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Oeko-Tex to attend Heimtextil 2008 with a new exhibition stand Product flyers and counter displays for the specialist trade – prize draw with high-value prizes

Tried and tested service with a new look: in 2008, the Oeko-Tex Association will once again be in Hall 8, D96 at the Heimtextil show in Frankfurt, ready to act as a competent adviser to visitors on all matters relating to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, but this time it will have a newly designed stand, intended to do greater justice to the international importance of the independent test and certification system.

The experts from the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre and other Oeko-Tex test institutes will also be presenting a new publicity kit for specialists and retailers in German speaking countries to inform their end users, consisting of a flyer listing the main benefits of domestic textiles that have been tested for harmful substances and a matching dispenser for displaying brochures on the counter, and a box for collecting prize draw entries. There will also be a prize draw on the Oeko-Tex stand every day for an iPod and two exclusive Oeko-Tex shower towels.

Anyone who does not have the opportunity to view and order the new advertising material at the Heimtextil show can also do so after the exhibition. At the end of January, the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre will be sending a circular out to

the German specialist trade about the publicity kits, which are available free of charge even in quite large numbers. From 9 January, these will be available to view and order on the Oeko-Tex website at www.oeko-tex.com (menu item “Marketing aids – publicity material”). Orders for publicity material can also be placed by phone on tel. no. +49 6196 966-259. Attached to the information flyer about domestic textile products is a prize draw promotion in which end users can take part until 31 May 2008. Matching entry forms can be positioned alongside the counter display and can also be obtained free of charge. Prizes to be won include high-quality domestic and household textiles – tested for harmful substances under Oeko-Tex Standard 100, naturally.

Hall 8.0, Stand D96



The new Oeko-Tex exhibition stand for the Heimtextil in Frankfurt.

The competition at the exhibition stand:



Come, Listen, Relax & Win: We're giving away an iPod a day!
www.oeko-tex.com
Hall 8.0 D96



The new flyer on home textiles for end consumers.



Oeko-Tex attracts interest of US market



The "Confidence in textiles – tested for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100" label is gaining more ground in the US consumer market. The Oeko-Tex Association acknowledged this trend by holding its annual General Managers Meeting in New York between 29 and 31 October 2007. Oeko-Tex has been observing a growing demand for certified products on the American continent where, in the last year alone, the number of certificates issued rose by 41 percent.

Under the guidance of Prof. Manfred Wentz, Oeko-Tex USA, intensive contact between Oeko-Tex officials and renowned North American companies has succeeded in successfully conveying the additional benefits for the consumer of textiles tested for harmful substances, and the advantages of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 for the companies' quality assurance. Furthermore there is great interest in the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 production-related award concept, which audits and certifies both optimised production processes and fair social working conditions at the location concerned.

Jutta Knels,
German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre

Limit values and test criteria – Oeko-Tex extends the regulations on harmful substances

As always, the Oeko-Tex Association has revised the limits and criteria for testing for harmful substances in accordance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100 in the

light of current market trends and legal requirements, with the changes due to take effect from 1 January 2008.

Harmonising the Oeko-Tex test parameters with the "Restricted Substances List" of the American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA) will make Oeko-Tex testing more attractive to American textile and clothing companies in future. Even before now, the Oeko-Tex list of requirements covered most of the textile-relevant test criteria of the AAFA. From the start of the year, Oeko-Tex laboratory tests will include checks for six more organochlorine pesticides (isodrin, kelevan, kepone, perthane, strobane and telodrin). Triphenyltin (TPt) is newly included as a harmful substance. Asbestos fibres are banned from use, as they are by the AAFA.

With regard to chlorinated phenols, in future all three possible isomers of tetrachlorophenol will be measured. Until now, only 2,3,5,6-tetrachlorophenol has been tested for. The limit that was previously set for this single substance will apply to the total of all three isomers from now on.

As a result of the reassessment of dibutyl tin by the European Union, the previous Oeko-Tex requirements for DBT in Product Class I (baby articles),

"With the latest additions to its list of criteria, the Oeko-Tex Standard strengthens its position as the world's leading label for textiles tested for harmful substances."

Dr. Rainer Weckmann, Forschungsinstitut Hohenstein

where the limit is 2 ppm, have also been extended to apply to Product Classes II (products used in close contact with the skin), III (clothing not worn next to the skin) and IV (finishing materials).



Finally, the rules on assessing active chemical products (ACP) have also been modified. From this year, textiles with biologically active treatments are

essentially banned from all four Oeko-Tex product classes; whereas previously their use was allowed for furnishing materials (PC IV), now all biologically active products come under the ACP rules. This means that only those products may be certified under Oeko-Tex Standard 100 which have been explicitly confirmed by an independent team of experts from the Oeko-Tex Association as not being harmful to human health. Clothing textiles treated with a flame retardant also fall under the ACP rules. However, those textiles treated with a flame retardant remain unaffected by the new rules if they continue to be approved for certification in Product Class IV with certain restrictions.

The latest summary of the Oeko-Tex test criteria and limit values can be downloaded from the Internet at www.oeko-tex.com.

The Oeko-Tex list of criteria currently comprises over 100 separate parameters, covering not only chemicals that are dangerous or potentially harmful to human health, but also some substances that are included in the interests of preventing risks to health. In particular, textile products are tested for carcinogenic and allergenic dyes, banned AZO dyes and pesticide residues. There are also strict limits for formaldehyde, extractable heavy metals, chlorinated phenols and toluenes and organic tin compounds. Finally, textiles must have a certain degree of colourfastness and a skin-friendly pH value. Currently over 8000 producers in about 80 countries all over the world apply Oeko-Tex criteria continuously in their quality assurance system. A total of over 62,000 certificates have so far been issued for millions of individual products.

www.oeko-tex.com

Relevance of REACH to clothing textiles?

