

# News-Ticker



The German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre will be carrying out a professional photo shoot in Autumn 2007 to expand the existing portfolio of images of Oeko-Tex certified products for PR and marketing purposes.

Manufacturers with Oeko-Tex certification who are interested in making their labelled products available to the Oeko-Tex Association for photos to be taken can contact the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre from now on for more detailed information.

**Guidelines for product submission:** High-quality branded products International product labelling

**Contact:**  
Jutta Knels Tel: +49 6196 966-247  
E-mail: certification.knels@oeko-tex.com



The International Oeko-Tex Association will be presenting an exhibition of products with Oeko-Tex certification in parallel to the meeting of the heads of the institutes on 29-30 October 2007 at the Fashion School of Technology in New York.

The aim of the organisers is to demonstrate the range of potential Oeko-Tex certifications to the national visitors from industry and the retail sector – both to highlight just how prevalent the label "Confidence in textiles" is throughout the world and to illustrate the wide variety of products tested, up to and including technically demanding products such as medical textiles or functional sports-wear.

## IMPRINT

**Published by:**  
Oeko-Tex – International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile Ecology  
Gottthardstrasse 61, Postfach 585,  
CH-8027 Zurich,  
Tel.: +41 2064235, Fax: +41 2064251  
**Responsibility:**  
German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, Contact: Jutta Knels,  
Postfach 5340, D-65728 Eschborn,  
Tel.: +49 6196 966-247,  
Fax: +49 6196 966-226

www.oeko-tex.com

We would like to thank all the companies who have provided us with images for the newsletter.

# Confidence in textiles in the media

ENVIRONMENT

## Oeko-Tex's Label Doubles Awareness

GfK Study on Textile Symbols Shows Growing Ecological Awareness



**A** statement of the label confidence in textiles – tested for harmful substances. According to Oeko-Tex Standard 100® has almost doubled over the last year. This is the result of a representative survey conducted by GfK Market Research last fall on behalf of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre involving 1,000 people over the age of 16 in Germany. At 48%, almost half of all those questioned in the study on textile symbols stated that they recognized the Oeko-Tex label. In 2005, a mere 24% of the population knew the label.

In terms of the importance of individual aspects when purchasing textiles, the quality (88%) and price (81%) of the products continue to play the most important role for the consumer in third place, at 79%, comes the skin compatibility of clothing and other textile articles. This quality feature has increased compared to the previous survey conducted in the last two years tested for harmful substances.

**T3**  
Technical Textile Technology

**Special Features in June:**  
Medical - Marine  
Contact us at [advertise@tj.com](mailto:advertise@tj.com)  
or call 1 704 552 3708

18. April 2007 [www.technische.com](http://www.technische.com)

Trade magazine „International Fiber Journal“, USA

### The World Speaks Oeko-Tex



The Oeko-Tex Standard 100® has been tested for harmful substances and the certification of environmentally friendly production sites.

According to the GfK survey, only the "Blue Angel" is currently better known than the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – 49% of those questioned expressed that products bearing this seal symbol are "free from harmful substances" or "better for me". A further 54% were of the opinion that the label is a "reassuring symbol". 32% knew that products with Oeko-Tex certification are checked "by an independent institution". None of the three other textile labels selected for comparison ("With care from GfK", "TCO", "Greenpeace") were able to achieve anywhere near these percentages and demonstrate such a clear correlation between the label and its core values.

Trade magazine „The Fashion Manuscript“, February 2007, USA

## Empresas apostam na certificação Öko-Tex

Portugal esta entre os dez países com mais certificados activos  
Rótulo garante a não-existência de produtos nocivos para a saúde



**P**ortugal está entre os dez países com mais certificados activos. O rótulo Öko-Tex garante a não-existência de produtos nocivos para a saúde.

Trade magazine „Journal de Noticias“, March 2007, Portugal

## Innovative fibre and yarn technologies

The focus of the "High-tech textiles 2007" specialist conference at the Stuttgart Haus der Wirtschaft on 22 March 2007 was innovative fibre and yarn technologies for functional and technical textiles.

Jutta Knels, head of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, highlighted the special importance of the Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances for yarn manufacturers in particular as part of a brief lecture, followed by panel discussion.

Based on the modular principle of Oeko-Tex certification, which makes it possible for products to be tested at all stages of production, numerous yarn manufacturers have

been working with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 on an ongoing basis since 1992. According to the speaker, the breakdown of certificates by article group shows that 18% of all certificates issued worldwide relate to yarns. When evaluating certificates by product class, it is also clear that yarn manufacturers meet the most stringent requirements of the criteria catalogue in comparison to companies at other stages of production

with respect to the wide range of fields of application for their products. They are thus able to offer their customers an optimal selection of products that have the added benefit of being safe to health.

