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OEKO-TEX® news

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REACH Information Day



Will REACH actually contribute to increased sustainability of textile production? The question was the focal point of an informational event by the International OEKO-TEX® Association held in Frankfurt on 29 April. In addition to employees of the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre and several OEKO-TEX® testing institutes, some 90 interested representatives from companies participating OEKO-TEX®, industrial organisations and specialist media took part. The issue of sustainability was investigated in detail, while using the production practices of the Gebrüder Otto Baumwollfeinzwirner GmbH & Co. KG as an example. In 2002, the spinning facility became the first in Germany to receive certification in accordance with **OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000**.

In their presentations, speakers from research, industries and associations addressed various perspectives on the European Union regulation for "Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals" (REACH) and its effects on the textile and garment industries. Other presentations illustrated the importance of voluntary product certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 in the context of REACH. The conclusion was that the International OEKO-TEX® Association gives special attention to substances classified by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as "Substances of Very High Concern" (SVHC) in the development of its testing criteria. In addition, when new SVHCs are announced,

OEKO-TEX® also tests their relevance for the textile sector and decides if there is need to act with respect to the OEKO-TEX® catalogue of criteria.

>> To access individual presentations made at the OEKO-TEX® informational event, please see the German version of www.oeko-tex.com/news. The presentations, however, are only available in German language.

>> Please see www.oeko-tex.com/limitvalues for complete testing criteria and limit values for OEKO-TEX® Standard 100.



OEKO-TEX® General Secretary Raimar Freitag provided a survey of the international development of the issue of OEKO-TEX® certificates, the results of last year's monitoring inspections and the general activities of the International OEKO-TEX® Association.



Jutta Knels, Head of the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre GmbH, presented information about the development of certificates issued in Germany and the role played by the certification centre, including issuing and maintaining certifications, handling the catalogue of criteria, prosecution of

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Editorial



OEKO-TEX® also makes sense for organic cotton

At the present time, there are approximately 75 OEKO-TEX® certificates worldwide for products in all processing stages which contain a notice for "Organic Cotton" as part of the article group description. The growing of cotton itself is not subject to OEKO-TEX® inspections. Advertising statements regarding the origins of the raw materials, such as "from controlled organic production" are the sole responsibility of the manufacturer, who must be able to provide proof in the form of the corresponding certificates. However, there is no way to technically distinguish between organic cotton and conventionally produced cotton fibres. For this reason it is not possible to make exceptions with regard to the testing process. In principle, all natural fibres are tested for pesticide residues.

With the implementation of a comprehensive pesticide exclusion list as part of the criteria catalogue, OEKO-TEX® continues to strive towards influencing conventional cotton production by sensitizing participants to refrain from using bio-accumulating or low-biodegradable herbicides, such as DDT which is one of the "dirty dozen" of internationally outlawed substances.

For the purpose of preparing the raw material for dyeing processes and/or printing, it is cleaned and washed; in addition, any subsequent treatment also requires the use of chemicals in order to optimize the fabric's fashion look, feel, easing of tension and form stability for manufacturing. For this reason OEKO-TEX® inspects the respective articles at each production stage using an inspection system intended for the corresponding product classes I to IV.

Jutta Knels,
Head of the German OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre

cases of label misuse, and national and international promotion and public relations for OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and 1000.



Dr. Manfred Hartmann, Scientific Director of the Hohenstein Textile Testing Institute GmbH & Co. KG, presented innovations to the OEKO-TEX® catalogue of criteria as of January 2009. He also provided in-depth information on special testing parameters such as heavy metals' testing in comparison with other, existing international requirements for harmful substances.



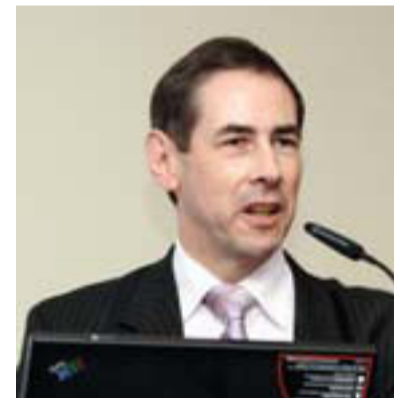
Dr. Volker Schröder, a speaker from the association TEGEWA e.V., depicted the current situation with reference to the REACH regulations from the point of view of the makers of textile auxiliaries and dyes. As of 29 April 2009, 145,000

chemical substances had been pre-registered for which manufacturers must submit registration data to the European Chemicals' Agency in compliance with transitional regulations based on tonnage declared. Schröder went on to say that safety data sheets would remain the most significant means of communication even after the REACH regulation comes into effect. As the REACH programme continues, these will be expanded and revised, the actual novelty is, however, an appendix containing exposure and risk assessments for hazardous substances. Beyond that, Schröder also recommended participants to apply only the currently available standard REACH communications' questionnaire specifically and in a manner suited to individual cases as they arose. After all, he continued, the point of the regulation was facilitating the exchange of information about registered substances, adding that extending the questionnaires and widely distributing them among firms usually and had the opposite effect.



Christina Meßner, an environmental consultant at the Federation for Textiles+Fashion (Gesamtverband Textil+Mode), helped those who

attended the event become acquainted with the fundamental terminology of the REACH regulation – the difference, for example between "substance" and "product", through to the definition of the so-called candidate substances. In addition, she also provided an overview of the obligations of producers and importers of products resulting from manufacturing using candidate substances. On the one hand, starting on 1 June 2011 manufacturers will be required to register with the European Chemicals' Agency (ECHA) if they manufacture or import a candidate substance in quantities of one tonne or more per year and more than 0.1 percent by weight is contained in the finished product. This obligation is valid if the candidate substance has not yet been registered for this application at this point in time. On the other hand, product suppliers are obliged to communicate to commercial customers and end consumers if a product contains more than 0.1 percent by weight of a candidate substance. To conclude, the speaker directed participants to the "help desk" that has been set up by the Federation of German Industries (BDI), which contains pre-printed forms and sample correspondence aimed at facilitating communication with respect to REACH along the value creation chain.



Dr. Wilhelm Rauch, the Managing Director of the Industrievereinigung Chemiefaser e.V. (IVC) (Industrial Association for Chemical Fibres), compared the manufacture and processing of synthetic fibres world-wide, with production conditions for natural raw materials such as cotton and wool in the context of sustainability. He concluded that synthetic fibres demonstrated a clearly more positive environmental balance than natural fibres. He emphasised that, in growing cotton, in particular, the need for large areas of land (in direct competition with agricultural land use for growing food) and large amounts of water placed heavier burdens on the environment. Rauch also added that with respect to REACH compliance, users of synthetic fibres from the textile and garment industries had to do no more than obtain their fibres from IVC member organisations, because the IVC had already carried out all the nec-

essary pre-registrations for its members. He also urged participants to be cautious when importing synthetic fibres, because in this case, REACH obligations must be met by the importer.