The European Chemicals Regulation (REACH) which came into force on 1 June 2007 is causing considerable irritation right along the textile chain. Those most affected by the regulations will be the textile finishers, since they use chemicals (REACH uses the term "substance") directly. However, there may also be new obligations arising from the REACH regulations for garment-makers



Dr. Friedhelm Ahlers, Environmental Officer at the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry (textil + mode)

Article 7 is about chemicals in end products. A distinction is made between, on the one hand, chemicals in end products which are intended

to be released from the product, such as an active cleaning substance from a cloth, and, on the other hand, particularly worrying chemicals which are contained in the product. A so-called "candidates list", listing all the substances of particularly high concern, is not expected to be published by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on their website until between 1.6.2008 and 1.6.2009. Extensive research by the umbrella organisation textil+mode has shown that no SVHC substances (substances of very high concern) are used in German textile companies in producing clothing textiles.

and retailers, albeit on a smaller scale. Out of the total 141 articles in the regulations, everyone dealing with textiles for clothing should be familiar with Articles 7 and 33, whether they are garment-makers, retailers or importers. These two articles deal with end products, which could certainly be textiles for clothing.

Article 33 deals with the duty of information within the supply chain, especially in the case of a product containing SVHC substances beyond a certain concentration. According to this, any supplier of a product containing a substance of very high concern must, within 45 days of a request from a consumer, provide sufficient information to the consumer to allow safe use of the product, but at the very least give the name of the substance in question.

In theory, it is certainly worth noting Articles 7 and 33, but in practice they are only relevant to clothing

textiles if a chemical is intended to be released from the textile or is listed in the "candidates list".

Since the "candidates list" is only going to be updated on a two-year cycle, there is a great danger that the irritation caused by REACH will not be entirely assuaged.

Confidence in Textiles – greater transparency for allergy sufferers

Under the slogan “Allergies: better protection, more effective prevention”, a consumer policy conference took place in Berlin on 13 September, on the initiative of the German Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV). About 300 experts, doctors and interested parties from the fields of politics, medicine, consumer and self-help organisations, as well as industry federations,

came together to discuss the action plan to combat allergies which was introduced by the Consumer Protection Minister Horst Seehofer at the start of 2007. Its aim is to bring about a sustained improvement in the everyday lives of allergy sufferers and to avoid as many new causes of sensitivity as possible in the future.

Specialist forum for clothing and toys

The framework in which specific ways of taking action were discussed was in the form of separate specialist forums, focusing on different areas of life in which people suffer from allergies: “Food & Drink”, “Beauty and Skincare”, “Outdoors” and “Travel and Transport”. Another forum also dealt with “Clothing and Toys”. In this field, according to Prof. Thomas Platzek from the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), the present situation is that 1 - 2% of all the contact allergies registered by skin clinics can be attributed to textiles. In particular, strongly sensitising dispersion dyes are cited as triggers for allergies. The BfR is therefore recommending that eight of these dyes should no longer be used. For formaldehyde, the level at which it has to be declared should be reduced to 0.05% (500ppm). At present, the ban on carcinogenic azo-dyes, the compulsory labelling of formaldehyde levels of more than 0.15%, and the limit for nickel release are controlled by the Consumer Goods Regulations (BGVO 2000). With regard to leather clothing and

shoes, the BfR is proposing setting a specific limit for chrome, based on the limit of detection. For rubber, it would make sense to reduce the latex protein content and to point out that this could be a possible trigger for allergic reactions. Traces of vulcanisation accelerators should be reduced to the technically unavoidable minimum.

Progress in the field of contact allergies

The general feeling at the consumer policy conference in Berlin was that, in the field of contact allergies, good progress has been being made for years. Even representatives of consumer organisations now admit that the voluntary commitment by textile and clothing manufacturers increasingly to offer end users products that are not harmful to health, based on the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, is bearing fruit.

Currently, over 8000 companies worldwide, all along the textile chain, are involved in the Oeko-Tex test and certification system, supplying retailers with millions of textile

articles, textile toys, and clothing worn next to the skin such as underwear, through to domestic textiles such as towels, bedding and decorative materials. By being Oeko-Tex certificated, these companies are ensuring that the use of nickel and formaldehyde is significantly reduced or that they are replaced by other substances. For example, metallic accessories (zips, buttons, rivets) on textile products are checked for nickel release during the tests in the Oeko-Tex laboratory, and if they do not comply with the required limits, they cannot be certificated. Similarly, the ban on using 21 allergenic dyes (including the eight strongly sensitising dyes which the BfR has on its wish-list) imposed by the Oeko-Tex Association and its 14 independent test institutes worldwide has had such an effect on the textile chain that these dyes have been consistently avoided by the textile and clothing industry for several years now.

Transparency makes every day life of allergy-sufferers easier

For consumers who are plagued by allergies, the “Confidence in Textiles” label creates greater transparency when they are buying textiles – regardless of where they buy their clothes or where they were manufactured. In the discussion among people attending the conference in Berlin, it became clear that if textile manufacturers voluntarily refrain from using certain chemicals as defined by the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – meaning that they are going well beyond legal requirements – this can be one of many constructive ways of making everyday life easier for allergy-sufferers. However, it was also acknowledged that unfortunately such desirable transparency is still not available for many brand-name articles.



“As a basic principle, textiles in Germany [should] fulfil the requirements of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 quality label. [...] To end consumers, such labels are a valuable help when buying textiles.”

Gerd Billen, member of the executive board of the Consumer Advice Centre - Federal Association, in his presentation at the allergy conference in Berlin

articles that have been tested for harmful substances in virtually all product segments, from baby arti-

Oeko-Tex International

on the “High-Tex from Germany” stand in Mumbai



Hartmut Schauerte, Parliamentary State Secretary at the BMWi (Federal Ministry of Economics) with Birgit Klaus, German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre.

At the Techtextil India 2007 exhibition in Mumbai from 10 – 12 October, the German Certification Centre Oeko-Tex GmbH, Eschborn, for the first time joined in the shared German Pavilion “High-Tex from Germany”.