The Oeko-Tex Standard 100 supports yarn manufacturers involved in natural fibres with their quality assurance by taking into consideration pesticides and heavy metals in the criteria catalogue, which is updated

annually. Product innovations based on synthetic fibres which are used as source materials for high-tech products such as clothing for those suffering from neurodermatitis, flame retardant or bioactive textiles, are tested by an independent commission of experts from the international Oeko-Tex Association for their human ecological properties and approved for certification if proven to be safe.

## Order advertising materials free of charge:

Advertising materials can be ordered free of charge on the Internet from [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com). All materials are also available in large quantities.

[www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com) > "marketing aids"



Oeko-Tex Association at the ITMA trade fair for the first time  
Page 2

Environmentally-friendly quality – Grüber Otto Baumwollfeinzwirner GmbH & Co. KG  
Page 4

**Oeko-Tex**  
Association

# Oeko-Tex news

edition 2/2007  
[www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)

## CONTENT

### LEAD STORY

15 years of confidence in textiles throughout the world 1  
Information event for companies with Oeko-Tex certification 1

### EDITORIAL

2  
NEWS & EVENTS  
ITMA 2007 trade fair  
Heimtextil 2007 trade fair 3

### COMPANY PORTRAIT

4  
Gebrüder Otto Garne GmbH & Co. KG  
AG Cilander 5

### FROM THE INSTITUTES

Institute portrait – ÖTI Vienna 6

### Oeko-TEX INTERNATIONAL

AATCC delegation learns about Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances 7

### ADVERTISING AND SALES PROMOTIONS

Promotional dates using the Oeko-Tex hot-air balloon 7

### NEWS-TICKER

8

### IN THE MEDIA

8  
Fibres and Yarns with Oeko-Tex certification 8

## A word from the editor

The Oeko-Tex News now has a new layout. Our aim was to make the individual articles more lively and reader-friendly. From now on, the "News" will therefore only appear in a monolingual German and a separate English version.

We hope you will find out all you need to know about the world of Oeko-Tex and look forward to receiving your feedback. Up-to-date news can also be found in our online newsletter, which can be ordered free of charge on the Internet at [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)

## 15 years of confidence in textiles throughout the world: Oeko-Tex Standard 100

In April 2007, the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is celebrating its 15th anniversary. Over 57,000 certificates issued to over 7,000 companies worldwide throughout the textile value chain including the retail sector convincingly demonstrate the international significance of the inde-

pendent testing and certification system within the textile and clothing industry. Millions of labelled articles in virtually all key consumer markets and product segments also underline the high level of awareness of the "Confidence in textiles" label amongst consumers.



At the beginning of the 1990s, sensational headlines such as "Poison in the wardrobe" circulated in the media. The media reaction in this sensitive product sector proved on many occasions to be unjustified, however, it drew attention to two facts which could no longer be ignored.

1. The lack of an internationally applicable standard which would enable an objective assessment of potential harmful substances in textiles by an independent institution within the textile and clothing industry, which is characterised by the division of labour and which has no central organisational structure.

2. Increasing ecological awareness amongst end users who for some time had no longer placed the emphasis merely on fashionable and functional aspects when purchasing textiles, but also on the safety of products in terms of health.

In 1992, the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, a voluntary product certification system for all levels of processing from the raw materials through to the finished product, provided a conclusive response to these developments. The approaches developed by both the Austrian Textile Research Institute (Vienna) and the Hohenstein Research Institute (Bonnheim, Germany) formed the basis for this, although it was clear from the outset that a uniform list of harmful criteria could only be implemented in cooperation with several test institutes.

The international demands of the Oeko-Tex system have been met and supported by the expansion of the member institutes (such as the Testex test institute in Asia) right up to the present day. Currently, 14 test institutes in Europe and Japan, with

26 representative offices in all key countries involved in textile production, belong to the Oeko-Tex Association. The products are tested exclusively in the European laboratories to guarantee the specified quality in terms of health.

Initially, it was primarily manufacturers of baby products and underwear from Germany, Austria and Switzerland who were involved in the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 within the industrial sector. However, as the Oeko-Tex criteria catalogue represents the ideal complement to the internal quality assurance systems of responsible, human-ecologically aware companies, a close network of textile and clothing manufacturers who have their products certified on an ongoing basis, including those in the accessories sector, has now developed. In key consumer markets such as Europe, compliance with the Oeko-Tex criteria has now become an integral part of terms and conditions of purchase in many instances.