Andreas Merkel, the Managing Director of Gebrüder Otto Baumwollfeinzwirner GmbH & Co. KG used his company as an example to describe how companies in the textile and garment industry could couple a commitment to assured quality, innovation, sustainability and socially responsible production with market success. A recent example of an innovative product is blended yarn made of hand-picked cotton and wild kapok spun using a process developed at the firm. It is marketed under the name Piumafil® and available in two different grades. It's also awarded with the **OEKO-TEX Standard 100 plus**. In addition, Merkel expressed the desire in future to see the International OEKO-TEX Association promote more strongly to the outside world the comprehensive environmental services of the OEKO-TEX® Certification System.



Rose-Marie Riedl, Head of Corporate Communications and Research Marketing at the Hohenstein Institute presented the results of a European retail and consumer survey on textile quality marks and the significance of testing for harmful substances during the purchasing of textiles. In the seven countries taking part in the survey (Austria, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Portugal and France), the label "Confidence in Textiles" had above-average recognition of 42% with end consumers and 79% with specialist retailers.



Informationstag OEKO-TEX®
29. April 2009 | Steigenberger Hotel Metropolitan Frankfurt

Sorgt REACH für mehr Nachhaltigkeit in der Textilproduktion?

10:00 Uhr	Empfang / Anmeldung
10:30 Uhr	Begrüßung
	Vorstellung der Aufgaben der OEKO-TEX® Zertifizierungsstelle Entwicklung des OEKO-TEX® Standards 100 – weltweit Jutta Knels, OEKO-TEX® Zertifizierungsstelle, Frankfurt Raimar Freitag, Sekretär der Internationalen OEKO-TEX® Gemeinschaft, Zürich
11:00 Uhr	Prüfkriterien im Fokus – Zu ausgewählten OEKO-TEX® Prüfparametern unter Einbeziehung diverser „Restricted Substances Lists“ Dr. Manfred Hartmann, Forschungsinstitut Hohenstein, Bönningheim
11:30 Uhr	REACH – Aktuelle Aufgaben bei den Chemikalien- und Farbstofflieferanten der Textilindustrie Dr. Volker Schröder, Verband TEGEWA e.V., Frankfurt
12:00 Uhr	Von Kandidatenstoffen und Kommunikationspflichten REACH für Hersteller und Importeure textiler Erzeugnisse Christina Meßner, Gesamtverband der deutschen Textil- und Modeindustrie, Berlin
12:30 Uhr	Mittagspause mit einem kleinen Imbiss
13:30 Uhr	Mit Chemiefasern nachhaltig in die Zukunft! Dr. Wilhelm Rauch, Industrievereinigung Chemiefaser e.V. (IVC), Frankfurt
14:00 Uhr	Der OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 – Produktionsökologie und Nachhaltigkeit Andreas Merkel, Gebrüder Otto Baumwollfeinzwirner, Dietenheim und Jutta Knels, OEKO-TEX® Zertifizierungsstelle, Frankfurt
14:30 Uhr	Das OEKO-TEX® Label – die Nummer 1 in Europa! Resultate der europäischen Handels- und Verbraucherbefragung Rose-Marie Riedl, Pressestelle Forschungsinstitut Hohenstein, Bönningheim
15:00 Uhr	Ende der Veranstaltung

Bitte melden Sie sich bis spätestens 15. April 2009 an.
Fax: 069 4003408 299
www.oeko-tex.com



Trademark protection

Label misuse is systematically prosecuted

The label “Confidence in Textiles – tested for harmful substances according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100” is a legally protected trademark. With the growing number of certifications world-wide and increasing awareness of the label “Confidence in Textiles”, the issue of trademark protection is gaining significance as well. A full-time position was established to address trademark protection in practice in conjunction with the move of the Certification Centre to new offices in Frankfurt at the beginning of 2009. The News editorial team interviewed Annette Herbst who is responsible for trademark protection at the Certification Centre.

Ms. Herbst, when do you take action?

As soon as a label or marking with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 on it or documents pertaining to it have no test number or test institute, or this information is incorrect. The precise definition and requirements are in the statutes of the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and in diverse supplementary materials. Uniform implementation makes the consumer better able to recognise the label again.

Are there other rules that firms holding certificates must observe when they are using the OEKO-TEX® label?

Yes. It's very important that garment manufacturers use their own certificate for their products, even though the products have been made exclusively with materials that are also cer-

tified in accordance with OEKO-TEX®. After all, each manufacturer is responsible for the choice and purchase of different materials and, therefore, is creating something new. Here, Aristotle's principle “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts”, applies.

In which product groups do most of the labelling misuses occur?

I see many mistakes made in labelling on mattresses, bed linens and items for babies, meaning, on highly “sensitive” products.

In terms of mattresses, pillows and blankets, the fillings must be tested as well as the covers. If, for example, only the filling of a pillow is certified, then the pillow may not, as a whole, be marked with the OEKO-TEX® label. For the mattresses/bed linens product group, we have published a new, spe-

cial informational flyer for manufacturers that can be ordered at any time from the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre.

How many irregularities have you already observed this year?

In the first half of 2009, I discovered 158 cases – whereas the Worldwide Web is full of a sheer, immeasurable amount of false declarations of all kinds – both in Germany and abroad. Some 85% of the cases could be resolved to our satisfaction, e.g. through corrections made after the fact, withdrawal of the claim due to demonstrated ineligibility or due to proven failure to comply with requirements. Ten companies who would like to do things correctly in future and want to comply visibly with the OEKO-TEX® Standard for consumers have made new applications for certification.

Ms. Herbst, how would you sum up your experience up to now with the issue of trademark protection?

In my job – discovery and warning – education of consumers and companies about existing legal requirements for trademarks in the context of unfair competition and informing them about the OEKO-TEX® criteria are of great importance. During our talks, it frequently becomes clear many believe the certification system is much more complicated than it actually is, and, as a result, they shy away from certification.

Do you have any hot tips for certificate holders?

Each company that is uncertain about how to mark products and other uses of the label is welcome to make contact with us in advance. We will be

happy to assist them with how to use the label correctly.

Ms. Herbst, thank you very much for this interview.



Annette Herbst, responsible for trademark protection at the German OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre

Co-operative advertising free-of-charge

for specialist retailers of baby and children's clothing



Specialist retailers in Germany with the brands Sanetta, Schiesser, Steiff, Sterntaler and Lapinchen in their selection of baby and children's items can take part free of charge in an OEKO-TEX® Association co-operative placard advertising campaign just in time for the Christmas rush.

With the aim of supporting retailers in marketing OEKO-TEX® certified products and brands, and to further increase the final consumers' awareness of the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre is making it possible for several specialist retailers of baby and children's clothing to take part free of charge in a co-operative large format placard advertising campaign.

The only requirements for taking part are that the retailers have OEKO-TEX® tested items in their selection and promptly inform the Certification Centre of the desired location for the placards in their area. As exclusive partner for media publishing, bte marketing berater provided information about the campaign.

Additional co-operative placard advertising campaigns are planned for the future for other product groups, such as e.g. daytime underclothing and night clothes as well as home textiles. Interested manufacturers and retailers should register with the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre: info@certification-oekotex.com.