On all three days of the exhibition, there was great interest in the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 as an independent test system for products at all stages of the textile value chain, including accessories. Predominantly Indian textile and clothing manufacturers found out about Oeko-Tex certification as an important prerequisite for exporting their products to Europe. The Heimtextil and Texworld India shows, which were taking place simultaneously, also created synergy effects for the Oeko-Tex label, since there is strong demand in both fields for Oeko-Tex certificated goods. About 300 textile and clothing manufacturers in India are currently working with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100.

A mobile exhibition stand for Oeko-Tex events

The concept of an internationally oriented Oeko-Tex exhibition stand, first launched at ITMA, was successfully adapted to meet the needs of a regional exhibition for the first time at the “High-Tex” in Mumbai. In future, all Oeko-Tex member institutes and their representative offices will be able to use the exhibition stand when taking part in smaller shows and events.

Contact address for enquiries:
certification.knels@oeko-tex.com.



From left to right:
Dr Boris Bauer, Hohenstein Research Institute, Germany; Jacob Kutty, Hohenstein India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai; Birgit Klaus, German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre; Vignesh Amalraj, Hohenstein India Pvt. Ltd., Tirupur

USA

Dr. Manfred Wentz Invited to Address U. S. Automotive Industry

Continental, one of the largest suppliers to the international automotive industry, featured Dr. Manfred

Wentz at its "Technology in Dialogue" conference for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, MI on August 22, 2007.

Dr. Wentz's presentation was entitled Oeko-Tex Standard 100 Certification: A Measure of Human Ecology for Car Interiors? The presentation outlined the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 chemical criteria and discussed their use for quantifying potentially harmful substances in car interiors.

"U. S. consumer concern about hazardous chemicals is growing

every day. Continental recognizes that consumers naturally extend this concern to their car interiors. The company has certified several of their car interior products with Oeko-Tex 100," says Dr. Wentz. "Volvo's success with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification is evident and U. S. automakers like Ford are motivated to provide a similar level of confidence in their cars."

The Ecology Group in Ann Arbor, MI published in March 2007 "The Consumer Guide to Toxic Chemicals in Cars" for Model Year 2006/2007 (www.healthy-car.org). It rated Volvo

as having the least toxic car interior. Volvo's upholstery and interior textiles are Oeko-Tex certified.

"U. S. consumer concern about hazardous chemicals is growing every day. Continental recognizes that consumers naturally extend this concern to their car interiors. The company has certified several of their car interior products with Oeko-Tex 100."

Manfred Wentz, Oeko-Tex USA



U.S. Home Furnishings Retailer Pottery Barn starts with Oeko-Tex

Style-conscious U. S. consumers now have confidence in the textiles they buy from Pottery Barn and Pottery Barn Kids. That's because select towels, bedding, and baby clothes now carry the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 label. Pottery Barn is a subsidiary of Williams Sonoma, Inc., a \$3.7 billion retailer. Pottery Barn operates 270 stores in the U.S. as well as a very popular catalog business. They are considered to be one of the most fashionable home furnishings retailers in the country.

"Pottery Barn Kids uses the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 label as a guarantee to parents that its children's products are safe as well as to strengthen its 'Commitment to What's Natural' campaign," says Manfred Wentz, U. S. Director of Oeko-Tex. "The company has now extended the Oeko-Tex certification to select toweling it sells under the Pottery Barn label. As their consumers continue to respond positively to the Oeko-Tex guarantee, I expect that other Pottery Barn product lines will soon become certified."

The Oeko-Tex Standard 100 label is swiftly gaining recognition in the U. S. home furnishings marketplace as the global authority on textile safety. "We have made tremendous progress in the U. S. and expect many home furnishings manufacturers and retailers to follow Pottery Barn's lead," says Wentz. "The U. S. home furnishings market is ready for the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 message and I'm working closely with several prominent companies to expand our presence here in the U. S."

Like you, we believe that everything in your baby's world should be soft, safe and gentle. That's why many of our products are made of organic cotton fiber and many are approved by Oeko-Tex, the world's definitive ecological certification process. So you can find naturally beautiful ways to make your baby's world a place you both love - pure and simple.

pottery barn kids

www.potterybarnkids.com | 800.969.4933

"Pottery Barn marks select towels, bedding, and baby clothes with the "Confidence in Textiles" label. As their consumers continue to respond positively to the Oeko-Tex guarantee, I expect that other Pottery Barn product lines will soon become certified, too."

Manfred Wentz, Oeko-Tex USA

USA • Annual meeting of the Oeko-Tex General Managers in New York City

The International Oeko-Tex Association held its Annual General Managers Conference in New York City on October 29-31. The meeting was the first ever to be held in the United States in recognition of Oeko-Tex's rapidly expanding presence in this market.

Among other agenda items, Oeko-Tex general managers reviewed the organization's Restricted Substances List (RSL) against which all textile products are evaluated before receiving the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification. The Oeko-Tex RSL goes beyond government mandated limits to include other substances which, according to current knowledge, are harmful to health but which are not yet regulated or prohibited by law, such as pesticides, allergy-inducing dyestuffs or tin-organic compounds.

"Our general managers possess the most cutting-edge knowledge of textile processing chemistry from around the world" says Raimar Freitag, International General Secretary of the

Oeko-Tex Association. "We collaborate to ensure that our Oeko-Tex RSL reflects the latest developments in the field. Oeko-Tex certification provides a consistent global standard

"I was impressed by the scope and thoroughness of the Oeko-Tex certification."

Jim Frankenfield, CEO of Arvind Mills Limited.

that inspires confidence in the textile products that attain the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 guarantee."

While in New York, the Oeko-Tex general managers hosted a reception at the Fashion Institute of Technology which was attended by more than 100 people including media, retailers, manufacturers, and other textile industry dignitaries. At the

event, guests viewed Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certified products from around the world and learned more about the certification process.

"I was impressed by the scope and thoroughness of the Oeko-Tex certification," says Jim Frankenfield, CEO of Arvind Mills Limited. "Going through the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification process is a positive one for all elements of the textile supply chain. Companies are able to confirm that their products are manufactured according to the highest global standards and provide to their customers the guarantee that their products are safe for human use."

