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Globalised Markets – a consumer protection challenge

Germany's Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) held a conference called "Consumer Products – Safety Despite Product Diversity" in March 2008. Some 200 participants from research and education, consumer protection authorities, industry, politics, and society accepted BfR's invitation to attend and join in discussing which areas of the consumer goods industry already guarantee product safety and in which areas there is still room for improvement.

At the conference, differences between the cosmetic, textile and toy industries became clear. BfR welcomed the standards observed by the cosmetics industry, which provides consumers with a full declaration of what is in cremes, lotions, and cosmetics applicators in order to make people aware they may contain allergens. In the textile and garment industries, companies actively complying with Oeko-Tex Standard 100 have made great strides toward ensuring product safety that go beyond the precautionary requirements set by law.

Recalls in the toy industry, particularly those of last summer, autumn, and during the 2007 Christmas season,

draft of new the European Toys Directive.

Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). In future, the department will place greater emphasis on research in order to close gaps in knowledge about the toxicity of and exposure to ingredients of consumer products. Another research focal point of will be investigating allergies.

"By practically excluding allergy-inducing dyestuffs and nickel from accessories which contact the skin, and limiting formaldehyde-containing finishing agents, consistent compliance with existing legal standards and significant, world-wide implementation of Oeko-Tex Standard 100 would considerably reduce the risk of allergic reactions."

Jutta Knels, Head of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre

nevertheless made it clear toy makers could do much more to improve – and that this imperative has been incorporated in standards set in the

A further step towards augmenting consumer product safety is the expansion of the Department of Product Safety at the Federal



WWW http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/toys/documents/com_2008_2009_de.pdf



Editorial

After its debut at the ITMA trade show held in Munich in 2007, the Oeko-Tex Association will have its own stand at ITMA ASIA in order to exploit an excellent opportunity – together with colleagues from the Oeko-Tex's Asian contact offices – to provide ITMA visitors with background information and updates on the Oeko-Tex certification system first-hand. It is also a great time to discuss current developments regarding products and textile machinery, quality assurance, and technical demands with the experts from the textile sector.

The grouping of the Oeko-Tex Association characterised by its high reputation within the internationally-oriented textile sector. After all, the authorised institutes based in Europe and Japan are textile research facilities and testing laboratories with wide-ranging competencies, including clothing physiology, general product testing for all types textiles, environmental protection, hygiene, technical textiles, and much more.

The member institutes' broad spectrum of capabilities and experience is reflected in the co-operative development of Oeko-Tex test criteria. The results from ongoing research, regulatory developments, and market trends are continually incorporated in the catalogue of criteria. That means the catalogue speaks the same language for everyone involved. It also ensures product safety and freedom from harmful substances on a high level which benefit the entire textile manufacturing chain, from spinning thread to ready-to-wear clothing. Sustainable changes can only be made in the chain of textile production when co-operation is continual, reliable, and consistent.

Raimar Freitag,
Secretary General of the
International Oeko-Tex
Association



Hall E1, B09

ITMA Asia 2008

Oeko-Tex Opens unlimited Textile Markets

Trade visitors can get detailed information about the Oeko-Tex testing and certification system at exhibition stand B09 in Hall E1.

After a successful premiere at ITMA 2007 in Munich, the International Oeko-Tex Association is going to Shanghai to take part in ITMA ASIA 2008 from July 27th to July 31st.

At the Oeko-Tex exhibition stand B09 in Hall E1, interested trade visitors will find contacts from several Oeko-Tex testing Institutes who can provide detailed information about Oeko-Tex Standard 100. Oeko-Tex representatives will also present additional information about the actual development and global significance of Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances at a press conference on July 28th, 10.00 a.m., at the New International Expo Centre,

The theme of the press conference will be "Oeko-Tex Opens Unlimited Textile Markets" and will feature the following topics:

- Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – a green passport to world markets, Raimar Freitag, Oeko-Tex General Secretary (Switzerland)
- Laboratory testing and limit values – Oeko-Tex in the context of European legislation,

Dr. Jean-Pierre Haug, COO at the Swiss Textile Testing Institute, Testex (Switzerland)

- Confidence in textiles – Germany as a benchmark for Oeko-Tex consumer awareness and marketing activities, Jutta Knels, Head of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre (Germany)
- Export the ultimate goal? – The importance of Oeko-Tex for

domestic markets in Asia, Takh Him Chan, Head of Testex Swiss Textile-Testing Ltd. (Hong Kong)



Shanghai, China. 27-31 July 2008

My Shanghai

An interview with May Zhang Tianmei

Where can you find the best food in Shanghai? What are must-see sights for visitors? What is it that gives the city of millions its charm? May Zhang Tianmei of Testex Shanghai provides insider tips for an exciting stay in the city.

What does Shanghai mean to you?

I was born in Shanghai, Shanghai is my really first hometown, my grandfather, grandmother and my relatives all live here. When I was only one and a half months old I left Shanghai with my parents to come to Xi'an where they were working. After my graduation from college I got a job in Shanghai and came back to Shanghai. Located in the Yangtze

River Delta, 700-year-old Shanghai covers an area of 6340.5 square kilometres and has a coast line of 172 kilometres. Shanghai turned to be exploited and open after 1990. In a short time of about 10 years, earth-

shaking changes have taken place here, building a CBD (Central Business District), which has, in China, the most centralized financial institutions, completed essential markets and strongest capital mar-

„Shanghai“

上海

kets. The area is developing at a rapid speed on a large scale, rarely known in the history of global urban development. Shanghai has become more modern and commercialised, stores are standing densely, famous shops

are gathered together, and the traffic is always busy. I like Shanghai because there are so many opening opportunities equal to every one.

What is it essential to see during a visit to Shanghai?

I'd like to introduce two nice views to everyone who want to visit Shanghai: The Bund. As emblem of Shanghai, the night of the Bund is the most careful stroke in the painting of Shanghai, and it brings great reputation to our city all the time. The Bund takes the most beautiful curve of the Huangpu River's bank, which is known as 'No.1 Gulf in Fareast Asia'. Magnificent buildings lay themselves along the river bank, which seems to be an out-



door stage on which we are performing. The Bund at night is lit up to be a 'golden waistband', glittering along the river.

Yuyuan Garden is the most famous and the most charming garden of Chinese classic style in Shanghai, and is endowed with the reputation as

'No.1 Garden in Jiangnan (China's South to the Yangtze)' or Champion Garden in Southeast China. The commercial complex centering around Yuyan Garden is the place to find the most and the real Shanghai traditions. In this complex, there are dragon and lion dancing in the central square, and Chinese music revealed outside the teahouses.