## Information event for companies with Oeko-Tex certification

To mark the 15th anniversary of the Oeko-Tex system, the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre will be providing all interested Oeko-Tex licence holders in Germany with information about current issues relating to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, and looking back on the successful development of the Standard so far, as part of a lecture event on 25 April 2007 in the Frankfurt Airport Conference Centre.

There are now over 7,000 textile and clothing companies throughout the world proactively involved in guaranteeing the human ecological quality of their products using Oeko-Tex certification. The information event will highlight the current status of the Oeko-Tex testing and certification system within the textile value chain and identify the supply and consumer markets world-wide in which there

is likely to be further significant growth using facts and figures on the international distribution of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100.

Other lectures will cover the emission standards under the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 which are important for technical textiles, will provide an overview of the latest innovations in the textile and clothing sector, and present the biological safety tests for the quality control of biofunctional textiles currently available. The range of topics will be rounded off with a look at the European Union's REACH directive that comes into force in June and its implementation by textile and clothing companies in Germany.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1



Welcome!

With over 57,000 certificates issued worldwide for over 7,000 companies at all stages of production, the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is currently the most prevalent label for textiles tested for harmful substances on the market. As millions of certified products in almost all textile product segments are marked with the Oeko-Tex symbol in the shops, awareness of the test label is growing in all European consumer markets. In Germany, for example, the awareness level currently stands at 46%, according to a study by GfK.

The use of the "Confidence in textiles – tested for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100" label for advertising is actively encouraged and supported by the Oeko-Tex Association, although this is subject to a number of conditions which must be complied with under the Oeko-Tex statutes. For example, the Oeko-Tex test label is only valid if it provides details of the test number and the test institute responsible for the tests for harmful substances. Appropriate action is taken in the event of any instances of misuse in order to protect the label, which is an officially registered trademark.

For this purpose, the Oeko-Tex Association set up an About Me page on the German homepage of the eBay retail platform in January 2007 which informs all sellers offering products with Oeko-Tex certification of the different forms of false labelling and the consequences of deliberate or inadvertent misuse of the Oeko-Tex label for the seller.

As soon as a product advertised with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is put onto the eBay portal, the seller in question receives an automatic message with a note (including a direct link to the About Me page) that the Oeko-Tex label is a legally protected trademark. Under eBay's VeRI-program, the Oeko-Tex Association is authorised to remove the item from the web portal and to request that eBay issues a warning to the seller in the event of proven misuse of the Oeko-Tex label. Moreover, the Oeko-Tex Association also reserves the right to prosecute resellers on eBay themselves where it can be shown that false declarations have been made.

Jutta Knels,  
German Certification Centre,  
Eschborn

The following speakers are planned:

- **Jutta Knels**, Head of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre
- **Raimar Freitag**, Oeko-Tex General Secretary
- **Dr. Erich Zippel**, Head of the Austrian Textile Research Institute
- **Dr. Stefan Mecheels**, Head of the Hohenstein Institutes
- **Dr. Dirk Höfer**, Head of the Institute for Hygiene and Biotechnology at the Hohenstein Institutes

• **Dr. Friedhelm Ahlers**, Head of the department of the Environment and Energy at the Gesamtverband Textil + Mode [Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry]

The detailed program of the Oeko-Tex information event, together with the registration form, can be accessed on the Oeko-Tex website [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com) under the menu item "Dates". German companies with Oeko-Tex certification will be invited separately by the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre.



The information event for Oeko-Tex certificate holders on 25 April 2007 in the Frankfurt Airport Conference Centre will offer informative lectures on up-to-date Oeko-Tex issues and time for personal technical discussions.

WWW Current program at [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com) "Dates"



Initial draft of the International Oeko-Tex Association's exhibition stand at the ITMA in Hall B2.163.

## Oeko-Tex Association at the ITMA trade fair for the first time

One particular highlight of the Oeko-Tex anniversary year 2007 is the involvement of the international Oeko-Tex Association for the first time in the world's leading textile machinery exhibition, the ITMA, which is being held in Munich from 13 to 20 September.

At the around 100 m<sup>2</sup> stand in Hall B2.163, experts from the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre and the Hohenstein Research Institute, as well as from the other 13 Oeko-Tex member institutes and their official representative offices in a total of 40 countries throughout the world, will be available throughout the trade fair to provide detailed information to interested visitors on the requirements of the Oeko-Tex testing and certification system and the way in which the system operates.

With their presence at the ITMA, the Oeko-Tex Association hopes to emphasise that Oeko-Tex certification also represents an additional marketing tool for manufacturers of new production processes. The development of innovative machine technologies and new types of colorants



The rest cushion on the Oeko-Tex stand: confidence in textiles throughout the world – with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, you can sit back comfortably and securely.

and auxiliaries form the basis for improving production accuracy, thus making it simpler for textile and clothing manufacturers to comply with

the required Oeko-Tex criteria, for example.