Says Donna Sizemore, Director of Marketing for NanoHorizons, "American consumers are ready for the Oeko-Tex message, especially after the recent troubling incidents with children's clothing. Consumers don't have time to worry about whether their clothing is harming them. The Oeko-Tex certification can reassure consumers and give a competitive advantage to the brands and retailers who offer it."



The General Managers of the Oeko-Tex member institutes at their annual meeting in New York.



General Managers from the International Oeko-Tex Association mingle with U.S. media representatives and apparel industry leaders at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York.



David DaPonte of LL Bean discussing environmental initiatives with Kathleen Huddy Sperduto of Good Housekeeping magazine.



Guests learning more about the modular nature of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100.



Dr. Tony Sagar, CEO of Shirley Technologies Ltd., and his wife reviewing one of more than 100 articles on display bearing the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 label.



Jim Frankenfield, CEO of Arvind Mills Limited, in discussion with Marie Piraneo of Family Circle Magazine



Donna Sizemore (center), Director of Sales and Marketing for NanoHorizons with Melissa Hunter (left) of zCW and Nicole Richards, also of NanoHorizons



Dr. Haug of the Testex institute reviewing the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 with Debi Auman (zCW), Nicole Richards (NanoHorizons) and Denine Woodrow (D.P. Woodrow and Co.).



“made in Green”: WHAT, WHY AND WHAT FOR?



The globalisation of markets has had a special effect on manufactured products in general and, since 1 January 2005, especially on household textiles, knitwear and clothing. The impact of China's entry into the

W.T.O. (World Trade Organisation) has acted as a lively accelerator of the market globalisation processes and of transoceanic trade activity.

As frequently occurs with profound changes that take place at a rapid pace, situations of imbalance can occur with regard to some concepts and characterisation criteria of products and their conditions of manufacture, which are regulated by the legislation of countries in general, and especially in western countries.

“made in Green” was launched because of this, as an ecological and social product certification promoted by AITEX, with an international sphere of reference. The purpose is to be recognised by the end user and by the textile production value chain on a worldwide level as the new green stamp of quality visually labelled on the product. At the moment, 17 Spanish companies (e.g. yarn producers, weavers and textile finishers) are certificated according to the requirements of the “made in Green” label.

The ecological concept is based and founded on the following three pillars:



Product:

the textile article contains no substances harmful to health. The product requires Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification.



Environment:

respect for the environment in production centres where the product has been manufactured. The product should be manufactured in production centres with an environmental management system such as ISO 14001, Oeko-Tex 1000, EMAS or an equivalent standard (company or manufacturer certification).



Social criteria:

respect for human rights and the universal rights of workers as defined by the ILO (International Labour Organisation). The product should be manufactured in production centres which have implemented a code of conduct and responsibility which contains, as a minimum, the standard defined by AITEX (CCRS-AITEX) based principally on international standard SA8000, and this code of conduct must be audited externally by an independent body of recognised standing.

The objective of “made in Green” is to ensure that the globalisation logic of commercial activity brings with it the globalisation of the three aforementioned aspects to ensure that market competition does not lead to unfair competition for anyone, but rather is fair and reasonable in the light of the concepts that are regulated by law in the western world.

- More information on the “made in Green” initiative:
www.madeingreen.com
- Reference list with all companies that are certificated with the “made in Green” label:
www.madeingreen.com/w3c/en/ser.html

“The aim of the „made in Green” initiative is an international certification of textiles that are manufactured under eco-friendly and social conditions. The products have to be safe in terms of human ecology, and must be manufactured in environmentally friendly factories that respect social standards.”

Vicente Blanes,
Director of the AITEX institute



AITEX – Instituto Tecnológico Textil

AITEX is a private, non-profit making association of textile and textile related companies which aims to

improve and encourage competitiveness in the textile sector. With this in mind, the institute's remit includes encouraging modern methods and introducing new emerging technologies through R+D projects and activities which will contribute to industrial progress in the sector.

As a result, the work of the Technological Textile Institute is closely linked to the industries in the sector, either through the advanced technical services that the institute provides, or through research projects contracted with

businesses on a strictly confidential basis, or by means of publicly funded projects, in which case the results are made available to the sector in general.

AITEX employs at the moment about 100 highly qualified experts and runs three sites in Spain as well as an overseas office in Pakistan. The institute has been a member of the Oeko-Tex Association since 1994, and has certificated numerous Spanish companies according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 with great success up to now.

AITEX – Instituto Tecnológico Textil

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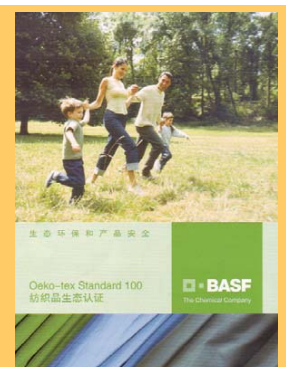
News

BASF flyer lists Oeko-Tex-approved chemicals

At a seminar given by the Apparel & Footwear International RSL Management Working Group (AFIRM) in Shanghai at the end of September, the chemical giant BASF published an eco-brochure in Chinese. Among other things, this included a flyer about those products sold by the company which comply with the requirements of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100. According to BASF, the new brochure met with great interest from local textile manufacturers. The Oeko-Tex product infor-

mation will shortly also be coming out in an international version in English. Lists in English and Chinese of Oeko-Tex approved dyes and auxiliaries used by the company can already be downloaded from the BASF website at www.performancechemicals.basf.com.

The new BASF flyer with Oeko-Tex approved products.



High-quality home textiles from Spain – MANUEL REVERT Y CIA S.A. presents itself



MANUEL REVERT is Spain's leading exporter of home textiles such as furnishing materials, bedspreads and upholstery fabrics, and serves an established clientele in more than 60 countries world-wide.

In its premises, a modern industrial complex of more than 50.000 m², the company

combines state-of-the-art technologies with highly-skilled employees. MANUEL

REVERT's philosophy is characterised by permanent innovation and optimal customer services. As a result, the company claims high quality standards with respect to production processes as well as its products, and is deeply committed to a range of extensive ecological measures.

