

The development of the list of criteria for the Oeko-Tex Standard 100

- 7 April 1992** Presentation of the first version of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 at the Interstoff exhibition in Frankfurt.
- 1 February 1997** The existing 16 article groups governed by the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 are combined into four article groups and certain criteria are strengthened as a result of new scientific findings, e.g. tetrachlorophenol is included and the list of allergy-inducing dyes is extended from 8 to 20 substances.
- 2 October 1997** The meeting of institute heads in Alicante in Spain decides unanimously to convert the Oeko-Tex test methods immediately to comply with the official method used for analysing banned AZO dyes under the Foodstuffs and Commodities Act, while retaining the existing limit of 20 ppm and the list of banned amines.
- From January 1998** o-anisidin is added to the list of banned MAK amines which can be separated out from AZO dyes and are included in the Oeko-Tex Standard 100.
- Spring 1998** The Oeko-Tex Association for the first time carries out extensive random checks on an international scale, in addition to the existing system of controls.
- 10 September 1998** Institute heads in Torquay, Great Britain, decide to carry out random checks internationally at a rate of at least 10% of the total number of certificates issued each year.
- From January 1999** Antimony is included in the list of limited heavy metals in the Oeko-Tex Standard 100.
- 30 September 1999** In Porto, Portugal, the institute heads decide to have preliminary work on bioactive substances carried out on a wider scale.
- From January 2000** Ban on the use of certain phthalates as softeners in PVC accessories in Product Class I, expansion of the list of banned separable MAK amines in relation to AZO testing to include 2.4-xylidine (2.4 dimethylaniline) and 2.6-xylidine (2.6 dimethylaniline).
- 29 February 2000** Extraordinary meeting of institute heads in Zurich, Switzerland: Decision passed on the TBT problem.
- From March 2000** Inclusion of TBT in the list of criteria, in order to exclude equipment based on these organo-tin compounds with immediate effect, with the same applying to DBT in baby articles in Product Class I.
- From January 2001** The method of testing accessories containing nickel, with regard to the ageing behaviour of lacquered surfaces on metal accessories, is modified to comply with the legal test method used under the Foodstuffs and Commodities Act in Germany.
- 28 September 2001** Decision by the institute heads in Belgirate, Italy, completely to reorganise the regulation of bioactive and flame-retardant products: groups of experts are set up to study bioactive substances and flame-retardant products, consisting of

representatives from the technical working group and head office and independent toxicologists from various European countries.

- From January 2002** 31 more compounds are added to the existing list of excluded pesticides in the criteria for the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, including many organophosphorous compounds. The formaldehyde content in Product Class I, i.e. in baby articles, is set at "n.d. = non-detectable".
- From January 2003** Disperse Orange 11 and Basic Violet 14 are included in the list of carcinogenic dyestuffs. The dyestuff component 4 aminoazobenzene is added to the list of prohibited amines in accordance with the new EU ban.
- December 2003** The transitional control period for active chemical products expires at the end of 2003. It is now essential for flame-retardant or bioactive fibres or products first to be tested and accepted by the Oeko-Tex group of experts.
- From January 2004** Disperse Brown 1 is included in the list of banned allergy-inducing dyes. The period to which Product Class I applies to items for toddlers is extended from 24 to 36 months. Random tests are extended to apply to certificated products from the pre-processing stages.
- April 2004** For the first time, a transition period is granted for implementation of the new criteria announced in January each year, to give companies time to introduce the new measures.
- November 2004** The heads of institute meeting in Kyoto, Japan, has the system of controls as its main theme. An inspector from the International Office is appointed with immediate effect with the special task of dealing quickly with problems arising for companies in continuing compliance with the list of criteria, and finding solutions.
- From January 2005** The two substances pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE) and octabromodiphenyl ether (octaBDE) are included in the list of banned flame-retardant substances. Random testing is increased from 10% to 15% of all certificates issued worldwide. Even with this increase, the costs will be borne by the International Test Association, provided that the test results comply with the requirements of the Oeko-Tex list of criteria.