A virtual information portal on the Oeko-Tex Association's involve-

ment at the ITMA 2007 will soon be available to interested Internet users at [www.itma.oeko-tex.com](http://www.itma.oeko-tex.com). Here, each member institute will present itself together with a list of services on offer and the relevant Oeko-Tex contacts. An interactive form will also make it possible to arrange a specific appointment during the trade fair with a chosen contact from one of the member institutes at the Oeko-Tex Association's stand. Current facts and figures on the international importance of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, together with numerous downloads, complete the information on offer.

WWW Info portal on the ITMA: [www.itma.oeko-tex.com](http://www.itma.oeko-tex.com)

## Heimtextil 2007 home textiles show in Frankfurt Exhibitors set their sights on contract business

One of the main growth areas for the home textiles sector is in contract textiles. This is why the range of products for the hotel business, planning and interior design is strongly represented each year at the Frankfurt show in January. In 2007, for the first time, the 350 exhibitors operating in the contract textiles field were identified all over the show with a "Contract Creations" logo, and they were also listed in a handy Pocket Guide.



Centre: Reinhard Mähliß, Product Management at f.a.n. Frankenstolz Schlafkomfort, Mainzschaff

This made it much easier for those interior designers and property managers, fitters and specialist retailers who, among the approximately 89,000 visitors to the show, are involved in fitting out business premises, offices and catering facilities, to find their way around and make new business contacts.

In the contract textiles business, quality standards in terms of both aesthetics and functionality are particularly high. While design and colour preferences may vary greatly internationally, the demand for products which pose no risk to human health has become established as a worldwide quality criterion.

According to Werner Ritzl, managing director at Brennet AG in Bad Säckingen, this applies particularly to textiles with special functional treatments: "Offering additional functions such as 'no-iron' or a stain-resistant surface treatment often raises the question of whether these are harmful to health.

This is why buyers in the contract textiles business place a high priority on testing for harmful substances under Oeko-Tex Standard 100 when selecting their products." For that reason, Brennet has had its whole bedding range tested and certified under Oeko-Tex Standard 100. The same is also true of products where a coating containing silver ("silver protect") is intended to have an antimicrobial effect and therefore to offer additional hygiene in bed. These were shown for the first time at the Heimtextil show. Tests

carried out by the independent Hohenstein Institutes in Bönningheim provided confirmation by a neutral organisation of the effectiveness of the antimicrobial treatment.

The market leaders in contract textiles, Koppermann & Co. GmbH in Baierbrunn, have also relied for the last 4 years on their certification under Oeko-Tex Standard 100 in the demanding market for textiles with additional functions. For Jens Geimer, head of marketing/sales, however, the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is not just an important marketing tool, but, above all, an important part of the company's own quality assurance procedures: "We work with production companies in more than 20 countries. The internationally standardised list of criteria for Oeko-Tex Standard 100 offers a very important basis on which the quality management teams there can work." For Koppermann's customers, reliab-

le quality and short delivery times, even for large quantities, are critical. This is why, on the company's stand at the Heimtextil show, the focus was not on product innovations or novelties, but rather on their tried and tested standard range, which was highlighted by an eye-catching fabric-covered Fiat 500.

Arnold Kock Textil GmbH in Steinfurt relies on partnerships with well-known manufacturers in other product areas for its range serving the hotel and catering trade. For example, the designs and colours of its table linen match the glasses and crockery from Villeroy & Boch, while the bed linen harmonises perfectly with carpets from Vorwerk.

Marketing manager Christina Rudolf and sales manager Joachim Wagnitz point out the advantages: "These harmonised colour concepts make it much easier for interior designers and decorators to create the med rooms. And for the providers who cooperate with us, there are many synergy effects, because a decision to buy one of the products involved is often followed by the purchase of matching components from other ranges." For Arnold Kock, too, it goes without saying that

*"We work with production companies in more than 20 countries. The internationally standardised list of criteria for Oeko-Tex Standard 100 offers a very important basis on which the quality management teams there can work."*

Jens Geimer, head of marketing/sales at Koppermann & Co. GmbH, Baierbrunn

Rasch Textil from Osnabrück also tells specialist retailers and end users about the benefits of testing for harmful substances under Oeko-Tex Standard 100 by using free flyers and the competition about decorative

*"The Oeko-Tex Standard 100 'Confidence in textiles' label is widely recognized and so it is an important selling point for me."*

Stefan Loheide, a salesman for Rasch Textil, Osnabrück

textiles. Especially for products which come into direct contact with children whether in children's bedrooms at home or in a municipal crèche the decision-makers place a high priority on proving that they are not harmful to health. As Stefan

Loheide, a salesman for Rasch, says: "As a father, I am naturally aware of this topic and I am glad to be able to give my customers the assurance, by offering accredited collections such as "Bambino", that these products have been tested for harmful substances. The "Textile Confidence" label showing compliance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is widely recognized and so it is an important selling point for me."