In 1994, MANUEL REVERT was the first firm in its sector to be accredited by AENOR / IQNET according to ISO 9002, and since 2000 is also certificated according to ISO 9001. In addition, the products of the home textiles manufacturer have received Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification since 1998,

and the production site in Agullent (Valencia) was one of the pioneers in Spain to be certificated as eco-friendly factory according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000.



High-quality interiors for every taste.

Interview with José Ramón Revert, Director Manuel Revert y CIA

Your enterprise is one of the enterprises that has relied in the ecological enterprise certification, Oeko-Tex Standard 1000. Which are the reasons that leaded you to take this decision?

Revert has always been a company with a high respect towards the environment, an example of this can be shown in the fact that they have always taught their employees the importance of wastes management in what regards to selective separation even when the environmental legislation did not require a strict control.

The constant creation of laws in this topic drove us to widen the policy of the enterprise, creating the Environment Department that is in charge of ensuring all the current legislation is taken into account, optimising the resources and involving all workers to analyse and propose improvements. The effort that Revert is performing in this topic would not be public without a Certification such as Ecological Enterprise.

Other reason why we decided to go for this certification is its wideness, as it takes into account other kind of aspects as having a Quality Management System implanted and

being certified by Oeko-Tex Standard 100 for Harmful Substances for the health.

Which kind of resources has to employ your organisation in order to maintain this Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 certification?

"The best evidence that we can show our clients regarding the respect of Revert towards the environment is renewing the certification regularly without any problems."

José Ramón Revert, Direktor von MANUEL REVERT

Our enterprise has since 1996 the Certificate of Registered Enterprise for the ISO 9001, and in 1998 we achieved the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certificate ensuring that our products do not have harmful substances for our health. As I said before, the fulfilment of the environmental legislation is one of our premises, therefore maintaining the Ecological Enterprise Certificate is not an excessive effort, as in the documental aspect it should be stated that Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 does not mean more bureaucracy for us.

What would you tell to indecisive textile entrepreneurs so they may desire to obtain this environmental management certification?

It is a certificate that supports the public image of an ecological enterprise in a world in where this image is more and more claimed. Keeping this certification is not expensive and the obtained added value is high.

Which kind of advantages does this certification has towards your clients? And against your competition?

The best evidence that we can show our clients regarding the respect of Revert towards the environment is renewing the certification regularly without any problems.

Lastly, which actions would you like to be started from within the Oeko-Tex International Secretariat in order to increase the number of certified enterprises and their international recognition?

I would prefer international knowledge. It would be of great importance that enterprises with the Ecological Enterprise Certificate would

have higher advertising, so the end consumer would prefer to give value to this effort by choosing a product of an enterprise certified by the Standard 1000, giving this way a boost in sales.



MANUEL REVERT headquarters in Agullent (Valencia).

ITMA 2007: a record number of exhibitors and more international than ever – Oeko-Tex celebrates its successful premiere

The growing internationalisation and globalisation of the textile industry was impressively reflected at ITMA 2007 in Munich. Over 118,000 specialists from 149 countries, including 45% first-time visitors, came to the showground in Munich for this, the 15th International Textile Machinery Exhibition, from 13 to 20 September. Never before had

there been visitors from so many different countries at an ITMA. The Oeko-Tex Association also expressed itself highly satisfied with its first attendance at ITMA, where it had reinforced its concept of independent testing for harmful substances as a globally available tool, providing information right along the textile chain.



France, Switzerland, Spain, Iran and Belgium. There was a particularly high level of interest from the countries of South and Central America, such as Brazil with over 4500 visitors, Argentina with over 2000 and Mexico with over 1500. Altogether, about 12,000 visitors came from South and Central America to ITMA 2007. Over the whole period of the exhibition, over 95,000 specialist visitors came from other countries. That equates to over 80% of the total visitor numbers.

Record number of exhibitors

At ITMA 2007, in an area of 102,000 square metres, 1451 companies from 41 countries showed visitors and rival companies their latest developments and technical innovations

for the entire textile chain. This wide range of exhibitors was very highly appreciated: 67% of visitors and nearly 65% of exhibitors awarded this year's show in Munich significantly better marks than previous events.

Another highlight was the "Research & Education Area" in Hall B2, organised for first time in the history of ITMA. 1365 specialist visitors attended about 30 lectures in "Speaker's Corner".

The world speaks Oeko-Tex

At the ITMA premiere of the Oeko-Tex Association, 34 experts from 14 official Oeko-Tex institutions around the world (institutes, representative offices, head office, certification centres) gave the interested specialist

public chapter and verse about the benefits and procedures of the test and certification system, in the course of numerous face-to-face meetings. The prize draws that had been set up on the exhibition stand were also very popular, with two exclusive iPods engraved with the Oeko-Tex logo available to win each day.

Broad range of visitors

The majority of the visitors to the Oeko-Tex stand, about 51%, were textile and clothing manufacturers whose products are not yet certificated under Oeko-Tex Standard 100 and who therefore wanted to find out in detail about the necessary requirements and costs, and the procedure for certification. About 20% of the visitors were from companies which



The Oeko-Tex executive committee was also present at the ITMA stand. F.r.t.l.: Dr Stefan Mecheels, CEO of the Hohenstein Research Institute (Germany); Oeko-Tex General Secretary Raimar Freitag; Dr Erich Zippel, CEO of the Institute for Ecology, Technology and Innovation (Austria). Left in the picture: Dr Jean Pierre Haug, Manager Testing Centre at the Swiss Textile Testing institute Testex.



At the ITMA, the Oeko-Tex experts at the stand were vested with corporate fashion by Dinovo. Corporate fashion collections of Dinovo have been certificated according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 since 1998.

have an Oeko-Tex certificate, who took the opportunity of visiting the show to discuss certain aspects of their existing certification with one of the Oeko-Tex representatives who was there. The fact that the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is also held in high

esteem outside the industry was demonstrated by the remaining 29% of visitors who were, for example, from the specialist press, trade associations, research and higher education institutions or were retailers or company consultants.