What must visitors to Shanghai never do?

For this part just one thought comes to my mind: Visitors should pay more attention to the busy and heavy traffic if necessary.

Where can you get a really good meal after a long day at the show?

Lu Bo Lang Restaurant is located by the nine-twist zigzag bridge in the Old City God Temple, facing the bustling downtown area in the south and near by the Yuyuan Garden. Lu Bo Lang Restaurant is a super-grade restaurant in the country. It is one of the restaurants designated as a foreign tourist restaurant. The restaurant has hosted heads of state from more than 40 foreign countries. It is featured for its 4 distinguished food series of Shanghai-style food, Shanghai-style snacks, shark's fin dishes and crab feast. The dishes and snacks are fresh and beautiful in appearance, light and captivating, baried in cuisines, displaying a character of the times, popular at home and abroad. (www.lubolang.com)

Xiaonanguo Restaurant The brand Xiao Nan Guo was created in 1987 and is a famous Chinese restaurant. It stands for the re-definition of Chinese cooking, for blending tradition and fashion, for the integration of science, for the pursuit of fine cuisine, and for catering to promote health. In

addition, it advocates green food. It disposes of a strict monitoring system to improve the quality of materials from suppliers processing, storage, cooking, every process, to ensure that the natural nutrients are able to maximize the retention. At the chefs cream of the crop is small; its flavor is superb cooking attention to color, style originality. Also see the trend in eating habits.

(www.xnggroup.com/index_en.asp)

Where is the best place to go to enjoy Shanghai by night?

My recommendation for three viewpoints & nightclubs:

Pudong Riverside The walk extends itself along a bank length of 2.5 kilometres, regarded as New Bund. The walk has integrity of grassland, musical fountain, waterfall, and flowered path by designing them at various vertical levels. When lights come up and shadows follow up, this is the place to enjoy tranquility. Standing or working here, you will see the beauty of Puxi (West Shanghai).

Xintiandi Area This complex chronically brings visitors to the 1920s by maintaining the brick walls, line-tile ceilings and black-and-wooden doors, and space, it pushes people to international arenas with elements of fashion, the art galleries, bars, restaurants, art craft stores of world brandings. Xintiandi looks local, but dresses in a global way.

Hengshang Road is one of most charming roads in Shanghai. Graceful and leafy phoenix trees along its side cross their arms together into an arcade, mildly colourful buildings scatter themselves randomly, the former

and the latter jointly and wisely creating a painting with thick and thin strokes, and with artistic and romantic tastes. On the broad pedestrian sides of Hengshang Road, there cosily locate iron handrails, long chairs and sometimes outdoor seats of cafe where walkers may take a break whenever they want.

What would be a typical gift that you could bring back for your family or friends from Shanghai?

Tea: People throughout China drink tea daily. Because of the geographic location and climate, different places grow various kinds of tea. In general, there are five kinds of tea: Green tea - Longjin, Wulong, Scented tea - Jasmine tea, Black tea, compressed tea. China is the homeland of tea. Of the three major beverages of the world - tea, coffee and cocoa - tea is consumed by the largest number of people in the world. Green tea is the variety which keeps the original colour of the tea leaves without fermentation during processing. This category consists mainly of Longjing tea of Zhejiang Province and Biluochun produced in Jiangsu which are very close to Shanghai, so in Shanghai you could buy high quality green tea from every tea store.

Fan: Wangxingji fan was famous as one of the three matchless products

"China is the homeland of tea. Of the three major beverages of the world - tea, coffee and cocoa - tea is consumed by the largest number of people in the world."

May Zhang Tianmei von Testex Shanghai

of south China besides Zhejiang silk and Longjin tea (Green tea), it was set up by Mr. Wang Xingzhai in the year of 1875, the only old fan mill still existing in China. There are more than 400 varieties of products in 15 categories. For example, the black-paper fan has the fame of "fan is like a half of an umbrella". The fine silk fan is of delicate beauty. The hanging fan is extraordinarily dignified and



impressive in appearance. The fans made by Wangxingji are called "the treasure of oriental art" by overseas friends. And you can find the store in the famous Nanjing Road and the commercial complex centering around Yuyuan Garden.

What would make a perfect day in Shanghai when you don't go to the show?

Visiting Yuyuan Garden in the morning, having a lunch at Lu Bo Lang Restaurant, walking along the Nanjing Road in the afternoon, mak-



YuYuan Gardens



The Pudong District



Nanjing Road

WWW www.itmaasia.com
www.citme.com.cn



“A Global Player” – International information events

When it comes to buying textiles, more and more consumers are coming to value assurances that the material has been tested and found free of harmful substances. That is reason enough for more than 8,000 textile and apparel manufacturers to have the quality of their products tested and certified according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – and those numbers are growing.



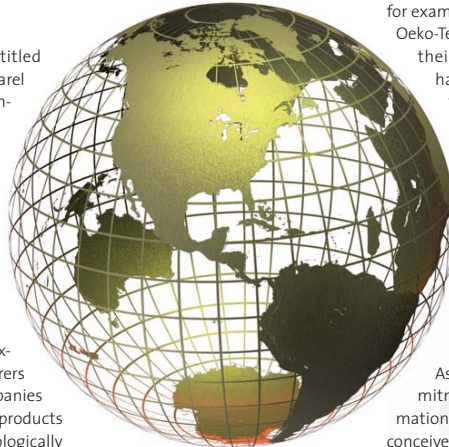
Joint organisers of the informational event held in Bandung, Indonesia: The Swiss Textile Testing Institute Testex and the dye manufacturer, DyStar.

In order to provide comprehensive information about the advantages and use of Oeko-Tex Standard 100, 14 international Oeko-Tex testing institutes initiate seminars and informational events. A total of 26 foreign offices located in all regions relevant for textile production serve as local contacts for manufacturers and vendors of current and future certified products.

Information events in the USA

Environmental awareness has also grown in North America and intensified demands for products that are totally safe in terms of human ecology have been passed on to traders and manufacturers. After the major

success of a seminar entitled “What truly makes an apparel product green?” held in conjunction with the TexWorld trade fair in New York in January 2008, exhibition organisers announced the next series of seminars in July 2008. Titled “Authentic Green”, it is due to be held together with the International Oeko-Tex Association. The seminars are aimed at familiarising textile and apparel manufacturers with the criteria their companies must meet in order to make products that can be certified as ecologically safe and sound.