Loheide, a salesman for Rasch, says: "As a father, I am naturally aware of this topic and I am glad to be able to give my customers the assurance, by offering accredited collections such as "Bambino", that these products have been tested for harmful substances. The "Textile Confidence" label showing compliance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is widely recognized and so it is an important selling point for me."

By using the information flyer on the subject of decorative textiles, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers can tell their customers about testing for harmful substances under Oeko-Tex Standard 100 in this product area.

Until 31.5.2007, interested consumers and visitors to the Heimtextil show can take part in a prize draw, in which high quality goods bearing an Oeko-Tex certificate can be won.

Jens Geimer, head of marketing/sales at Koppermann & Co. GmbH, Baierbrunn



# Environmentally-friendly quality –

Gebrüder Otto Baumwollfeinzwirnerei GmbH & Co. KG

The basic principle behind the tests for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is the testing of textile products at all stages of the value chain - from fibre production through to the finished article. Following the introduction of the voluntary testing and certification system, several yarn manufacturers, such as Gebrüder Otto Baumwollfeinzwirnerei GmbH & Co. KG in Dietenheim therefore decided at a very early stage to have their products certified under the Oeko-Tex system. The company was also the first spinning mill in Germany to meet the requirements as an environmentally-friendly production site according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000.

Around two thirds of all German textile manufacturers (yarns, fabrics, finishing) currently implement the requirements of the Oeko-Tex criteria catalogue as part of their internal quality assurance systems. Statistics on certificates show that yarn manufacturers fulfil the most stringent criteria of Oeko-Tex product class I (articles for babies and toddlers under 3 years of age) for their products year on year in order to offer their clients an optimal selection of certified yarns for every conceivable area of application for modern textiles. The Gebrüder Otto GmbH has been working with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 on an ongoing basis since 1994 and has its yarns certified according to the requirements for product class I. In addition to the human ecological optimisation of their products, the company (Baltzheim works) was also the first spinning mill in Germany to be certified according to the extensive criteria of the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 for its environmentally-friendly production conditions in 2002, and was one of the first textile manufacturers to introduce a QM-system according to DIN EN ISO 9001

## Quality leadership thanks to constant innovation

Founded in Dietenheim in 1901, and still managed as a family-run business today, Gebrüder Otto GmbH concentrates almost exclusively on the manufacture of raw and dyed cotton yarns and twisted yarns. At two plants, the company, with its workforce of 200 and the latest production facilities, produces around 3,000 tonnes of spun cotton yarn, 1,000 tonnes of twisted cotton yarn, 800 tonnes of dyed cotton yarn and 75 tonnes of mercerised cotton yarn annually for customers in the fields of circular and flat knitting, weaving, hosiery and embroidery. The ultimate aim of the corporate philosophy, according to director Andreas Merkel, is to continue to systematically extend the quality leadership acquired thanks to the long-standing tradition and concentration on the natural product, cotton, by means of constant innovation and close cooperation with customers and machine manufacturers.

## Latest product innovations

The latest example of product innovation by Gebrüder Otto GmbH is a mixed yarn, a blend of hand-picked cotton and naturally grown kapok, which is sold under the brand name Piumafil®. Piumafil® is available in a number of counts and meets the requirements of Oeko-Tex Product Class I. A new form of spinning technology has made it possible to develop a new yarn with a remark-

*“Security with regard to health and ecological production will play an increasingly important role in future. We therefore consciously focus on independent certification systems such as the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 and 1000.”*

Andreas Merkel, CEO Gebrüder Otto GmbH

kably silky hand from a combination of super-light kapok fibres, which are generally considered as non-spinnable, and cotton. Compared to 100% cotton, products made from Piumafil® are around 10% lighter in weight for the same volume and have optimal breathability and comfort properties thanks to their good moisture absorption.