ITMA radio station interviews Dr. Jean Pierre Haug

"What we have observed these last months is a growing sensibility of textile manufacturers for the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000, that is to say for production ecology."



It was not only visitors to the exhibition who showed great interest in the first appearance by the International Oeko-Tex Association at ITMA in Munich, but also the organisers themselves: in an interview on the **ITMA radio station on 18 September**, Dr Jean Pierre Haug of the Swiss textile testing institute Testex, in Zurich, described the basic principles of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 and pointed out how, in the light of the current debate about climate change, the production-based auditing of factories for compliance with the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 is becoming more and more important. **The complete interview with Dr Jean Pierre Haug can be downloaded as an audio recording from the Oeko-Tex website www.oeko-tex.com under menu item "News".**



CENTROCOT— Textile competence made in Italy



Centro Tessile Cotoniero e Abbigliamento S.p.a., known as Centrocot, was founded in 1987 on the initiative of entrepreneurial and trade associations, public authorities (Chamber of Commerce, Province,

Municipalities) and local banks. The Centrocot mission is to provide specialised services to companies throughout the whole chain of the textile and clothing sector.



The Busto Arsizio premises include two complexes housing offices, laboratories for testing, research and experimentation, and rooms for training activities, quality assurance and environmental consultancy. The staff of over 60 employees together with a team of experts carry out technical testing, research and experimentation, training and advice.

More than 5000 companies use Centrocot services, among which are small, medium-sized and big firms located in northern and central Italy.

Since 1994 Centrocot has been a member of the international Oeko-Tex Association, and currently issues about 600 Oeko-Tex certificates each year, with an upward trend. Since 1998 the institute is also authorized to carry out audits and certification of environmentally friendly production sites according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000.

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Laboratory services

The laboratory is the most advanced in Italy at the moment for the textile and clothing sector, carrying out tests in compliance with national (UNI) and international (EN, ISO, DIN, AFNOR, BS, ASTM, AATCC, JIS, EDANA, SNV, etc.) technical standards.

- Defects analysis
- Physical and mechanical tests for the analysis of the textile products' technical features and performance
- Chemical and dye tests of textile products in the various stages of processing
- Ecological tests
- Flame resistance tests of textile materials for furnishings and clothing
- Testing of PPE (personal protective equipment)
- Comfort testing of textiles and clothing
- Biological and hygiene tests of textile products
- Identification and certification of the UV ray protection of textiles
- Calibrations for colour measurement

Training Services

Centrocot has always been sensitive to the needs for growth and development of human resources and its training courses are customised to meet company needs.

- Regular seminars for the textile, clothing, and finishing sector
- Personalised in-company courses on request from individual companies
- Advice bureau for funding opportunities for training
- Technical publications

Research

Centrocot considers itself as an interface between the institutional Research Bodies and the world of enterprise with the necessary know-how to identify common needs and to transform these often implicit needs into projects.

By constant contact between its own technological sectors and European and international partners, Centrocot has promoted and carried out research projects that have had direct and significant effects on companies.

Accreditations

- UNI CEI EN ISO/IEC 17025:2000 standard
- UNI EN ISO 9001:2000 standard
- Oeko-Tex Standard 100
- Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 and 100plus
- UV Standard 801
- European Eco-Label
- CE conformity certifications for garments and gloves for personnel protection (notification EEC no. 0624)
- Accredited metrological laboratory (SIT no. 088) for calibration of colorimetric spectrophotometers (reflection spectrum factor)

Consultancy services

Centrocot offers to the textile and clothing companies its competence and experience in order to analyse, to plan, to enforce and to check:

- Quality assurance and environment management systems
- CE mark for medical sterilizable devices I class

Seminar series for Adidas Turkey

Hohenstein Research Institute informs suppliers about Oeko-Tex Standard 100

More than 7,500 textile and clothing manufacturers around the world currently have their products certified according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100, but there are also numerous famous companies that are not actively involved in certification, but which have long recognised the advantages of the Oeko-Tex system and implement its harmful substance specifications in their own quality assurance programmes. Sports product manufac-



**HOHENSTEIN
INSTITUTES**

turer Adidas, for example, advises its suppliers that existing Oeko-Tex certificates are recognised around the world and that they effectively reduce testing costs, because if valid proof of certification can be shown, certain tests for harmful substances can be omitted. In this context, since the end of 2006, at the request of Adidas Turkey the Hohenstein Research Institute's Turkish office has held several seminars in Istanbul for suppliers.

At an English-language seminar on 25 September, for example, around 15 participants representing Adidas suppliers from Israel, Germany, Ireland, Tunisia, Spain and Greece obtained information about Oeko-Tex Standard 100 requirements. They were assisted by Bernd Dannhorn from the Hohenstein Institute's head office in Bönningheim. Prior to that, in August 2007 and December 2006, Önder Kipriye from the Hohenstein Institute's Istanbul office had already held two other Oeko-Tex seminars

for Turkish fabric, clothing, label and accessory manufacturers (T-shirts,

Free educational events such as the seminars at Adidas's Turkish office are an integral part of the International Oeko-Tex Association's customer service concept.

leggings, underwear, socks), each attended by just 20 suppliers who supply Adidas with their products.

On the one hand the seminars focused on introducing Adidas's quality criteria, and on the other, as a

result of detailed explanations of the Oeko-Tex application process, Oeko-Tex thresholds and test methods, participating firms were able to gain an overview of the extent to which Oeko-Tex harmful substance tests cover Adidas's quality criteria.

Optimal customer support

Free educational events such as the seminars at Adidas's Turkish

office are an integral part of the International Oeko-Tex Association's customer service concept. The 14 authorised Oeko-Tex test institutes' 26 foreign offices are represented at local level by expert contacts in all important textile-producing areas, in order to provide interested textile and clothing manufacturers with first-hand information about Oeko-Tex Standard 100, and existing licensees with assistance, as required, in implementing the necessary test criteria.

