 100% integrated in STeP. DETOX TO ZERO customers can switch to STeP at any time. Restructuring of the DETOX TO ZERO assessment tool and the status report has improved user-friendliness and clarity. The valid MRSL for DETOX TO ZERO can be viewed in the guidelines under [www.oeko-tex.com/detoxtozero](http://www.oeko-tex.com/detoxtozero).

### **LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®**

Bisphenol A, the aromatic amine aniline and additional alkylphenols (pentyl- and heptylphenol) are now included in the LEATHER STANDARD. For more detailed information on the new inclusions and other changes, see [www.oeko-tex.com/lis-updates-2018](http://www.oeko-tex.com/lis-updates-2018).

### **MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®**

The minimum requirements and criteria for issuing the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® product label have been revised. The benefits of the new definition are: improved comprehensibility and reduced time required for attaining the label. For additional details on the updated minimum requirements, see the MADE IN GREEN standard document at [www.oeko-tex.com/madeingreen](http://www.oeko-tex.com/madeingreen).

### **STeP by OEKO-TEX®**

The scope of the STeP assessment for collecting the required company data has been significantly reduced by condensing the question catalogue. With the integration of DETOX TO ZERO, the STeP certificate and status report can now be issued with additional information on DETOX TO ZERO.

#### **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](http://www.oeko-tex.com/products). Connect with OEKO-TEX® on Facebook, on LinkedIn, and on Twitter.