Co-operation with other suppliers of information

In co-operation with dye-stuff manufacturer DyStar, the Indonesian Textile Association, and Marks & Spencer supplier PT. Dewhirst, the Swiss Textile Testing Institute, Testex, held a seminar on environmentally-friendly textile products on March 17, 2008 in Bandung, Indonesia. Some 196 participants from companies such as Nike inc., Adidas, Ikea, Tom Tailor, C&A, Esprit, S.Oliver, plus local textile and garment manufacturers, and representatives from various Indonesian textile institutions showed active interest in the organisers' presentations.

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) at Testex, Dr. Jean-Pierre Haug, explained, for example, how companies holding Oeko-Tex certificates can improve their competitive position by having independent Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances carried out on their products. In his presentation, titled “Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – Prepared for the Future”, he described how the tests could help companies meet growing demand for human ecologically optimised textile products.

As part of the Oeko-Tex commitment to consistency, informational events of this type are conceived not only for producing and processing companies, but also with future textile industry actors in mind.

We will be happy to provide textile technical colleges and other educational institutes free informational material on demand.
Contact: press@oeko-tex.com



Nearly 200 participants from textile and garment companies from all along the textile production chain learned in Bandung about the significance of environmental considerations with respect to global markets.

News & Events

"Best value" better than "Best price"

"Promoting best value through social dialogue" was the slogan on April 18, when the European Commission invited some 200 well-known representatives from the catering, textile care, security and textile sectors to discuss opportunities for responsible public procurement.

The unanimous declaration of all the sector associations attending (including EURATEX) said responsible public procurement must no longer be exclusively oriented towards the price offered by a bidder, but also consider workers' well-being and the quality of the goods and services on offer.

As a result, the bodies that met in Brussels recommended public procurers refer increasingly to guidelines published by European trade associations, such as those for the textile sector, for example. Among quality criteria for clothing and home textiles are good fit and workmanship, high functionality, durability,

ease of care, and much more. Health and safety, however, are also important considerations for employees at public institutions subject to due diligence. Oeko-Tex Standard 100, with its globally valid profile of criteria, is a valuable aid for officials who are buying goods and services with public funds.



Quality should, in future, increasingly become the focus for those in charge of procurement. Garments, for example, must be more than fashionable and functional. They also have to be safe and harmless in terms of health.

Oeko-Tex in USA –

A story of success

The first few months of 2008 have been full of excitement and opportunity for the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 in the United States. Some of the country's largest, most influential retailers and brands have been working to incorporate the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 into their apparel supply streams and their decisions are beginning to be felt around the world.

Prof. Dr. Manfred Wentz, representative of the Hohenstein Institutes in the United States, has been several times invited to the country's second largest retailer, Target in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Target generates textile sales in excess of \$20 billion. Dr. Wentz met with Target's staff and vendors to outline Oeko-Tex certification and to share his expertise in textile ecology with a key-note presentation to over 300 attendees at one of their recent textile expo. In July this year, he is invited to participate in Target's corporate sustainability strategy meetings to consider implementing Oeko-Tex with Target's hundreds of vendors from all over the world. Target will ask their international vendors to certify first children's apparel, and plans to expand to other categories once they are satisfied that the roll-out is successful.

Dr. Wentz serves as active committee member of the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA)/ Environmental Task Force (ETF) that prepared and up-dates the association's Restricted Substances List (RSL).

The U.S. team has been working with numerous other retailers and brands who are interested in getting their

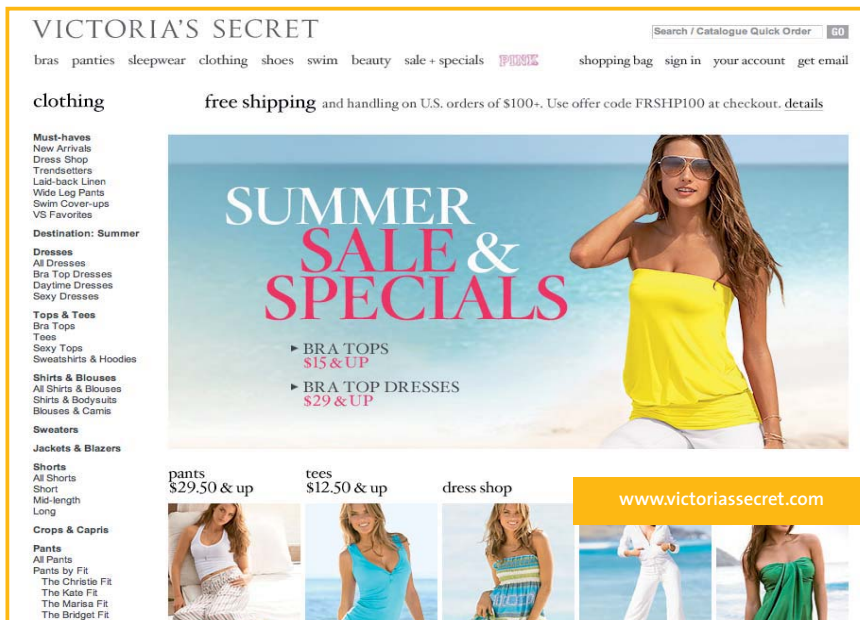
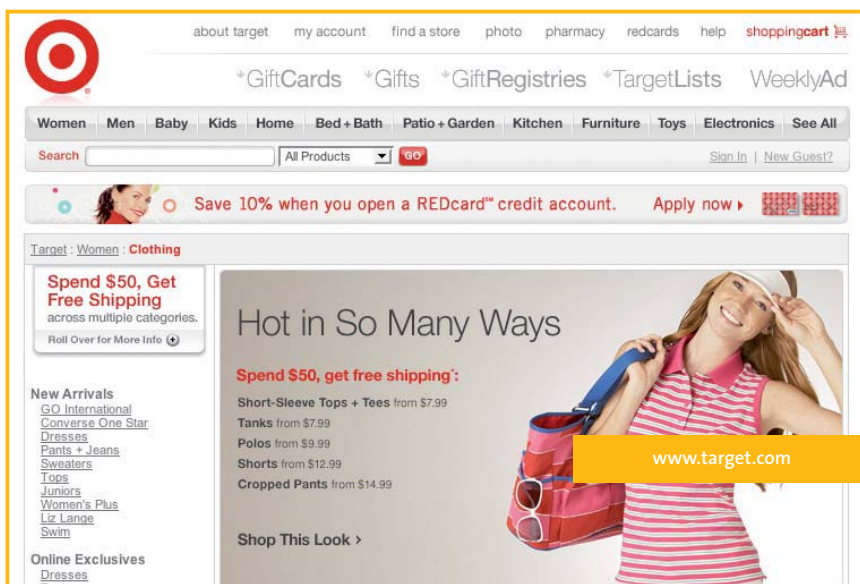
vendor supply chains Oeko-Tex certified. After a concerted 2-year effort to get their vendors certified, Victoria's Secret (VS), the nation's leading intimate apparel retail chain, recently conducted an audit of their fabrics and found that 70% were Oeko-Tex certified. As VS expands beyond the U.S., it is expected that this percentage will increase. L.L. Bean, a \$1.5 billion direct retailer is working to roll out their group of Oeko-Tex certified products in their Spring 2009 catalog. Pottery Barn, a division of the \$4 billion retailer Williams-Sonoma, has just begun rolling out their Oeko-Tex certified product in both their catalog and in their stores.