More in demand than ever: Sustainability and quality

Sustainability in textile production was one of the key themes at the Heimtextil Trade Fair 2009: this was apparent firstly at the lecture forum where prominent speakers discussed “Eco Luxury, Green Business and Innovation” with visitors to the trade fair. The increased awareness of sustainable economic activity, efficient value creation and the desire for an ecological and socially-responsible restructuring of production were however also apparent at many of the total 2,721 stands. Never before have there been so many OEKO-TEX® certificates and labels on show at the Frankfurt trade fair centre.

For bed linen manufacturer **f.a.n. frankenstolz** the key focus is on “Cotton Made in Africa” (www.cotton-made-in-africa.com). Abandonment of artificial irrigation, cultivation by small farmers, firm targets for the percentage of children with an elementary school education, or for the use of water, fertilisers and pesticides, and access to markets that guarantee the farmers a livelihood all promote development towards a sustainable cultivation of cotton. For Reinhard Maehliß and Anke Schramm, who are responsible for product and quality management in the company, linen is also an ecologically-interesting alternative to cotton, “In the temperate central European climate, flax thrives without additional irrigation

and largely without the use of agricultural pesticides. Together with its outstanding damp and heat management characteristics this means we believe linen has many uses in domestic textiles.”

The bed linen range from **Irisette**, amongst others, offer proof that both sustainable production and functionality can combine harmoniously. Head of Sales Thomas Suedholt affirms, “Quality in high-grade bed linen is defined in particular by the brilliance and clarity of the colours, as well as in delicate or striking designs with which the customer can keep up with the latest fashions and style their home individually. But the look isn’t the only thing that has to be right – ease of care and a high degree of comfort with high-grade materials and processing techniques are also rewarded by discerning consumers.” Irisette therefore guarantees its products for five years.

At bed linen manufacturer **Elegante** they also believe that long-fibre cotton which can yield especially smooth and light fabrics is the way ahead; 80% of the entire range is of high-grade maco satin, which is used for example for the licensed ranges of Bruno Banani

and Joop! Axel Rehlaender, assistant to the executive, wants to raise awareness about the special quality of Elegante products amongst trade and consumers, “We are selling an attitude to life that is closely linked with the brand identity of Elegante and our licence partners. This naturally involves offering fashionable designs and colours which reflect the spirit of the age and the taste of the target group. But aside from fashion, products from Elegante also offer top quality in the sense of highly-refined, crease-resistant fabrics and optimal workmanship. This is a delight to the buyer every day – for many, many years if they so wish.”

The core competency of **Ibena** is the long-established, renowned bed cover brand Solare (60% cotton and 40% Dralon. At Ibena too they are increasingly relying on cotton from environmentally-friendly sources: new to the collection are Solare Organic Cotton covers. For the Head of Production Development, Peter Kersten, contract business is increasingly important, “We have developed a loyal customer base here with special products. This includes a major airline which we were able to equip with covers for the business class.” Apart from that, Ibena produces holds a licence for the production of domestic textiles for brands such as s.Oliver homewear, Elégance homewear, Bugatti bed and blanket or the Rosamunde Pilcher country house collection.



From left: Sylvia Leichtle and Firyal Tezel of Kaepfel

One good-value alternative for the younger target group is the start-up range Sweet home from **Kaepfel**. Sylvia Leichtle and Firyal Tezel explain the marketing concept, “It’s easier to reach the younger target group through furniture stores than through the traditional specialist store. So for several years now we have been developing this additional sales channel.” Recently the Kaepfel range has been extended to include its first products of organic cotton – once more completing the circle of design, function and sustainability.

Head of Production Development at Ibena: Peter Kersten



Head of Sales at Irisette: Thomas Suedholt



Textiles tested for harmful substances and produced sustainably



Manufacturers of ready-made products in Asia for the first time certified according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 plus

Information Event held by the Oeko-Tex® Association at the ITMA Asia 2008: OEKO-TEX® General Secretary Raimar Freitag (right) hands the Oeko-Tex® Standard 1000 Certificate to Mohamed Ajlan, President of Suzhou Deylon Textile's and Shandong Lawrance Textiles' parent company Ajlan Bros. Co.

At the beginning of July, two ready-to-wear makers in Asia became the first in the region to be issued the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100plus label for their products. Suzhou Deylon Textile Co. Ltd. makes traditional headwear for the Arab market. Shandong Lawrance Textiles Co. Ltd. produces undergarments for the Chinese domestic market and export to Europe.

Key requirements for certification are that the labelled items are tested for harmful substances in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and produced in environmentally-friendly production facilities that apply socially responsible policies as stipulated in OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000.

These standards must also be applied throughout the entire production cycle, from the manufacture of yarn to the finished product. There are currently three companies worldwide which have the distinction of carrying the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 label for their ready-made end products. Other

than the two Chinese companies, eterna Mode GmbH, a Passau-based men's shirt and ladies' blouse manufacturer, already obtained the corresponding certificate for its high-quality products in the year 2000.

Suzhou Deylon Textile and Shandong Lawrance Textiles are Chinese subsidiaries of the Saudi Arabia-based investor Ajlan & Bros. The company has a total of 16 manufacturing plants in China that produce a broad range of textile products. Product certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and the on-site audits and certification in accordance with the criteria of OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 were made by the Swiss Textile Testing Institute, TESTEX, which has seven representative offices in six Asian countries, two of them in China.



Shandong Lawrance Textiles Co. Ltd.

- established in 2003
- makers of outerwear and underwear
- production capacity of 250,000 items daily, merchandise of single jersey, interlock, rib, mesh and pique
- more than 3000 employees
- largest markets currently EU and Asia. New markets planned in the US, Latin America and Middle East

Shandong Lawrance Textiles Co. Ltd.

No. 6 Xi Chang Road
CN – 277100 Zao Zhuang
Shandong Provinz
CHINA
Tel.: +86 632 319 1888
Fax: +86 632 319 1666
www.lawrancegarment.com

Suzhou Deylon Textile Co. Ltd.

- established in 2000
- specialises in production of traditional Arab headwear, the yashmagh und ghutra
- monthly production capacity of 1,5 million metres of finished product
- 2,100 employees
- largest consumer markets in Saudi-Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar

Suzhou Deylon Textile Co. Ltd.

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Fax: +86 512 6387 0767
www.deylontextiles.com



OEKO-TEX® Standard 100plus – the mark of an environmentally-friendly and socially responsible production

A single mark, the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100plus label, gives ready-to-wear makers in particular an opportunity to show traders and consumers their products have dual, added environmental benefits because they have been independently tested and been found free of harmful substances and were produced in an environmentally-friendly, socially responsible way.

Successful completion of laboratory tests in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and certification of production conditions in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 are an absolute must for the certification of a product or product line with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100plus. In addition, a company must demonstrate that the entire production cycle for the item or line – meaning every single manufacturing step regardless of where it takes place – meets the criteria of and is certified in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. In this way, OEKO-TEX® Standard 100plus establishes a link between the finished product and the conditions of its production. The company is also committed to cooperation with suppliers that have also been certified in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and, accordingly, OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. In addition, renewed monitoring of the certified products and production facilities is also carried out at regular intervals. Standard 1000.