A summary of all the Oeko-Tex Institutes and global offices can be found on the Internet at www.oeko-tex.com, by clicking on the "Oeko-Tex Institutes" tab.



Oeko-Tex education events hosted by the Hohenstein Research Institute for Adidas's Turkish and international suppliers met with great interest. As summarised in the three seminars, the sports product manufacturer accepts the Oeko-Tex certificate so that suppliers do not have to carry out the laboratory tests in question, thus reducing testing costs.

VDMA symposia in Vietnam and Bangladesh

“Oeko-Tex – a green passport to world markets”: under this slogan, Oeko-Tex General Secretary Raimar Freitag introduced the requirements and benefits of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 for the textile and clothing industry at the 2nd German Textile Technology Symposium in Vietnam and Bangladesh on 22 and 27 November. About 400 participants from the region’s textile companies had accepted the invitation from the VDMA (German Engineering Federation) to come to Ho-Ci-Minh-City and Dhaka and find out about the latest trends and technical innovations for optimising their products, at a show by 23 well-known textile machinery manufacturers from Germany.



Prominent personnel at the Oeko-Tex information stand at the VDMA symposium in Vietnam:
 • Dr. Stefan Mecheels (right), Director of the Hohenstein Research Institute, Germany (in 1992 one of the two institutes that collectively developed the Oeko-Tex Standard 100)
 • Doan Manh Thang (center), Country Manager Hohenstein Institutes Vietnam (official representation of the Oeko-Tex Association in Vietnam)

The range of topics at the symposium spanned all processing stages of textile production (spinning, weaving, knitting, fleece production, textile finishing and dyeing) and also

included numerous new developments which had been on show in September at ITMA in Munich. Raimar Freitag said that the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, as a tool for operational quality control that is valid all over

the world and applicable to all stages of the textile value chain, also offered manufacturers in countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh an effective way of opening up new markets for themselves. In many consumer mar-



Oeko-Tex General Secretary Raimar Freitag offering his presentation at the VDMA symposium in Vietnam.

kets, the safety of textiles for human health is now a product feature that is much in demand, and one on which consumers are focussing more and more, due to negative publicity about traces of harmful substances found in textiles.

“Health and clothing” at the Freiburg Pedagogical University



In her seminars, Prof. Anne-Marie Grundmeier also regularly tells would-be teachers at PH Freiburg about subjects relevant to textile ecology, such as the independent testing for harmful substances in accordance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100.

The subject of “Health and Clothing” is a compulsory component of the course for textiles students at the Pedagogical University (PH) in Freiburg. This is because, under the present education policy, clothing physiology and textile ecology are part of the core curriculum at primary and secondary schools in Baden-

Württemberg, Germany. Even primary school children should get to know textiles like a second skin and be able to apply their knowledge about the interaction between the body, climate and clothing effectively to protect their health, for example in dressing for an excursion in the snow.

Material about clothing physiology and textile ecology, slanted towards teaching, are the main themes of the seminar “Health and Clothing” given by Prof. Anne-Marie Grundmeier. Starting with the basic principles of clothing physiology and moving on to functional textiles and innovations in “smart clothes”, she discusses the latest issues in the continuing development of textiles and clothing – especially from the point of view of function. On all these subjects she refers to the ecological dimension of textiles and clothing. This is not only the main focus of the seminar on “Health and Clothing” but also an integral part of other seminars on textile technology and the fashion market.

The legal framework for the textile and fashion market, consumer protection, eco-labelling and ecological clothing are therefore key elements in the textile course at PH Freiburg and

are learnt about with great interest by the students. The subject of “Health and Clothing” also forms part of the new BA course in Health Education.

The Pedagogical University in Freiburg is one of six universities in Baden-Württemberg concentrating on teaching skills, and, with nearly 4500 students, one of the largest. The Textiles department is part of the Housekeeping/Textiles department of the Institute for Technology, Housekeeping and Textiles. The courses on offer deal mainly with training teachers for work in primary and secondary schools, with over 500 students currently enrolled in the Housekeeping/Textiles department.

Aldi Süd tells its customers about Oeko-Tex testing for harmful substances



Quality is a key element of the performance promise made by the discounter Aldi Süd. In order to provide its customers with detailed information about its quality standards, the company has added a new menu item to its Internet site in the second half of 2007. Here, any visitors to the website who are interested can find out what the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is and how important the chain store believes external testing for harmful substances is for its textile and clothing range. For anyone who would like to find out more about the Oeko-Tex certification system, there is also a direct link to the Oeko-Tex Association website at www.oeko-tex.com.

Aldi Süd says that endorsing products with the “Confidence in Textiles” label is the norm for its clothing that is worn next to the skin, and for baby clothes. However, for numerous other products such as bathroom textiles, the company’s quality management policy also demands compliance with Oeko-Tex criteria to ensure that they will not be harmful to people’s health.

>> www.aldi-sued.de

>> <http://qualitaet.aldi-sued.de/qualitaet/html/166.htm>

>> <http://qualitaet.aldi-sued.de/qualitaet/html/180.htm>

Oeko-Tex on the timetable at Uludag University



The speakers at the first Oeko-Tex seminar (l. to r.):
 • Monika Tugutlu, head of the representative office of the Hohenstein Research Institute in Istanbul
 • Güler Sunay, Hohenstein Research Institute in Turkey
 • Prof. Dr. Dilek Kut, Professor of Textile Finishing at Uludag University
 • Önder Kyprie, Hohenstein Research Institute in Turkey

Since autumn 2007, the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 has been firmly established on the timetable for would-be textile engineers at the university of Uludag in the Turkish region of Bursa. Elements of the Oeko-Tex test and certification system and how they work are discussed in the ecology lectures given by Prof. Yusuf Ulucay for students in their 4th year, and also form part of the final examination.

On 3 December, representatives of the branch office of the Hohenstein Research Institute in Istanbul gave the first Oeko-Tex lecture at the Faculty of Textile

Engineering, where 837 students are enrolled for this winter semester. The Hohenstein experts also wrote the examination questions.