With all of the excitement surrounding the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 in the U.S., the team has been asked to speak at numerous conferences, trade shows and sales meetings all over the country so as to further explain the benefit Oeko-Tex certification can have on the apparel and textile industry. On December 13, 2007, almost 300 national and international experts learned about Oeko-Tex certification at the American Association of Textile Chemists & Colorists (AATCC)



At the TARGET i-Fair, Dr. Manfred Wentz, left, discussed Oeko-Tex with Dr. Brian Natrass, internationally recognized sustainability expert and author of several books, including the best-seller „The Natural Step for Business.“

North American consumers and businesses are interested in eco-friendly products and services now more than ever before. Dozens of trade shows scheduled for 2008 featured or will feature seminars and conferences targeted to help the apparel, home and textile industries determine the right mix of standards, ingredients and processes for their 'eco-friendly' products going forward. The current dates of the Oeko-Tex appearances at shows and conferences can be found at www.oeko-tex.com/dates.



Sustainability Symposium in Long Beach, CA. More than 100 attendees came to the "EcoThink" seminar, held at Material World in Miami on April 8th, to learn more about Oeko-Tex. Likewise, 200 people turned up at the "Authentic Green" seminar, held at the Los Angeles Textile Show on April 14th. The seminar featured speakers from Oeko-Tex and Lenzing and discussed how certification was growing in importance for retailers and consumers across the country. On April 15th, in New York, Oeko-Tex was the key presentation during The International Textile and Surface Design Show. The seminar, entitled "Textile Ecology + Certification: Sustainability + Building Consumer Confidence", addressed apparel designers and retailers from across the country. On April 19th, Oeko-Tex presented the keynote speech at the Legwear Convention, an annual gath-

ering of more than 100 leaders from the brands and suppliers to the Legwear industry including Hanes-brands, Kayser-Roth, private label

"More and more companies in the U.S. are working to integrate the Oeko-Tex requirements to their quality assurance systems."

Prof. Dr. Manfred Wentz, representative of the Hohenstein Institutes in the United States

manufacturers, Invista, Nilit, etc.

The Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is beginning to make inroads into the Home and Commercial textile industries as well. La-Z-Boy, one of America's most recognized names in furniture, will incorporate products from Microfibres into their Fall 2008 line. Microfibres was one of the first U.S. based home textile manufacturers to have their products certified with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100. Knoll Textiles, one of the market leaders in the

industrial fabrics category, supplies commercial fabrics for office furniture, hotels, hospitality and airlines. Knoll will begin denoting fabrics that are Oeko-Tex certified beginning with their Spring 2009 line.

Always on the cutting edge – weba Weberei Appenzell AG



weba
Weberei Appenzell AG



Profitable investments

The investments made for environmental protection measures have been worthwhile, according to Kurt Ebnetter: "We produce top-quality goods using only the best materials and the most up-to-date manufacturing methods. We therefore maintain a high standard in terms of quality and innovative thinking."

Kurt Ebnetter is firmly convinced that, first and foremost, it is the company itself which benefits from all the measures undertaken: "Due to our clear positioning as a quality supplier, we have acquired an excellent image not only in Switzerland, but worldwide. The "environmentally-friendly" quality standard has developed into an additional product feature which we can use to distinguish ourselves positively from our competitors."

"Our clients demand environmentally sound products as a fixed part of our quality management."

Kurt Ebnetter, commercial director weba Weberei Appenzell AG

Clients from around the world wrap up in exclusive shirting, blouse and outerwear fabrics produced by weba Weberei Appenzell AG. The continual implementation of the specifications of the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 for environmentally friendly production sites in the capital of the Swiss canton, Appenzell, testifies to the high demands on the production site.

Today, the weba Weberei Appenzell AG is one of the most cutting edge weaving mills anywhere in Europe, and has been able to successfully hold its own in the face of strong international competition. With a current workforce of 102, a state-of-the-art machine park with 85 looms and a production capacity of approx. 4 million metres of fabric per year, the company can claim to produce products of the very highest quality with maximum efficiency. Building on the bedrock of this technical potential, the success of weba Weberei Appenzell AG, according to the managing directors, Rolf Bolting and

Kurt Ebnetter, is based on creativity, flexibility, and a consistent, customer-focused approach.

Environmental protection – a basic principle

weba Weberei Appenzell AG places particular emphasis on environmental protection. With this consistent environmentally friendly approach, weba Weberei Appenzell AG gained a pioneering role within the industry at a very early stage. Thus the company became the second anywhere in the world to be successfully certified as an environmentally friendly production site according to the criteria of the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 for the first time in 1998. In November 2007, following the company audit, the management of weba Weberei Appenzell AG received the Oeko-Tex 1000 certificate which had been extended for

the third time in succession from the Testex test institute in Zurich. The weba Weberei Appenzell AG was also the first weaving mill in the world to be authorised to label their products with the Oeko-Tex 100 plus mark.

"Our corporate activity is focused on the guiding principle of a clean environment. For us, the active protection of the environment is part of our corporate philosophy."

Kurt Ebnetter, commercial director weba Weberei Appenzell AG

The modifications and preparations required to optimise the environmental conditions and thus ultimately to comply with the stringent criteria of the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 cannot be limited to a specific time period, according to Kurt Ebnetter: "It took a long time. But it is not the sort of thing which is ever completed, more of a process which

you always need to keep pace with."