Lead in children's products

OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 now corresponds with US legislation for lead in children's products

In September, the American Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) announced that OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 corresponds with US legislation on lead in children's products, and is therefore suited to conduct testing with regard to this requirement.

The OEKO-TEX® Association adopted the total breakdown of lead and cadmium into its criteria catalogue at the beginning of the year. The objective is to sensitise textile and clothing manufacturers, as well as producers of metallic accessories, to the responsible handling of these heavy metals, to ensure compliance of the prescribed limits by the time the third phase of the CPSIA legislation goes into effect in August 2011.

Regardless of the additional inspection for lead and cadmium in the total breakdown, the inspection of extractable heavy metals will nevertheless remain the main objective of the OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue with regard to safeguarding against possible heavy metal contents in textile products. The heavy metal tests which are conducted via artificial sweat solutions simulate every-day use conditions for textiles and hence allow for objective statements regarding the risk potential of heavy metals



Manufacturers that produce for the US market can cover the CPSIA requirements regarding lead in children's products by means of the OEKO-TEX® certification..

as opposed to merely determining or complying with solid matter contents in relation to the total weight of the

garment. With regard to extractable lead, OEKO-TEX® currently provides for limits of 0.2 mg/kg for baby gar-

ments of product class I, as well as 1.0 mg/kg for textiles in product classes II, III and IV.

News & Events

Hanns A. Pielenz

honoured for his life's work

The Premier of the German federal state of Baden-Württemberg, Günther H. Oettinger, and former state premier Prof. Dr. Lothar Späth were on hand to present Hanns A. Pielenz the Otto Mecheels Medal for his life's work on 27 July 2009. It was the first time the medal had been awarded. Among the things Pielenz was being honoured for were his service to the sewing silk factory Amann & Söhne (Amann & Sons) (today, Amann Group) in Boennigheim. He played a major role in the development of the firm, both as managing director and owner, in the years from 1964 to 2004.



Hanns A. Pielenz, who was managing director and owner of the sewing thread factory Amann & Sons from 1968 to 2004, was honoured in Boennigheim for his life's work and that of his family.

In his presentation speech, Prof. Dr. Stefan Mecheels, the Head of the

Hohenstein Institute and the inaugurator of the award, emphasised the outstanding role Amann & Sons played in the development of new products and manufacturing techniques. Since the company's founding in 1854, the newest innovations were always implemented in the production of sewing and embroidery yarns. Among the current challenges are developing sewing techniques for combinations of all types of elasticised fabrics. In 1993, the company also was among the first manufacturers worldwide to have its products tested for harmful substances in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100. Today, Amann & Sons supplies customers in

more than 100 countries around the globe that are active in nearly all areas of textile production including garments, home textiles, technical textiles, machine embroidery as well as for the shoe and leather industry.

„Through innovative products, strategically correct marketing policies and orientation towards global competition,” said Prof. Mecheels, “the firm of Amann & Sons had by 1989 become Germany's largest manufacturer of sewing yarns and the third-largest manufacturer in the world. While Hanns A Pielenz was running the company, the number of employees grew from 500 in 1968 to 3,800 in 2004.



From the left: Günther H. Oettinger (State Premier of Baden-Wuerttemberg), Prof. Dr. Stefan Mecheels (Head of the Hohenstein Institute), Hanns A. Pielenz (Otto-Mecheels-Medal winner), Dr. Markus Ostrop (Managing Director, Südwesttextil), Prof. Dr. Lothar Späth (former state premier)

Sales revenues grew from 16 million deutschmarks to 200 million euros in the same period.“

OEKO-TEX® special

“The most environmentally-friendly shirt in the world” eterna hosts media visit in Switzerland

As provider of premium shirts and blouses eterna is currently the only manufacturer of ready-made garments in Europe that may promote its products with the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 plus label attached – a privilege it has enjoyed since 2000. In conjunction with a press trip to Appenzell and Herisau organised by eterna on 20 and 21 April 2009, 23 journalists from German, Austrian, Danish, French and Swiss specialist publications were able to discover first-hand why eterna rightfully maintains its products are the “most environmentally-friendly shirts in the world”.

The garments are tested to ensure the absence of harmful substances in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, and the production of yarn, weaving, finishing and ready-to-wear assembly are exclusively carried out by plants that have been certified in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000, because their production conditions are both environmentally-friendly and socially responsible. “Ecology is a company’s hygienic responsibility,” eterna Managing Director Peter Rentsch told media representatives. His counterpart and co-executive, Managing Director Klaus Weber, added that protecting the environment was in no way mutually exclusive with other quality characteristics that the company’s customers expect from eterna products – longevity, reliability (e.g. firmly attached buttons) and fashionable design.

Confidence and trust equal success

Comprehensive measures taken throughout the entire manufacturing cluster ensure sustainable production using conventional methods, making the firm unique and exemplary. For 27 years, eterna has been working with the weavers, weba Appenzell AG, and the finishing company AG Cilander in Herisau. Through their trusting partnership, they have created potential synergies usually found at best in hierarchically-organised companies where all production steps are carried out on a single site.

(to be continued on page 2)



eterna
EXCELLENT

WWW www.eterna.de



Judith Niederberger explaining exactly what the "swiss+cotton" quality mark means.



Eterna Managing Director Klaus Weber introducing eterna's four product lines.



Eterna Managing Director Peter Rentsch discussing ecology as encompassing hygiene in terms of corporate responsibility.



Prof. Dr. Stefan Mecheels (centre), Director of the Hohenstein Institute, personally issuing a newly renewed OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 plus certificate to the eterna executives.

Fine "swiss+cotton" fabrics

Another aspect of eterna's success story has been exclusive use of "swiss+cotton" yarn since the label's inception in 1977. As Judith Niederberger, the Head of Public Relations for the Swiss Textile Federation, Swiss Textiles, explained, only three percent of the cotton produced world-wide meets the quality criteria for "swiss+cotton". Shirts of the finest quality available require extra-long staple fibres of at least 3.7 mm in length from Egypt or the US. In addition, at least 75 percent of the processing of the cotton fibres must take place in Switzerland if the product is to be eligible to bear the trademark-protected label "swiss+cotton".

OEKO-TEX® certifications

For many years, certification of the products and participating plants in accordance with the requirements set by the International OEKO-TEX® Association has been the basis for eterna's environmental efforts within its entire chain of value creation. The Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the Swiss Textile Testing Institute, Testex, Dr. Jean-Pierre Haug, explained the environmen-



Jutta Knels (right), Head of the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre GmbH, clarified the distinction of eterna's production cluster in the context of OEKO-TEX® certification.