Andreas Merkel is convinced that security with regard to health and sustainable, ecological manufacturing relating to product quality will become increasingly important in future: “European manufacturers have to meet significantly more stringent environmental requirements and occupational health and safety guidelines in comparison to other regions of global textile production. However, it is not possible to tell simply by looking at products such as yarns whether the products could contain potentially harmful substances and how much time and effort has been put into environmental protection at the production sites. We therefore consciously focus on recognised certification systems such as the Oeko-

Tex Standard 100 and 1000, as testing by independent institutes has a considerable influence on our customers’ purchase decisions, providing they have a certain level of awareness and sense of responsibility towards environmental issues.” The “Oeko-Tex Standard 100plus” label has proven to be an ideal marketing tool in this respect. This can be used to endorse products such as the



www.piumafil.com

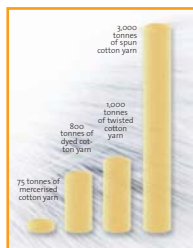
deutsch english français

Contact Imprint



yarns produced by Gebrüder Otto GmbH, which have been manufactured under environmentally-friendly conditions according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000, as well as meeting the human ecological requirements of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100.”

Graph: At two plants, the company, with its workforce of 200 and the latest production facilities, produces around 3,000 tonnes of cotton yarn annually for customers in the fields of circular and flat knitting, weaving, hosiery and embroidery.



# High-Tech finishes for clothing, home textiles and technical textiles – AG Cilander



Non-iron shirts and blouses, elegant outerwear with soil- and water-repellent nano-finishes, jackets with antimicrobial finishes or the latest fashion trends such as the “vintage look” – functions and properties of modern textiles which we are no longer prepared to do without, as they make our day-to-day life simpler and more pleasant. AG Cilander proves in this context that such finishing products are also possible under environmentally-friendly conditions as required by Oeko-Tex Standard 1000.

AG Cilander in the Appenzell town of Herisau has been finishing the stuff textile dreams are made of since 1814. Founded as Appretur “Meyer und Mittelholzer”, the traditional commission finisher is now a proven specialist and global player in innovative and high-function textile finishes for shirts and ladies’ outerwear, home textiles and technical applications. The company is also a trendsetter when it comes to environmental issues, with security in

terms of health and ecological production conditions being an integral part of product quality. At the beginning of the 1990s, AG Cilander was one of the Swiss pioneers who had their products successfully tested for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100. In 1997, the Herisau finishers were the first company in the world to be certified by Testex in Zurich as an environmentally-friendly production site according to the far-reaching requirements of

the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000. Both certificates are still current today, having been renewed for the fourth time in succession in Autumn 2006.

## Highest quality standards for all stages of textile finishing

With 250 employees currently working at the three production sites at Herisau (clothing textiles), Flawil (pretreatment) and Lützelflüh (technical textiles, focusing on coatings) AG Cilander has an annual output of 20 mill. metres of textile fabrics in the finished widths 180 cm (standard) and 340 cm (decor). The company covers all stages of textile finishing from pre-treatment to dyeing and high-grade finishing through to final quality control in the company’s own test laboratory. The company specialises in “non-iron”, “easy to iron” and “easy-care” finishes for shirting fabrics, and this

is complemented by a wide range of innovative finishing processes for women’s outerwear, work wear, decorative textiles, bed linen, table linen and technical textiles with additional functions such as “antimicrobial”, “nano protect”, “nano dual”, “comfort finish”, “cool-tex” and for fashionable fabric trends such as “vitro-finish”, “wash-out”, “rainbow” or “wet-finish”.

*“We strive to be at the cutting edge in all areas of work. It was therefore only natural that AG Cilander should opt for certification as an environmentally-friendly production site according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000”*

Heinz Gutgsell, COO AG Cilander

Quality and customer focus enjoy top priority at AG Cilander. With its broad base of expertise, the company is in a position to react extremely sensitively and flexibly to current developments on the market, rapidly responding in line with the expectations of its international clientele. The corporate philosophy involves taking both upstream and downstream production stages into consideration as part of the big picture, as well as working to ensure that all internal procedures and production processes are subject to the most stringent quality requirements. In 2000, AG Cilander successfully introduced a company-specific quality management system based on ISO

9001 and has been implementing the specifications of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 for many years in order to assure the human ecological quality of its finishing services.

## Ecological commitment is essential

The considerable investment in optimising environmental conditions at the plants in Herisau and Flawil has also proved worthwhile according to COO Heinz Gutgsell. The preliminary work to meet the stringent criteria of the Oeko-Tex Standard 1000 took almost a year, however the certification as an environmentally-friendly production site which requires for example that no ecologically critical auxiliaries and processes are used, as well as compliance with specific guidelines regarding waste water, exhaust air, energy consumption, noise, safety at the workplace and much more, underlines the ambitions of AG Cilander to be at the cutting edge in all fields of work. Even if Oeko-Tex certification

cannot be converted directly into additional orders, Gutgsell continues, the ecological commitment involved is essential for AG Cilander’s image, just as for any other modern company in the textile industry, as this aspect is becoming increasingly important in the consciousness of customers and end users. The police force in Zurich city has embarked on a pilot project involving police shirts manufactured exclusively in Switzerland from organic cotton, which pose absolutely no threat to the environment. These are naturally dyed and finished by Cilander. The knock-on effect from this in the public sector will not be long in coming.