This commitment to environmental matters is manifested in the successful recertification as an environmentally friendly production site, which requires compliance with statutory guidelines and the specifications of the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 relating to waste water, exhaust air, noise, energy consumption, safety at work and much more. On its own initiative, weba Weberei Appenzell AG also makes annual improvements in energy savings. The brand new fabric inspection system implemented in 2006 is another factor ensuring that weba Weberei Appenzell AG can be considered as a model business in all areas.

weba Weberei Appenzell AG

The foundation for the current company was laid by Albin Breitenmoser and Josef Fässler in 1944 with a company specialising exclusively in the production of high-quality handkerchiefs. Over time, the alba – Gruppe, comprising weba Weberei Appenzell AG, alba Albin Breitenmoser AG, aluma Textil AG and Lutz Sport – Mode AG, grew from this company thanks to successful and prudent market strategies.

- 1944 foundation of Albin Breitenmoser AG by Josef Fässler and Albin Breitenmoser – Production and export of handkerchiefs
- 1947/48 foundation of Weberei Appenzell AG
- 1999 restructuring of the weaving mill
- 2006 new fabric inspection system put into operation
- 102 employees
- Production capacity: approx. 4 million metres per year
- over 90% of sales in shirting and blouse fabrics



weba Weberei Appenzell AG
Zielstrasse 38
CH-9050 Appenzell
Telephone: +41-71-788 91 22
Fax.: +41-71-787 49 79
info@weba.ch

Untreated fabrics in perfection

Jenny Fabrics AG recertified according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000



Jenny
Fabrics^{AG}



New machine park with its new rapier looms ensures the future of Jenny Fabrics AG.

The traditional and the contemporary are by no means mutually exclusive. On the contrary – there are companies who turn their hand to both, thus operating extremely successfully in the market. One such company, without doubt, is Jenny Fabrics AG, the weaving mill of the long-established Fritz + Caspar Jenny AG. Located in the Swiss Glarus Unterland, in Niederurnen, the company can now look back on 174 years in business.



Ralf Itzek (COO) and Hans Spörry (Head of QM & BM) holding the newly acquired Oeko-Tex 1000 certificate.

Broad range of products – Top quality

The Niederurnen plant currently employs a workforce of around 150, with an additional 65 working in the Czech subsidiary, where more basic articles are manufactured due to cost considerations. In total, around twelve million square metres of untreated fabrics are produced every year, corresponding to around 7.4 million running metres of fabric. The production range covers clothing fabrics of all types for both work wear and leisure wear, such as fabrics for shirts and blouses, as well as home textiles such as furniture coverings, bedding and curtain fabrics, through to technical fabrics. For use in untreated fabrics, the annual yarn consumption is around 1,800,000 kg,

of which around 85% are natural fibres such as cotton, linen or silk.

Thanks to the latest major investment of six million Swiss Francs into the company's machine park, where a total of 48 new machines were installed without interrupting production (corresponding to a half of

"The massive investments which were made, and which for good reason were not implemented gradually, have helped to ensure that our textile tradition, which is anchored in the breadth of our product range and our quality awareness, can not only be continued, but further extended."

Ralf Itzek, Managing director of Jenny Fabrics AG

all existing machinery), increasingly complex and more creative fabrics can now be produced.

"Our perfectly coordinated areas of design, development and production make it possible to manufacture a wide range of high-quality untreated fabrics. The strength of our company lies in the fact that we supply our clients with first-class modern untreated fabrics on schedule. One of our specialities is fine filament material and closely woven fabric."

Ralf Itzek, COO, Jenny Fabrics AG

Serially clean

Jenny Fabrics AG have also made environmental protection and textile ecology a priority, as testified by their successful recertification as an environmentally-friendly production site according Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 at the end of 2007. A prerequisite for certification according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 is compliance with specified criteria to avoid or limit the use of harmful substances in production, the observation of stringent limit values relating to waste water and exhaust air, optimised energy consumption and defined measures to ensure safety at work. The specifications are controlled on-site by Adrian Meili, auditor at TESTEX, the Swiss Textile Testing Institute.

On their own initiative and true to the principle of "clean business", the company recently succeeded in reducing their CO₂ emissions by a spectacular 25% by switching from oil to gas for their energy requirements. The company, which is certified according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000, sent out a clear signal relating to their ecological orientation. Ralf Itzek is of the

opinion that far too few companies feel committed to this principle at present: "It makes perfect sense, though: our clients who process our fabrics earn textile confidence thanks to their Oeko-Tex certificates and use these to advertise. If we wish to meet this specific demand, we all need to pull together."

An application for certification according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 has also recently been made for the Czech plants and should be completed by April 2008. According to Itzek, the certificates also represent a clear competitive advantage for their recipients in the face of non-transparent cheap imports from other parts of the world.

"Our clients always know what they are getting: first class quality in every respect!"

Hans Spörry, Head of QM & BM

Jenny Fabrics AG – at a glance

Traditional weaving mill in the Swiss town of Niederurnen. Founded 1834 as a spinning and weaving mill.		
Employees:	150 in the Niederurnen plant, 65 in the Czech partner plant	
Annual production:	12 mill square metres untreated fabric or 7.4 mill running metres fabric	
Annual yarn consumption:	1,800,000 kg, including 85% natural fibres	
Machinery:	18 Dornier air jet looms 5 Dornier rapier looms 68 Sulzer G 6100 rapier looms 18 Sulzer F 2001 rapier looms for leno weave	
Jenny Fabrics AG	Tel. +41 55 617 32 33	info@ziegelbruecke.com
CH-8866 Ziegelbrücke	Fax +41 55 617 32 98	

Oeko-Tex Label – an important help for specialized trade

Along with product quality and a fashionable appearance, skin compatibility and proof of absence of harmful substances are amongst the most important considerations when buying apparel.

This is one of the results of a survey commissioned by the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre and administered by the consulting firm BBE Retail Experts. Some 205 apparel professionals provided this assessment in a BBE questionnaire administered in conjunction with CPD, the International Fashion Fair for Womenswear and Accessories which was held in Düsseldorf in January. Their responses confirm the results of a study carried out in 2006 by the GfK Group in which 1,046 people in Germany were surveyed about their purchasing behaviour and awareness of textile symbols.