Marianne Öller (left), Plant Manager and Quality Assurance Officer at eterna, informed the media about the exemplary working conditions at the eterna production plant in Bánovce (Slovakia).

tal and social demands of OEKO-TEX® certification for production plants in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. He also clarified why the standard, when compared to other environmental management systems, is the only one that is specifically tailor-made to suit conditions in the textile and garment industries, and as a result is the only one that allows for comprehensive assessment of environmental achievements. In her presentation, the head of the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre GmbH, Jutta Knels reiterated the distinctiveness of product-related testing for harmful substances in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 and with respect to the intense co-operation between eterna and its suppliers. She added that co-operation of this kind was only possible if firms had similar corporate philosophies in which a high level of quality-consciousness enriched and meshed seamlessly with environmental aims and social factors.



Dr. Jean-Pierre Haug, COO of the Swiss Textile Testing Institute, Testex, presented the OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 as a comprehensive instrument for assessing the sustainability of a textile production facility.

eterna Mode AG

Company statistics indicate unaided awareness of the eterna brand of nearly 100%. Some 900 employees work at the company headquarters in Passau (development, pre-production, logistics centre). Another 150 employees work at eterna's own factory in Bánovce (Slovakia). Eterna Mode GmbH had turnover of around 93 million euros in 2008. It produces about 3.5 million shirts, 570,000 blouses and 120,000 ties annually. The export share for these products is 34%.

eterna presents two main collections each year, with a mid-season programme between the two, and if possible, additional "flash" programmes. Some 5,500 specialist retailers in some 38 countries around the globe can assemble their selections from four different product lines: Blackline (classic men's business shirt), BlueLine (casual shirts, for which there is high export demand), Redline (slim-line shirts without a pocket, which account for some 20% of sales) as well as Silverline (higher-priced premium shirts). Beyond that, at the moment eterna currently operates some 42 of its own shops in prime locations, featuring sophisticated interiors and personnel with first-rate training. The firm has its sights set high. By 2013, it would like to have 100 eterna shops up and running.



eterna CEO Peter Rentsch



eterna CEO Klaus Weber



From its logistics centre in Passau, eterna delivers its shirts and blouses to the entire European market.

eterna S.R.O. (Bánovce, Slovakia)

Assembly of shirts and blouses takes place at the eterna plant that was founded in 1997 in Bánovce. Some 9,000 pieces are finished daily and eterna can demonstrate a delivery rate of 99.8% for customer orders. The processing time, from fabric delivery from Passau to return transportation of the finished items takes about nine to ten days on average, with a minimum of four days. Eterna

delivers products from the logistics centre in Passau to specialist retailers in Europe in no more than three days.

Since 2000, eterna S.R.O. has been certified as an environmentally-friendly production plant in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. Working conditions for the seamstresses, above all, are far better than average. Thanks to close co-operation with machine manufacturers, the plant has technologies and work areas that are optimally suited to the needs of the employees. Work stations are ergonomically adjustable and brightly lit. In addition, a considerable effort is made to ensure employees enjoy a sense of well-being as they work in a two-shift cycle. From the company cafeteria to sports' activities, the staff enjoys using the offerings supplied by the firm.



State-of-the-art logistic processes at eterna.

ished, piece-dyed item in three to four weeks. Turnaround times from four to seven weeks are required for colour-weave products. Pre-production of parts for men's shirts also takes place in Passau. Some 1.6 metres of fabric is needed to make a shirt. State-of-the-art machines make cutting some 200 layers of fabric possible across a piece of fabric with a length of 120 metres. The cut fabric panels are delivered to the plant in Bánovce daily. A fabric reserve for two days of production is stored at the logistics centre in Passau. The remainder of the finished fabrics are stored at AG Cilander in a specially-equipped eterna depot, which supplies Passau with shipments daily.



eterna headquarters in Passau – here the products are designed and all involved production steps coordinated.



OEKO-TEX® special

weba Weberei Appenzell AG

The shirting for eterna products is made by weba Weberei Appenzell AG, one of the most modern weaving facilities in Europe. With a staff of more than 100 employees and the 85



Rolf Bolting, Managing Director of the weaving company weba Appenzell AG, explained to the journalist various production cycles at the Appenzell colour weaving facility.

state-of-the-art looms, the company has an annual capacity of around four million metres of fabric – of which 90% is used to make premium shirts and blouses of the finest single or two-ply yarns, or even three-ply twists, for first-rate garment makers

around the world. Technically sophisticated production of handkerchiefs rounds off weba's production offering.

In 1998, the weaving facility in Appenzell became the third company to be certified as an environmentally-friendly production plant in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. The yarns used at the facility originate exclusively from environmentally-friendly spinners (e.g. Hermann Bühler AG of Switzerland and Setcore Spinning S.A.E. in Egypt). Managing Director Rolf Bolting elaborates, "To make a shirt, around 23,000 metres of yarn are needed at an average weave setting." The company's high productivity is demonstrated clearly when such high amounts of processed yarn are considered. Nevertheless, workers daily experience compliance with the environmental requirements of the OEKO-TEX® Standards 1000, right down to the last detail. Hearing protection equipment is available for all employees whenever it is necessary. Ventilators are used to minimise dust accumulation in as far as is technically pos-

sible. Yarn rolls and the containers used to transport them are collected and reused, and employees are involved in the responsibilities of production, in that they are rewarded for innovative proposals, etc.



AG Cilander



23 journalists from five countries took part in the eterna press trip and gained information about environmentally-friendly conditions of production by touring plants.

AG Cilander has around 250 employees who work in three plants. The company finishes some 20 million running metres of textile material annually in finished widths of 180 cm (standard) and 340 cm (home textiles). Cilander provides a full range of textile finishing services, from pre-treatment, to dyeing, to the finishing of textiles and beyond, including post-production quality assurance testing in its own testing laboratory. Nevertheless, the company's specialty is "wrinkle free" permanent press finishes for fabrics for shirts and blouses.

In 1997, AG Cilander became the first plant in the world receive certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. Since the start of the 1990s, the company has also belonged to the pioneers of product certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100. Production and process control take place based on water and resource saving techniques. Beyond that, the chemicals used are continually monitored and optimised with respect to sustainability. Factors such as waste water treatment and cooling are also addressed with the most modern of technologies. New dyeing equipment and machines work more quickly, with greater precision and shorter liquor ratios. They also produce less waste. The application of modern dyes and auxiliaries supports the manufacturing process in addition to saving energy and water.

Yet at AG Cilander as well, it is ultimately the details that make the high environmental aims apparent. A bird normally found in exceptionally clean waters, the white-throated dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*) has chosen to settle in Glattbach, right next door to the Eisenhammer plant in Flawil.



AG Cilander specialises in "non-iron" finishes for shirting and blousing fabrics



Pre-treatment, dyeing, high-grade finishing, and final quality control in the company's own test laboratory - AG Cilander covers with its two production sites all stages of state-of-the-art textile finishing

Quality requirements for the European market



More than 130 interested participants gained information about the requirements for successfully entering the European market (from left to right): Dr. Moataz Shalabi, Head of the ÖTI Information Office, ATR Ltd. (Cairo); OEKO-TEX® General Secretary Raimar Freitag; Dr. Erich Zippel, Head of ÖTI – Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation; Dr. Rainer Herret, Head of the German-Arabic Chamber of Trade; Dr. Kult Altmann, Head of the Austrian Foreign Trade Mission

On 15 June 2009, the ÖTI – Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation (Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation) in Vienna, joined the International OEKO-TEX® Association, the German-Arabic Chamber of Trade and Industry, the Austrian trade mission in Egypt and Accompany and IMC (Industrial Modernisation Centre) in holding an informational event in Cairo. The speakers presented the basic requirements for textile products in Europe. The programme was titled “How to Enter the European Market?”



