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Press Release:

The UV STANDARD 801 celebrates its 20th anniversary

The unique testing process measures the sun protection factor of textiles in a practice-focused and realistic manner under typical usage conditions and makes an important contribution to consumer safety.

2018 marks the 20th anniversary since the introduction of UV STANDARD 801. This test process calculates the UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor), which is used to specify the sun protection factor of textiles. The standard was developed and founded in 1998 by three testing institutes: the Swiss Textile Testing institute TESTEX AG, the Austrian OETI - Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation and the Hohenstein Group.

The three founding members had already recognised the need for a practice-focused and significantly more realistic testing and certification of clothing and shading textiles. This is because the other methods and standards, which are still used internationally today, are limited to only testing the UV protection factor of textiles in their factory condition. The conditions, strains and stresses that occur with regular usage are not considered in these tests.

Unlike the UV STANDARD 801: It tests the UPF of a textile in a defined manner, even under typical usage conditions. For leisure- and sports clothing, this includes aspects like the stretching and dampening of the textile, the wear and tear caused by washing and the aging of the textiles. For shading textiles such as blinds, diverse weather conditions must be considered.

Only a textile that has been tested with UV STANDARD 801 can therefore offer reliable sun protection, even in its everyday usage condition. With textiles labelled with the UV STANDARD 801, consumers can thus be sure that they are purchasing high quality products that offer protection under ordinary circumstances.

Textiles are almost predestined for UV protection: By using a suitable material composition and construction, such as particularly closely woven special fibres, they can effectively protect children's sensitive skin from intense UV rays, for example. This is beneficial, as children only develop their own, comprehensive UV protection mechanisms during puberty.

When spending longer periods outdoors, prevention is generally recommended, not just during sport and leisure activities. Furthermore, people who frequently work outdoors have a significantly higher risk, than other professional groups of contracting so-called "white skin cancer", which is caused by solar radiation and is officially recognised as an occupational disease. Indeed, there are already prominent, forward-thinking manufacturers that offer appropriate workwear. Yet this potential has not yet been fully exploited.

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The issue of UV prevention is gaining increasing attention due to the measurable and noticeable global climate change. The intensity of solar radiation is steadily increasing, even in European latitudes. Tested “clothing with integrated sun protection factor” is now no longer a niche product. Heightened consumer awareness means that the demand for effective protective measures is continuously increasing.

On this jubilee year, TESTEX would like to sincerely thank all partners and loyal customers that have helped to establish this unique global standard over the last two decades. Throughout this time, the UV STANDARD 801 testing community also has grown strong. It now comprises eight testing institutes throughout Europe. The following have joined the three founding members: CITEVE (Portugal), AITEX (Spain), IFTH (France), The CENTROCOT (Italy) as well as the Danish Technological Institute (Denmark).

TESTEX is a globally operating, independent Swiss testing and certification organisation with focus on textile and leather testing. Founded in 1846 and originally known as the “Seidentrocknungsanstalt Zurich”, the TESTEX Group now operates more than 20 branches with more than 200 employees worldwide (including TESTEX and OETI) from its head office in Zurich. TESTEX is a member institute of the OEKO-TEX® Association and the official representative in Australia, Canada, the P.R. China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Switzerland, South Korea and Taiwan. Learn more on testex.com and [Wikipedia](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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