The fact that Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is far and away the best-known textile symbol on the German market is

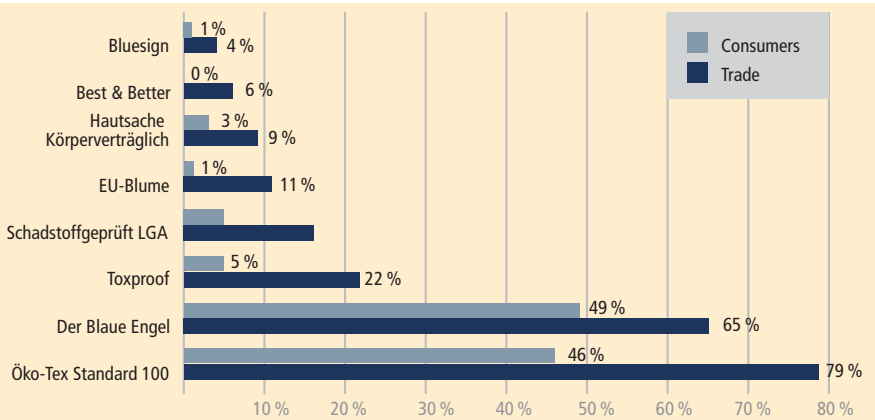
indicated by parallels between responses from retail traders (79%) and consumers (46%) showing a high level of awareness of the label "Confidence in Textiles – tested for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100".

Wish for an increased product labelling

Some 61% of the respondents to the latest survey found hangtags, or other labels indicating the product has been found free of harmful substances, significant or very significant tools for advising customers and making sales. This was particularly true for specialist retailers (61%), and department and clothing stores (81%). An attached product label was

found to be less relevant (46%) for mail order sales. This can understandably be attributed to the delivery of mail order product information primarily on the internet or in catalogues, etc.

In general, the desire for more labelling of certified textiles was positive (72%), particularly in shops where opportunities to gain advice from sales personnel are limited and consumers are likely to have to inform themselves. Specialist (67%) and mail order retailers (69%), however, also said they would welcome it if apparel found free of harmful substances were made easier to identify by labelling on the product.



Other aspects, such as product quality or fashionable appearance were found likely to have greater influence on ordering behaviour, with textile symbols being significant for only 37% of the respondents. Most felt textile safety should be a prerequisite, and that labels are principally intended to emphasise this to the consumer.

Chart:
Prompted recognition of textile quality marks
(Source Customer: GfK Group, 2006, n=1,046
Source Retailer: BBE RETAIL EXPERTS, 2008, n=205)

Consumer Survey in the United Kingdom

Some 41.8% of respondents to a survey of 2,090 people in the United Kingdom said they would spend more for textiles that had been tested for harmful substances. For those familiar with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 "Confidence in Textiles" label, the proportion willing to pay more was even higher, at 61.5%. That only 6% of those surveyed were aware of the Oeko-Tex label can likely be attributed primarily to the fact retailers have yet to exploit fully the label's potential. It could also be because manufacturers actively label only a small portion of the textile products they have on offer on stores' shelves.

www.oeko-tex.com/news

Supplementary Certificate for order processing

In its general description of a group of tested items, the Oeko-Tex certificate is proof of the human ecological safety of textile products along the entire textile production chain. For more than 15 years, it has been contributing to establishing continual relationships with suppliers.

Retail traders would also like to offer their customers the advantages of Oeko-Tex certified textiles even at times when orders must be processed quickly, firms are working with new suppliers, or inventory is being changed. For special order processing situations like this, the Oeko-

Tex Association has established a supplementary version of the certificate known as an order certificate. Based on the original, general certificate of a supplier, it lists exactly, in the form of an excerpt or selection, the individual items in the order.

Effective immediately, order certificates will be issued from the authorised Oeko-Tex testing institute on the basis of a current test report establishing a successful, recent test of articles described in detail. The validity of the order certificate can, as usual, be called up from the shop floor on the internet by entering the

certificate number and test report code on the Oeko-Tex Home Page at www.oeko-tex.com/validity.

More information on order certificates is available from Oeko-Tex member institutes. (www.oeko-tex.com/institutes)

www.oeko-tex.com/news

ÖTI-Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation
A-1020 Wien, Spangenberg 20
Tel: +43 (0)42404 0
Fax: +43 (0)42404 40
oeko-text@oeti.at

The company
Mustermann GmbH
Musterstrasse 1
1010 Muster

is granted authorization according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 to use the Oeko-Tex mark, based on our test report 88765

Test-No. 88745#2
ÖTI, Wien

for the following articles:
Trousers for men made out of cotton/polyester: order 85610, order 85620, order 85630, order 85640 and order 85650
The results of the inspection made according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100, product class B have shown that the above mentioned goods meet the human-ecological requirements of the standard presently established for products with direct contact to skin.
The certified articles fulfil the requirements of the existing European legislation regarding the use of azo-dyes.
The holder of the certificate, who has issued a conformity declaration according to ISO 17067-1, is under an obligation to use the Oeko-Tex mark only in conjunction with products that conform with the sample initially tested.
This authorisation is valid until 30.04.2009
Wien, 15.05.2008

Oeko-Tex Department
Director Dr. Rüdiger Eppner

Mey J

CERTIFICATE

Organic Cotton – Testing for harmful substances is a must

The trend for consumers to prefer organic and fair trade products was one of the hottest topics at the 29th International Cotton Conference in Bremen. From April 3 to April 4, 2008, some 600 experts from research and education, and trade and industry addressed current developments in cultivation, trade, and textile processing. They also discussed new technologies for grading cotton quality.



Dr. Rainer Weckmann, Hohenstein Institutes



Cotton is grown in more than 100 countries and some 350 million people are employed in this industry world-wide. The competitive tension between the marketing of natural fibres and practical, tailor-made synthetics, including touting the natural properties of cotton as a sales strategy, is of course, a future topic and a trend that was also introduced at the conference.

Despite price, demand for Organic Cotton higher than ever

Demand for organically grown cotton has increased continually in recent years. Excluding pesticides, genetically-altered seeds, and using sustainable methods of crop-rotation are, however, not without cost. Organic cotton is almost twice as expensive as conventionally grown fibres. As in the past, the major portion of the annual harvest of some 60,000 tonnes is grown in selected projects located primarily in India and Turkey.

Compared to conventionally grown cotton, which has an annual harvest of some 25 million tonnes, the amount of organically grown cotton produced each year barely accounts for a shadow on the scale. Even in the long-term, this is not expected to change, because for producers, the costs of switching to organic production and the residual risks of maintaining sustainability criteria are too high.