OEKO-TEX® Tex General Secretary Raimar Freitag (left) presenting Louis Bishara of the Bishara Textile & Garment Manufacturing Co. an OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certificate following successful completion of tests. The Bishara Company is one of the leading exporters of garments in Egypt and the Middle East (www.bishara.com.eg).



Dipl.-HTL-Ing. Helene Melnitzky, Head of the Department of Ecology and Health at ÖTI in Vienna, informs participants about product certifications in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100.

Another point emphasised at the event were ways to ease entry into the business of exporting – for example, through independent certifications

such as the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 as well as consistent implementation of product innovation. More than 130 participants from Egyptian industry, industrial associations, ministries and universities demonstrated the brisk interest of the regional textile sector in opportunities to optimise products that would allow companies to succeed in tough competition at the international level.

Since 2007, the office of the ÖTI in Cairo has been a place for local firms to find assistance and information. The information office of ATR Ltd. primarily offers certification of textile products in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, and, for environ-

mentally-friendly production facilities – certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. In addition, ÖTI provides a broad range of classic material and product tests for textiles and flooring materials in addition to certifying personal protec-

“Independent product certifications such as the tests for harmful substances according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 allow the Egyptian textile and garment manufacturers to position themselves successfully when exporting their products to the European target markets.”

Raimar Freitag, OEKO-TEX® Secretary General

tive equipment. All product testing is carried out in the ÖTI laboratory in Vienna.

For more information:

www.oeti.at	Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation (Vienna)
www.oeko-tex.com/institutes	Overview of all OEKO-TEX® member institutes and representative offices world-wide
www.oeko-tex.com/dates	Event calendar of the International OEKO-TEX® Association
www.bishara.com.eg	Company website of the Bishara Textile & Garment Manufacturing Co.



Dr. Moataz Shalabi, Head of the ÖTI Information Office, ATR Ltd. (Cairo)

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Modern knitted fabrics –

Faiss-Textil GmbH



Helmut Wolf (left) and Michael Gompper (starting from January 2010) are responsible for quality assurance according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 at Faiss Textil GmbH

Mr. Faiss, your company has already been certifying its fabrics according to the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 for 13 years. At that time, you were one of the OEKO-TEX® pioneers in the knitted garment industry.

Yes, this was something we were always very interested in - we wanted to produce only garment qualities which were also immaculate from a health point of view. Traditionally, manufacturers of underwear, night garments and other clothing that is worn right on the skin have been among our most important customers, but they also include reputable manufacturers of textile toys. All of these are sensitive product areas, where consumers consciously look for products with the corresponding labels. Based on the high profile and spread of the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, this type of certification has become a must for any textile manufacturer.

Do your customers specifically ask for OEKO-TEX® certifications?

Yes. Particularly manufacturers of medical textiles and work wear will require compliance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 as part of their delivery terms. Since our knitted fabrics are used for a wide variety of applications, we want to make sure that we can comply with the most strin-

gent requirements of the OEKO-TEX® Product Class I for baby products - and to communicate this to our customers. For this reason it would be nice if just one glance at an OEKO-TEX® label would tell a customer the product class for which the product has actually been certified.

In addition to the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, some of your knitted fabrics are also certified pursuant to the requirements of the International Association of the Natural Textile Industry.

Cotton from controlled organic production continues to gain in popularity across the globe. In this area we have also reacted to market developments and are increasingly focusing on processing kBA certified organic cotton from Turkey and Greece. These types of fabrics fulfil the criteria of the Global Organic Textile Standard of the IVN. Currently, the proportion of GOTS-certified fabrics is already at 12% of our total sales. In Germany, we are the market leader in knitted fabrics with respect to organic fabrics.

In your role as a manufacturer of knitted fabrics, what are some of the other alternatives which would allow you to retain your position in view of the structural changes that are taking place in the market?

In recent years, the increasing decline of customers from the clothing area - mainly manufacturers of underwear and children's clothing - has allowed us to expand the production of knitted fabrics for technical applications. At the present time, while 65% of our production is geared towards the clothing market, 35% of our production is already focused on technical textiles, an area which is becoming increasingly important.



Ulrich Faiss, CEO of Faiss Textil GmbH

In your view, where are some of the other business segments we may see in the future?

Based on the fact that many consumers have lost trust in products from Asia following repeated toy recalls, we have seen an increase in deliveries of knitted fabrics to toy manufacturers. Already now we count well-known German manufacturers of stuffed animals and other textile toys among our customers, and we expect to obtain more customers - also in the Far East.



Since 1995, production at Faiss Textil GmbH has been located in Balingen-Frommern.

Faiss-Textil GmbH products have been certified according to the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 since 1996. The news editor discussed the topic of ecology and the challenges of a global market with CEO Ulrich Faiss.

How many customers are currently receiving deliveries from your company?

We have a current customer base of approximately 250 active customers in 12 sales areas. We also deliver our fabrics into other European countries such as Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, France, Spain and the Netherlands. We also have customers in some Eastern European countries as well as in Costa Rica and Hong Kong.

Do you also participate in research projects?

Yes. Participation in research projects provides us with the opportunity to develop new business areas and expand our product range. For example, we currently have one project which looks at the development of innovative spacer fabrics for medical bandages to replace Neoprene products which are questionable from an ecological point of view. As well, by participating in research projects we are able to produce fabrics which are equipped with silver ions for an antimicrobial effect, or our micro fibre fabrics for cleaning purposes..

What is your recipe for success in times which are not exactly rosy in economic terms?

You cannot be successful without focusing on quality and efficiency. Our in-house photovoltaic facility, for example, covers 40% of our energy requirements and achieves a maxi-

imum capacity of 75,5 kW/p. Thanks for our elaborate quality assurance system, our error rate for production is only 1.5%, and customer complaints for last year were only 0.5%. With regard to optimising our operating processes, ISO 9001 certification which we have had since 2006 also represents an important building block. Moreover, our customers from the technical area, such as the automotive industry, now demand ISO certification as proof of quality, since it means that they do not have to conduct individual audits of their suppliers.

What opportunities and challenge do you see for your company in the future?

I think that anyone able to succeed in this market will likely do quite well in the future. We are continuing our consistent focus on quality and product innovations - especially when it comes to fabrics for technical applications. The REACh regulation is a challenge for us. In this case it would help if the OEKO-TEX Association would expand its information offering with regard to REACh for participating certificate holders.