# Ecology – Technology – Innovation

## The Austrian Textile Research Institute



The Austrian Textile Research Institute (ÖTI) was founded in 1967 under the name "Österreichisches Teppich-Forschungsinstitut" [Austrian Carpet Research Institute] as an independent test laboratory for companies within the domestic carpet industry. Following a merger with the Österreichisches Faserforschungsinstitut [Austrian Fibre Research Institute] at the end of the 1970s, the ÖTI was restructured into an institute responsible for all core and subsidiary fields of textiles. Today, the ÖTI is the largest textile institute in Austria and a member of numerous international organisations, with contacts with institutions (lobby groups, authorities, universities, ON, DIN, CEN, ISO, etc.) throughout the world.



Following its guiding principles "Ecology – Technology – Innovation", the Austrian Textile Research Institute is a modern, customer-focused service company whose core competence lies in researching and testing textile preliminary, intermediate and end products, including auxiliaries, throughout the value chain. Its aim is to provide comprehensive guidance and support for its clients throughout the world in their testing and development activities, as well as providing dedicated assi-

stance and information relating to statutory requirements and standardisation. The ÖTI is also a neutral, independent arbiter in cases of disputes and claims.

**Founding father of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100**

In response to the negative media reports on findings of harmful substances in textiles, the ÖTI was one of the first institutes in the world to work on an evaluation system at the beginning of the 1990s which enabled the textile industry to



As one of the founding fathers of Oeko-Tex Standard 100, the Austrian Textile Research Institute has long-standing experience in the field of textile tests for harmful substances. Back in 1992, it had already developed a test standard of its own, even before the label "Confidence in textiles" was introduced on an international level.

objectively prove the ecological and health properties of their products – the "Österreichische Textil-Norm 100" ("Austrian Textile Standard 100").

The specifications for harmful substances and test procedures contained therein eventually formed the basis for the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 – an independent and international testing and certification system for textile products at all levels of the processing chain. This was developed by the ÖTI based on their own method in conjunction with the German Hohenstein

Research Institute, which promoted a similar method for testing textiles

*The institute, its directors and its staff are committed to high quality services and to the principle of "total quality management".*

Dr. Erich Zippel, institute director ÖTI

for harmful substances, known as the "Hohensteiner Sicherheits-Check" ("Hohenstein safety check"). The label "Confidence in textiles – tested for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100" was officially launched in April 1992 at the Interstoff trade fair in Frankfurt.

**WWW.** [www.oeti.at](http://www.oeti.at)

**Contacts:**  
ÖTI Austrian Textile Research Institute  
Spengergasse 20, A-1050 Wien, AUSTRIA  
Telephone: +43 1 5442543-0  
Fax: +43 1 5442543-10  
E-mail: office@oeti.at, website: www.oeti.at  
• ÖTI Egypt,  
109 Kasr Al Ainy Street  
Downtown Cairo, Cairo, EGYPT  
E-mail: egypt@oeti.at

**contacts:**  
Oeko-Tex Standard 100 and  
Oeko-Tex Standard 1000:  
Helene Melnitzky  
Telephone: +43 1 5442543-27  
E-mail: melnitzky@oeti.at



### Activities:

- Laboratory tests in line with several hundred recognised test procedures and according to the requirements of various organisations
- Preparing expert reports for consumers, manufacturers, architects, public services, authorities, insurance companies and courts
- Drawing up quality requirements for purchasers and sourcing companies
- Monitoring building products within relevant European guidelines
- Type testing and monitoring personal protective equipment
- Expert reports in line with food safety and consumer protection laws
- Research (own projects, contract research for partners from industry and public bodies, exclusive consultancy service relating to clients' R&D projects)
- Extensive training and further training programs for the textile and clothing industry
- Development of test equipment and laboratory facilities for own use and on behalf of clients

### Fields of work:

- Textile and clothing technology (fibre and polymer technology, textile chemistry/finishing, burning behaviour, clothing physiology, clothing technology, confectioning and production technology, textile care)
- High-Tex (PPE, medical textiles, technical textiles, incontinence products, automotive interiors)
- Health and ecology (textile ecology, UV-protection, environmental management, building biology/indoor air quality, toys/komforters)
- Building and living (flooring technology, flooring and glues, building cleaning, interiors/furniture, mattresses/foams/bedding, fire behaviour)
- Future Trends in Technology (computers and textiles, new fields of application for textiles, ageing population, cleaner production)