A further positive development is being driven by the entry of traders coming onto the scene who ensure organic farmers will retain markets by committing themselves to use continually organic cotton for processing into specially labelled shirts and jeans. Cotton that has been raised organically does not differ chemically from its conventionally grown counterpart. As a result, evidence that cotton has been organically grown, processed, and worked into a final product in a sustainable way can only be documented conclusively by certificates issued by independent, third parties.

The market for organic cotton may still be young, but booming demand is already leading to business irregularities.

Pesticide testing remains key

Recently, conventional growers of cotton have used genetically-altered

"Even if finished organic cotton products often give the impression of being rustic and natural, they have frequently been through many stages of a long production process during which chemical agents – dyes, for example – are indispensable. In that respect, they differ little from conventional products."

Dr. Rainer Weckmann of the Hohenstein Institutes

Tests for pesticides featured since 1992 within the scope of Oeko-Tex Standard 100 remain important due to irregularities in practice and continued high concentrations of the "dirty dozen" – bio-accumulating types of older pesticides such as DDT and lindane.

Dr. Rainer Weckmann of the Hohenstein Institutes in Bönningheim presented the results for his series of tests on samples at the Bremen Cotton Conference.

"The trend is increasing, but at the moment there are more organic products on the market than are being produced."

Elke Hortmeyer of the Bremen Cotton Exchange

strains to achieve considerable increases in yields pro hectare while at the same time reducing amounts of pesticide used as well. Nevertheless, current estimates indicate cotton growing accounts for some 10 percent of global demand in pesticides for agricultural use.

Since 1991, the Bremen Cotton Exchange has sent cotton of the most varied of origins to be tested at the Hohenstein Institutes. Initially, investigators were looking for 17 types of pesticides. Now, that number has grown to 60 and includes tests for heavy metals, formaldehyde, and pentachlorophenol as well. In the last three years, no residues of any kind could be found in raw cotton samples, regardless of where the cotton was raised.

Organic Cotton – Absence of harmful substances

During the course of Oeko-Tex certification, not only chemicals that come into contact with the cotton while it is being raised are detected. Chemicals used in further refinement of the fibres also show up.

That is why Weckmann recommends critical consumers buying organic cotton should look for evidence that items have been tested and found free of harmful substances.

"What is primarily important to the consumer is that the textiles pose absolutely no risk to health. Products tested and certified in accordance with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 offer this level of safety."

Dr. Rainer Weckmann of the Hohenstein Institutes



On the road in South America – Oeko-Tex delegation on an informative mission

"Interest in Oeko-Tex has increased markedly in South America," was the assessment of General Secretary Raimar Freitag after taking a trip with Dr. Rainer Weckmann (Hohenstein Institutes) to five South and Central American countries.

On their schedule were a number of visits to Oeko-Tex certified firms in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Mexico; several expert presentations to leading textile industry and trade associations; and information exchanges with regional research establishments.

As Rudolf Mussla (APTT, Peru) said at a meeting with Oeko-Tex representatives in Lima, for many countries active on the South American market, Oeko-Tex Standard 100 has developed into an increasingly influential key to opening doors to business in North America and Europe.

During a panel discussion at the Associação Brasileira da Indústria Têxtil (ABIT) on April 9 in Sao Paulo, Freitag told some 100 Brazilian textile sector representatives the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 was the most important certification system for textile products of all kinds world-wide. The pri-

mary conclusion reached at the event is that Brazil can only come to play a greater role in global competition if it meets the quality criteria of target markets such as Europe and North America. According to the

speaker, these included health safety standards of textiles for export. He

attended presentations and seminars held first at the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial in Buenos Aires and then at Peruvian Textile Technicians' Association in Lima. In addition, informative visits like the one at the Instituto Textil de Chile contributed to introducing the Oeko-Tex concept to the regional textile and garment industries by providing information to influential multipliers such as research institutes, associations, and specialist media.

"Compared to a similar trip five years ago, visitor response is proving to be greater. In addition, this time, during several events we are able to conclude contracts directly with various firms."

Raimar Freitag, Secretary General of the International Oeko-Tex Association



Nearly 200 participants make for a big success: The Oeko-Tex presentation at a seminar at the Peruvian Textile Technicians Association (APTT) in Lima.

Heimtextil 2008 – Confidence in textiles makes a big impression

A newly designed stand was featured when the International Oeko-Tex Association made its eleventh appearance in as many years at Heimtextil, the international trade fair for home and contract textiles, held at the start of January in Frankfurt. The stand emphasised the significance of Oeko-Tex Standard 100 with regard to home and contract textiles, which account for some 24% of the certificates issued.

"Ribbons are the finishing touch! You will find many of our ribbons on numerous blankets, pillows and mattresses being shown at the trade fair. Their quality, among other things, means that they keep their shape. Therefore, it is decisive for the long-term success of a product on the market. In order to ensure quality standards, Krass + Wissing has its production sites in Germany and its entire product range certified according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100."

Michael Wissing, Business Manager, Krass + Wissing

With the new, free, flyer, specialist vendors have the opportunity to inform consumers about the range of Oeko-Tex certified products.



"The buyers of high-quality bed linen and blankets expect that they have been tested for harmful substances. My dream is to have our manufacturing plant in Löffingen inspected to ensure it complies with the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 as well. Then we will be able to present our products with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100plus label, making our commitment to high quality even clearer to the public."

Matthias Jaschke, Formesse

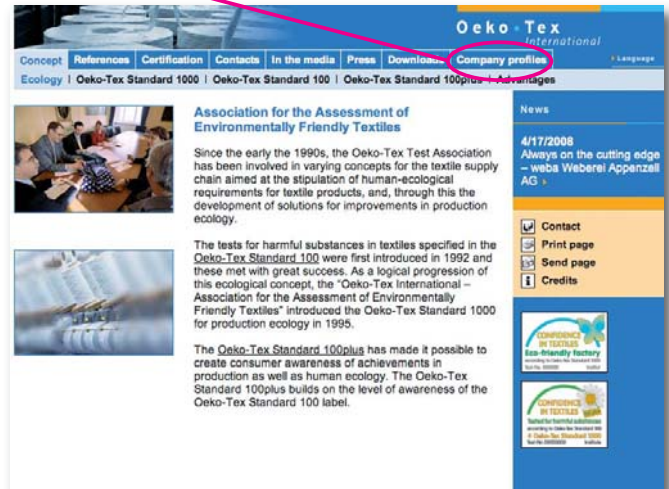


Company profiles at www.oeko-tex1000.com



There has been a recent addition to the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 website. Available for download under the menu item "Company Profiles" are a number of reports about companies that have been certified for years as "environmentally-friendly production sites" in accordance with Oeko-Tex Standard 1000. Profiles will be added on a rolling basis. They provide

an overview of the range of certified manufacturers (spinning works, weavers, knitting works, finishing companies, and manufacturers of ready-to-wear) and insight into the incorporation of the standard's environmentally-friendly production criteria in the philosophy of each individual firm.