Facts & Figures

Certifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISO 9001:2008 • OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 • Test Nr. 96.0.0978/1 – Product Class I (Baby products) • Test Nr. 96.0.0978/2 – Product Class II (Products which come into contact with skin) • GOTS pursuant to the guidelines of the International Association of Natural Textile Industry (IVN Internationaler Verband der Naturtextilwirtschaft), operator certificate Nr. 25314 • Use of certified cotton fibres from controlled organic production (kbA)
Warehouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of 80 - 100 t of raw fibres (flexible production) • Storage of 50 - 60 t of unfinished und finished knitted fabric in standard quality • Continuous supply of approx. 70 production samples made of coloured fibres as well as 40 fabric kbA fibre samples
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 30 qualified employees as well as 20 specialists in external contract finishing activities • Annual production capacity - approx. 1 million kg of fabric • 26 modern circular knitting machines as well as 8 older knitting machines for special knitted fabrics • Lead times between 3 days and 6 weeks - depending on requested quality • Two-shift operations, up to 3 shifts during high-volume periods • Error rate only 1.5% of total production due to elaborate quality assurance and highly modern equipment • Proportion of customer complaints only 0.5% of sales

History

1968	Faiss-Textil GmbH is founded as a contract winding plant (background: decline of Balingen furniture industry). Company founder Manfred Faiss took advantage of the flourishing textile industry to create a new beginning with a new company, both on a family and business level.
End of the 1960's	Introduction of combined spinning machines - winding factories as external service providers for winding spun yarns are becoming redundant
1980	Takeover of a local knitting company, which Manfred Faiss continues as a contract knitting plant
1980's	Development of in-house collections and final change-over to a real production operation for unfinished knitted fabrics
Beginning/middle of 1980's	Sons Ulrich Faiss and Hans-Joachim Faiss join the company
End of 1980's	Specialisation in the production of finished knitted fabrics / yard ware
1995	Relocation to new company building at Balingen-Frommern
Present	Growing production of innovative special knits for technical applications – on the other hand, classic knitted fabrics for clothing are on the decline due to the structural changes taking place in the industry

International

Confidence in Textiles is spreading quickly in the US – thanks to independent testing for harmful substances

It's been a busy 2009 for OEKO-TEX® in the United States. Even the recession hasn't seemed to slow down our retailers' enthusiasm for OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 certified products. Whether it be in the stores, on-line or via catalog, U.S. retailers are beginning to educate their shoppers about the benefits of purchasing OEKO-TEX® certified products for their families. Here's a look at a few new programs creating lots of excitement.

La-Z-Boy® is one of the world's leading residential furniture producers, marketing furniture for every room of the home. La-Z-Boy also operates more than 300 Furniture Galleries across the country and is one of the most recognized brand names in America. Launching its "eco-comfort" line of fabrics earlier this year, La-Z-Boy is using only OEKO-TEX® certified products and, with their marketing message, helping to educate American

furniture shoppers about the benefits of purchasing products that have been independently verified. No other furniture brand name is as well recognized as La-Z-Boy and launching with this major brand and retailer has created excitement and enthusiasm with the American furniture shopper.

Pottery Barn® catalogs, websites and retail stores have continued to promote their use of OEKO-TEX® certified products, particularly those which are targeted to kids or teens. Most of Pottery Barn's sheets and towels are certified and promoted either with a

"The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 Certification is an important component of our total ecological commitment"

Spencer Williams, President of West Paw Design®

hang-tag or retail/ on-line designation so consumers are aware that what they're buying is free from high concentrations of harmful substances.

From almost 300 stores across the United States, **Babies 'R Us®** sells infant and toddler apparel, furniture and feeding supplies. In March, Babies 'R Us

began discussions with their suppliers to start converting their bedding (crib sheets, bassinette covers, etc.) purchases to OEKO-TEX® certified products. Babies 'R Us is now developing signage to help educate their shoppers as to why Babies 'R Us is using OEKO-TEX® certified products. Moms across America will know they can have confidence that these products won't harm their children.

Gerber® is one of America's leading marketers of infant and children's apparel. Their Onesies® brand of one-piece underwear is a mainstay for infants across the country. As one of America's most trusted brand names, Gerber has chosen to become OEKO-TEX® certified in order to ensure and continue America's confidence.



"The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 Certification is an important component of our total ecological commitment," says Spencer Williams, President of **West Paw Design®**. West Paw is a high quality manufacturer and retailer of pet toys and beds with

an on-line and catalog customer base in the millions. West Paw just began promoting OEKO-TEX® in 2009 and has seen an immediate impact from their customers who are thanking them for their commitment and care.

Top quality and sustainably-produced textiles at Elastic Textile Europe GmbH



Modern warp knitting machines are used for making micro-fibre fabrics and standard knits for the lingerie and bathing costume industries as well as technical textiles for automobile manufacturers and fabrics for displays at industrial exhibitions.

content. At the same time, both the raw fabrics that have been produced and the ready-made, finished knits are subjected to comprehensive quality control testing before they are delivered to the “top players in the international lingerie, sportswear and bathing costume industries in Europe, Asia and America”. Quality assurance measures include continual monitoring the functional properties of the fabrics on the one hand, and checks of additional parameters such as colourfastness, durability, shrinkage, and workmanship on the other hand.

Sustainability as competitive advantage

Falco Weidemeyer emphasises, “We aspire to make products with genuine technical and aesthetic added-value. Responsibility for the environment and our surroundings, in other words – ecological and social sustainability – play a particularly major role for us as well. That has motivated us to become one of the first in our sector to implement such criteria in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 and 100 plus.” Documentation of successfully implemented environmentally-friendly production for consumers and traders is a logical step when sustainable production is viewed as contributing to success in that it sets a company apart from the competition.

Elastic offers its customers in the global lingerie industry five technically and stylistically varied types of fabric: contour, boudoir, nature, active and technical.

A real eye-catcher, and functional and comfortable as well! That is what the elastic fabrics and laces are that the Elastic Textile Europe GmbH offers to manufacturers of lingerie, sportswear and bathing costumes. Since December 2008, the company’s plant in Neukirchen, Hessen, has been using proven environmentally-friendly production methods to make quality products for many top of the line brand names such as Triumph, Felina, Chantelle, Aubade and Lejaby.

After two months of preparation, Elastic Textile Europe GmbH, or “Elastic” for short, was certified as an environmentally-friendly production site in accordance with the criteria set by the OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000. Elastic may also mark its fabrics and lace made of synthetic fibres with the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 plus label, meaning the products have been both tested for harmful substances and produced in an environmentally-friendly way. Founded as a family firm in 1958, the company currently led by CEO Falco Weidemeyer has an annual turnover of 22 million Euro after weathering some turbulent economic times at the beginning of the century. Some 133 highly-trained staff working with state-of-the-art machines allows the firm to main-

tain its leading position in the sector, producing some 300,000 metres each month to offer a full spectrum of quality fabrics. Beyond the sought-after knitted fabrics for products such as sportswear and lace materials for lingerie, Elastic’s product-range also includes technical textiles for medical applications, the automobile industry,

“Certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 isn’t the ultimate goal for us. Instead, it’s the place we crossed the starting line when it comes to sustainability and environmental protection.”

Klaus Krey, environmental protection officer at Elastic

exhibition displays and other industrial uses.

