



Zurich, 20 June 2019

Zimmerli of Switzerland SA has been STeP by OEKO-TEX® certified, fulfilling the requirements for environmentally friendly and socially responsible production facilities. The luxury underwear brand, which manufactures its garments in-house, reached the highest possible score. TESTEX interviewed the company on its STeP certification experience and how it contributes to sustainable textile production.

“Today the consumer expects products which have been produced in an environmentally friendly and socially responsible way. With STeP certification, OEKO-TEX® gives consumers a trustworthy seal of approval.” says Andreas Frei, Managing Director Zimmerli of Switzerland SA.



What is your philosophy and strategy for sustainable production?

As a Swiss company which has been making luxury underwear in-house for almost 150 years, sustainability is part of our DNA. Respect and responsibility for our environment are important company values which are anchored our general principles.

What are your reasons for becoming STeP certified?

Our philosophy is to take an honest and responsible approach towards human beings and the environment, and to have transparency in our processes. Obtaining the independent STeP certification is significant in this regard as it allows us to document the entire value added chain for our partners in a credible way.

What innovative technologies are installed in your facilities to enhance efficiency, save resources, reduce consumption, encourage circularity, and reduce costs?

The installation of the cutter in summer 2017 has allowed us to protect resources as we have less cutting waste and we can cut faster, both of which reduce production costs.

How does the OEKO-TEX® certification scheme help you in communicating your success in sustainable production with your stakeholders and can it help in communicating your performance and target setting with your buyers?

As a globally operating brand, we work with specially selected suppliers who fulfil STeP requirements regarding environmental protection and social responsibility. This allows our company to document its sustainability for end consumers throughout the whole supply chain. It also strengthens the credibility of our brand with existing buyers and opens the door to potential new customers.

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What are the major challenges in getting your facilities STeP certified? And how did you overcome these?

The minimum requirements of all 6 STeP modules were easily exceeded. With a total result of 73%, Zimmerli of Switzerland SA reaches the highest possible score (Level 3), making it an industry benchmark.

What are the next steps for your sustainable production journey, after getting your first facilities STeP certified?

Our plans for the current year include the development of an energy management system, the monitoring of yearly energy consumption, the assessment of our carbon footprint and the development of recyclable packaging.

Statement by TESTEX STeP Auditor Kimberley Koerkamp:

“The evaluation of the online questionnaire and the audit were carried out in full and to the complete satisfaction of TESTEX. While working together with employees of the company the priorities were always joint success and the highest level of satisfaction. Communication before, during and after the audit was very friendly and open. Zimmerli of Switzerland SA has committed itself to continuous improvement and is therefore open to development within the STeP modules. This attitude is very commendable and promising in regards to sustainable production.”

Are you planning on introducing the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label?

We are in the process of introducing the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label so that we can highlight our sustainability achievements as part of our brand image, and offer our customers product traceability.

(Products qualify for this label if they have been produced in STeP by OEKO-TEX® certified facilities and have been tested for harmful substances through the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® certification process).



About Zimmerli of Switzerland SA

Number of employees: 55
Facility size and type: 900m², making-up
Products: underwear for women and men
Location: Ticino, Switzerland
Website: www.zimmerli.com

zimmerli
of Switzerland

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” (Silk Conditioning Institute), the TESTEX Group now operates more than 25 branches with more than 250 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](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Testex) or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/testex) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/testex).

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