INFO: Oeko-Tex Standard 1000

The Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 is a testing, audit and certification system for environmentally friendly production sites. The standard claims to provide an objective assessment of the level of environmental protection a company has achieved at a production site. For certification under the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000, companies must meet the stipulated criteria relating to their environmentally-friendly manufacturing process and provide evidence that at least 30 % of total production is already certified according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000.

Favourite on the Oeko-Tex website:

The shopping guide for Oeko-Tex certified products

According to access statistics, the most-frequently visited page on the Oeko-Tex website is the shopping guide. At the links www.oeko-tex.com/companies and www.oeko-tex.com/products companies looking specifically for Oeko-Tex certified suppliers or products can use a number of interactive options (for example region, product type, material) to refine their search.

Companies that have submitted a completed shopping guide form (available for download at www.oeko-tex.com/downloads) to the Oeko-Tex Association are listed on this page. In addition to complete contact information and statements about certificate validity and product class, and full listing of all their Oeko-Tex certified products is presented in tabular checklist form. It is a simple, free opportunity for companies that hold certificates to present their product lines.

Oeko-Tex Standard 1000

- Basic principles
- Tests for harmful substances
- Certification
- Certified products
 - Brands
 - Sources of supply**
 - Withdrawn certificates
 - Validity check
- Use of the label
- Marketing aids
- Downloads
- News

Sources of supply

Several options are available to search for products with Oeko-Tex certification:

Product search:

- Displays manufacturers with Oeko-Tex certificates, the type of certified product and the materials the validity status of existing certificates.
- Target group: textile and clothing companies as well as retailers who are specifically searching for

Company search:

- Displays manufacturers with Oeko-Tex certificates, including contact details and a presentation of
- Target group: textile and clothing companies as well as retailers who are specifically searching for wish to present their certified product range. Other interested parties.

Brand name search:

- Displays brand name products with Oeko-Tex certificates, sorted by intermediate and end product
- Target group: consumers; retailers; other interested parties.

Please note that the entries are based on information provided by the manufacturers which is supplied to be exhaustive.

Product search | **Company search** | Brand name search

DACOR-Etiketten
 Dausend & Steuernagel GmbH & Co. KG
 Otto-Hahn-Straße 27
 42369 Wuppertal
 Germany
 +49 (0) 202 4669-0
 +49 (0) 202 4669-160
info@dacor-etiketten.de

	Polyester	Elastanes	Natural and Synthetic Fibre Mixtures	Other Fibres (metallic, etc) and their Mixtures
Belts and Banding	X		X	X
Elasticated Banding		X		
Printed and Woven Labels	X		X	X

Back

Screenshot shopping guide

Questions & Answers about Oeko-Tex Certification

The International Oeko-Tex Association is presenting a new brochure titled "Questions & Answers about Oeko-Tex Certification" to mark the occasion of the ITMA ASIA 2008. Aimed at the textile and garment sectors, including specialist trade, the flyer gives interested firms a preliminary overview of the requirements (test criteria, cost, time commitment, quality assurance, etc.) and the process of obtaining certification (application, testing, renewal, extension, etc.) in accordance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100.

The new information brochure for interested firms from industry and trade briefly summarises the most important facts about certification according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100.

Product classes, the function of the Oeko-Tex certificate and the role of Oeko-Tex testing institutes are introduced in short summaries, with highlights on a few distinctive features of the Oeko-Tex certification system. Among these, for example, are the requirement that ready-made garments must have their own Oeko-Tex certificates, even when all component parts have successfully been certified already. In addition, the entire garment can only

obtain its own licence number based on the testing of all components by the institute.

The new information brochure is available in a number of languages and can be ordered free of charge from the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre in Eschborn. A pdf-version can also be downloaded from the Oeko-Tex homepage.

Another recently introduced, special Oeko-Tex Association service, is issuing what are called order certificates or excerpts. These consist of an excerpt from an existing certificate containing a concrete inventory and exact description of items on the order. In this way, traders who work with suppliers solely on commission basis can be rest assured the items they have ordered – even in the event of short production runs – will undoubtedly meet the required Oeko-Tex criteria.

Order/Download:

- By telephone: +49 6196 966-230
- By fax: +49 6196 966-226
- By email: zert.de@oeko-tex.com
- Or visit the internet site: www.oeko-tex.com/downloads (Category: Brochures)



WWW www.oeko-tex.com/downloads

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Authority:
German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, point of contact: Jutta Knels, PO Box 5340, D-65728 Eschborn, Tel.: +49 6196 966-247, Fax: +49 6196 966-226 www.oeko-tex.com

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Fair-Play to win – AWO Mini-Kids European Football Championship 2008

On May 20 and May 21, 2008, 32 mixed youth football teams from regional schools and kindergartens played in the "European Football Championship" tournament at Frankfurt's Commerzbank Arena. Among the returning sponsors was also the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, which had already supported the idea of a children's football tournament organised by

the Workers' Benevolent Association (Arbeiterwohlfahrt, AWO) at the time of the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany.

In her greeting for the young athletes, Jutta Knels explained what the concept "Fair-Play" means in the textile industry: "For textile industry products we have the criteria of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, these are

similar to the rules we have for football tournaments. They are understood by people all over the world and as a result guarantee carefree enjoyment."

In any case, all the children who took part had a great time, even if their teams were eliminated in the preliminary rounds.



©www.aewhess.com

Fairy at the drawing of lots: Steffi Jones, President of the Organising Committee for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2011, together with the lucky winner of a ride with the Oeko-Tex hot air balloon.



A heavy rush of people at the Oeko-Tex competition for the kids and their families.

Greece again! – The young European Football Champions 2008 – Winners of the AWO Mini-Kids Tournament 2008



WWW www.awo-minikids.de