### Accreditation / licences:

- EN ISO 17025
- Notified testing and supervisory centre 0534 for
  - personal protective equipment
  - building products
  - toys
- Food safety and consumer protection laws
- Oeko-Tex Standard 100 / 1000
- UV Standard 801

# AATCC delegation learns about Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances



During their trip to Europe, Maria Thiry and Chris Shaw of the AATCC (American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists) learnt in detail about the Oeko-Tex tests for harmful substances on their visit to the Hohenstein Research Institute in Bönningheim (Germany) on 14 March 2007.

On the program was a tour of the test laboratory, where the journalists from the association's journal, the AATCC Review, were able to gain a clear overview of the requirements and test methods of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100. Within technical discussions, experts from the German Oeko-Tex test institute together with Jutta Knels, head of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, explained to their American guests the strategic and political objectives of the testing and certification system which is uniform throughout the world, and also detailed the production-related certification of environmentally friendly production sites according to Oeko-Tex Standard 1000. An article on the Oeko-Tex Standard is planned in the May edition of the AATCC Review. During a tour of the institutes taking in the other fields of work at the Hohenstein Institutes, Maria Thiry and Chris Shaw were also able to



Invited by Jutta Knels, head of the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, Eschborn, the journalists from the AATCC Review took the opportunity to inform themselves at the Hohenstein Institutes about the tests for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 as well as the broad range of activities of the Oeko-Tex member institute.



Stefan Kusmich (left) from the Materials Testing department at the Hohenstein Institutes explains to Maria Thiry the Oeko-Tex testing method for heavy metals.

learn about current research projects and trends in the areas of clothing physiology, hygiene and biotechnology, clothing technology, textile innovations, textile care, materials testing and consumer tests.

The Oeko-Tex general secretary Raimar Freitag, Jutta Knels and Prof. Manfred Wentz, head of the official Oeko-Tex representative office of the Hohenstein Research Institute in the



**American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists**  
The International Association for Textile Professionals

USA, first had contact with the AATCC at a visit to the AATCC Technical Center in June 2005. On a trip to the USA which involved a number of company visits, the delegation drew the attention of North-American manufacturers and retailers to the advantages of Oeko-Tex certification for international quality assurance in view of the growing consumer need for textile products which are safe to health.

<http://enews.asicnada.net/aatcc/issues/51/573.cfm?2010408>



The AATCC Review is the multiple award-winning association magazine for the several thousand members from the textile and clothing industry, the retail sector, research institutes, consumer organisations, government agencies, educational establishments and the finishing and dyestuffs industries throughout the world.

**WWW.** [www.aatcc.org](http://www.aatcc.org)

Advertising & Sales Promotion

# Advertising with the Oeko-Tex hot air balloon

"Oeko-Tex Number One", the International Oeko-Tex Association's hot air balloon is being used once again in 2007 at a wide range of occasions and events in order to draw attention to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 and promote the advantages of textile products that have the additional benefit of being tested and proven to be safe to health.

On 9 May 2007, for example, it will be possible to see the balloon at an in-house exhibition by the automotive manufacturer Daimler Chrysler in Sindelfingen, where the member companies of the Industrial Association for Yarns, Fabrics and Technical Textiles (IVGT) will be exhibiting their products for vehicle interiors as part of a supplier presentation. A lecture event is also planned at which eight German textile research and test institutes will present their activities and innovati-

ons in the field of technical textiles and automotive engineering. The Oeko-Tex Association is taking part in the exhibition between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in Building 11 (Gate 1) with its own information stand, and the Oeko-Tex hot air balloon will be on display on the open-air site. The balloon is not scheduled to be launched, however.

For the 14 July 2007, the TVU Textilveredlungsunion GmbH & Co. KG in Leutershausen has booked the hot air balloon. On the occasion of the company's 60th anniversary, which will be celebrated with a major

company event, the "Oeko-Tex Number One" is to emphasise the long-standing successful work of the yarn finishers with the Oeko-Tex Standard 100. The balloon will be on display at the company's site and exclusive flights are planned, depending on the event program.

Those interested can find out where else the "Oeko-Tex Number One" hot air balloon is being used this year on the Oeko-Tex website under "Dates".

Companies with Oeko-Tex certification who are interested in booking the balloon for their own events should contact the German Oeko-Tex Certification Centre, Frau Birgit Klaus, Tel.: +49 6196 966-259, E-mail: certification.klaus@oeko-tex.com. The hot air balloon may be launched in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

**WWW.** [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)