Flexible and customized services

A high level of quality-consciousness and outstanding readiness to innovate are part of the company ethos

at Elastic. Diversified technological equipment serves as the foundation for these characteristics.

Circular knitting machines, warp and raschel knitting machines, and weft-loc, rascheltronic and computer-controlled raschel lace machines are all used. These machines enable Elastic to maintain high levels of output of guaranteed consistent quality while responding very quickly and flexibly to its customers’ special needs.

Illustrative of the tailor-made services Elastic can offer is the market launch of Triumph’s Pure Origin® line of lingerie, a co-operative project featuring organic cotton with a 20 percent Elastan



Continuous environmental improvement

One of the first steps needed to be taken for certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 was a detailed analysis of the conditions at Elastic in order to assess all the relative environmental impacts, and the need, if any, to make changes. Some of the issues addressed were: Where in the production process, for example, is waste produced? How could patterns be cut to reduce excess to a minimum? Where are local waste recycling facilities? And so on. Once an inventory was taken, the measures were implemented at the firm: an environmental management system was established and an environmental management handbook, with binding guidelines for all parts of the company and staff, was published. An environmental protection officer, at

Elastic it is Klaus Krey, was appointed. His responsibility is to co-operate closely with management to ensure compliance with environmental and social criteria at the production facility in Neukirchen. Klaus Krey summarises the essence of the OEKO-TEX® auditing programme: "Certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 1000 isn't the ultimate goal for us. Instead, it's the place we crossed the starting line when it comes to sustainability and environmental protection." The aim is continual improvement of the company's environmental record. "That's why we provide continuing, regular training for all our staff in all the relevant areas," continues Krey, "so that all the employees can apply the principles in the handbook daily as they do their work." The on-site audit was carried out by OEKO-TEX® experts Bernhard Schlund, Dr.

Helmuth Hammerl and Ortrud Weber (Hohenstein Research Institute). Elastic's quality assurance manager, André Jubel, represented elastic, and all the preparations for certification were complete in just two months.

ELASTIC



WWW www.elastic.de

News

EU bans dimethylfumarate

The biocide dimethylfumarate (CAS-NR. 624-49-7) has been banned in the European Union since 1 May 2009. The ban applies to all consumer products that contain more than 0.1 mg/kg of the substance. The measure applies to all types of goods, but shoes, furniture and other leather products in particular.

Background:

Upon skin contact, dimethylfumarate can have a strong allergenic effect. Even in small concentrations, it can cause inflammation or allergic reactions so severe that they can resemble burns. Breathing difficulties may also occur.

Uses:

Dimethylfumarate is found primarily in "silica-gel" packets that come with many products to prevent the formation of mould and mildew during transport and storage in damp climates. Dimethyl fumarate evaporates from the packet and impregnates the leather so no mould or mildew can grow on it.

Legal status:

Biocide Directive 98/8/EG already forbids the use of dimethylfumarate in the manufacture of consumer goods within the EU. Yet the limit values for dimethylfumarate were recently tightened again by European Commission ruling 2009/251/EG. This decision is aimed at ensuring that products that contain dimethylfumarate made in third, non-EU countries or which have been transported by logistics firms are not placed or made available on the market in the EU.

Advice:

Silica gel pouches containing dimethylfumarate are not generally added to textile product packaging during transport and storage. However, if you have good reason to suspect that your products have come into contact with the substance, you can request one of the OEKO-TEX® member institutes to conduct laboratory tests for dimethylfumarate at any time.

Contact:
www.oeko-tex.com/institutes

OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 as forerunner:

- The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 has always excluded the use of dimethylfumarate as a biocidal finishing substance!
- When manufacturers apply for certification, the OEKO-TEX® Association expressly requires them each time to provide additional information if the products have been treated for transportation purposes.
- Biologically active products that are accepted by the OEKO-TEX® Association contain no dimethylfumarate!



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WWW www.oeko-tex.com/limitvalues

www.oeko-tex.com – Three new language versions



Information available online includes for example ...

www.oeko-tex.com/concept	Extensive initial information about the concept of testing for harmful substances
www.oeko-tex.com/certification	Overview of the certification process (initial certification, prolongation, extension of an certificate)
www.oeko-tex.com/labelling	Correct use of the OEKO-TEX® label for product labelling and advertising
www.oeko-tex.com/limitvalues	A complete overview of all OEKO-TEX® limit values and test criteria
www.oeko-tex.com/validity	Checking for the validity of existing OEKO-TEX® certifications by means of the indicated test number on the label
www.oeko-tex.com/downloads	A comprehensive download area with all necessary documents for certification, advertising materials, the newsletter archive etc.
www.oeko-tex.com/companies	Interactive search for suppliers/companies with OEKO-TEX® certificate (possible selections: company name, world region/country)
www.oeko-tex.com/products	Interactive search for textile products certified according to OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 (possible selections: world region/country, product material, product category)
www.oeko-tex.com/brands	Interactive search for OEKO-TEX® certified product brands (selection according to product categories)
www.oeko-tex.com/news	Dates of world-wide OEKO-TEX® events, subscription of the OEKO-TEX® newsletter, current information about selected subjects (e.g. REACH etc.)
www.oeko-tex.com/acps	List of active chemical products accepted by the OEKO-TEX® Association
www.oeko-tex.com/institutes	Addresses and contact persons of all OEKO-TEX® member institutes and representative offices world-wide

Global interest by companies along the textile value chain in product certification according to the OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 continues unabated. More than 12,000 certificates were awarded in the last year alone, with

most of the certification activities centring on the Asian region. There is also growing interest from manufacturers in Eastern Europe. To address these developments, the OEKO-TEX® Association has expanded its web

presence at www.oeko-tex.com by adding three new language versions – Korean, Indonesian and Hungarian. In total, the website is now available in 15 languages.

Miscellaneous

If it's tested for harmful substances, it runs better, too!

Runners from the Hohenstein Institute provided evidence for that on 3 September, when they took part in the Heilbronn Company Run and managed to place third in the competition.



There's nothing better than being there! But a team from the Hohenstein Institute (the four runners on the right) did better than that from the get-go. They managed to place third in a field of 130 mixed teams.

promenade on the banks of the Neckar River. Two teams of four from the Hohenstein Textile Research Centre were in top form thanks to their superb equipment. Wearing T-shirts that had passed tests for harmful substances and were sponsored by the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre GmbH, the eight runners from Hohenstein ran not only personal bests, but also made it onto the victory podium in the mixed-team completion: Hohenstein's Team 2 was the third of 130 other groups to cross the finish line. Company runs are a new trend all across the country. Yet for the runners, rather than the time it takes to go the distance, the main



If it's tested for harmful substances, it runs better, too! The T-shirts sponsored by the OEKO-TEX® Certification Centre that are being worn by the runners from Hohenstein have been successfully tested in accordance with OEKO-TEX® Standard 100.

Some 1,300 runners persisted and were not about to let dark clouds dampen their mood. They set off along the idyllic 5.2 kilometre

kick from the competition is that the quartet covers the entire route as a team.

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