Uludag University was founded in 1970 and, with 44,048 registered students, is one of the biggest universities in Turkey. It comprises 11 faculties, 2 universities, 15 technical colleges, 1 conservatory, 3 institutes and 17 research centres. The inclusion of basic knowledge about Oeko-Tex in the timetable here follows other successful examples in Germany, Italy and Spain, where the future experts of the textile industry are also told

about the independent Oeko-Tex testing for harmful substances while they are still studying.



Campus of Uludag University in Bursa, with about 44,000 students one of the biggest universities in Turkey.

Inviting Frankfurt: 5 top tips for social events

1 Gastronomic Frankfurt | Enjoy traditional Hessian cuisine such as Hand käs, a very strong-smelling German cheese; grie Soß, a dressing that takes its name, and brilliant colour, from green herbs; sauté potatoes and other specialities – in exceptional surroundings. The historic "Speisekammer" inn has been lovingly and painstakingly renovated, and is a tiny haven of peace and comfort in the hustle and bustle of Frankfurt.

Speisekammer
Alt Heddernheim 41
Tel.: 069 57 38 88
www.speisekammer-frankfurt.de
Underground: Lines U1/U2/U3, Heddernheim

2 Frankfurt attractions | **Taryn Simon exhibition**, Museum of Modern Art
In her latest series of photographs, Taryn Simon assumes the dual role of sharp-eyed informant and collector of curiosities, cataloguing the hidden and obscure within the boundaries of the United States.

Museum of Modern Art
Domstraße 10
www.mmk-frankfurt.de
Underground: Lines U4/U5, Römer

3 The epitome of Frankfurt | **Goethe's House:** The parental home of Johann Wolfgang Goethe at Großer Hirschgraben is filled with artefacts and exhibits typical of 18th century bourgeois style.

Frankfurt City
Großer Hirschgraben 23–25
www.goethehaus-frankfurt.de
Underground: : Hauptwache



4 Frankfurt by night | 9.1.2008:
Night of the 5 tenors Andrea Hörkens (compère), Giuliano di Philippo, Orfeo Zanetti and others.

Alte Oper, Großer Saal
Opernplatz 1
Telephone: 069/1340-0
www.alteoper.de
Underground: Lines U6/U7, Alte Oper



5 Frankfurt city tour | Really cosy and traditional: experience a city tour of Frankfurt on the **Ebbelwei Express**. This historic tram car takes you on a one-hour tour past many of Frankfurt's attractions, with time for some music and a snack of traditional pretzels and original Frankfurt cider, or fresh apple juice, as you take in the sights.

Timetable:
www.ebbelwei-express.com

Other suggestions for things to do and events to see during the exhibition at:
<http://www.meinestadt.de/frankfurt-am-main/veranstaltungen>

www.



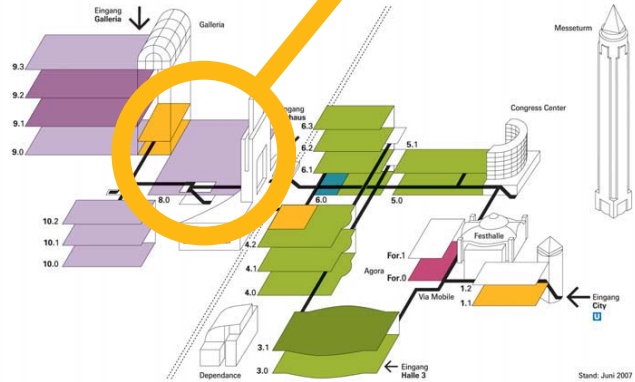
Oeko-Tex Lumio showcases at the Heimtextil 2008

Oeko-Tex goes Heimtextil Here we are!

Hall 8.0, Stand D96



Haustextilien			
table	19.0	19.1	19.2
Tisch- und Küchenwäsche, Tischdekorationen			
bed	18.0	19.0	19.2
Bettwäsche, Bettwaren, Plaids, Schlafsysteme, Matratzen, Wasserbetten			
bath	19.1	19.2	19.3
Badtextilien und Accessoires			
More Clarity	19.1	new	
Premium Collections Classic bath, bed, table			
More Style	19.2	new	
Premium Collections Fashion bath, bed, table			
Asian Vision	10.2		
Premiumbereich Asien: bath, bed, table			
Asian Selection	10.1		
Qualitätsanbieter Asien: bath, bed, table			
Asian Feeling	10.0		
Gemeinschaftspräsentation Asien: bath, bed, table			
Service			
design	11.1		
Design Studios, CAD/CAM, Ink-Jet campus			
technics	14.2		
Heimtechnik			
media	Gallerie 0+1		
Fachbücher, Zeitschriften			
Trendforum	Forum.0		



Heimtextilien			
window	13.0	13.1	14.1
Dekostoffe, Gardinen, textile Gardinen-Accessoires			
upholstery	13.1	14.0	
Möbelstoffe, Möbelleder			
floor	13.1	13.1	
Teppiche, Bodenbeläge			
sun	14.2	14.2	
Sonnenschutzanlagen (innen- und außenliegender Sonnenschutz), nichttextile Gardinen-Accessoires			
wall	15.0	15.1	
Tapeten, Wandbekleidung, Zubehör			
decor	15.0	15.0	new
Nichttextiler und beschichteter Tischbelag, Folien			
More Living	13.1	new	
Premium Collections window, upholstery, floor			
Asian Vision	16.1		
Premiumbereich Asien: window, upholstery, sun			
Asian Selection	16.2		
Qualitätsanbieter Asien: window, upholstery, sun			
Asian Feeling	16.3		
Gemeinschaftspräsentation Asien: window, upholstery, sun			
Asian Carpets	16.0	new	
Teppiche, Bodenbeläge			
Contract Vision	16.0	new	
Anbieter aus Asien zeigen Einrichtungswelten für den Objektbereich			

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www. Heimtextil-News:
<http://heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com>