

Factsheet

STeP by OEKO-TEX®

INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION FACILITIES

STeP stands for Sustainable Textile & Leather Production and is a certification system for environmentally friendly and socially responsible production facilities along supply chain. The aim of STeP by OEKO-TEX® is to continually improve production conditions and health and safety in all business areas.



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

STeP enables a holistic consideration of manufacturing conditions from a sustainable point of view and encompasses analysis and assessment in the six core modules of sustainable textile production:

- Chemicals management
- Environmental performance
- Environmental management
- Social responsibility
- Quality management
- Workplace safety

The certification process includes an online assessment tool for the collection of all required operational data as well as a final company onsite evaluation by an OEKO-TEX® auditor to verify the information provided. Facilities must meet at least 70% of basic criteria and 100% of exclusion criteria to be eligible for STeP certification.

The STeP certification comprises a three-level scoring system:

- **LEVEL 1:** entry level
- **LEVEL 2:** good implementation of best practices with further optimisation potential
- **LEVEL 3:** exemplary implementation of best practices

Each facility receives a detailed STeP report, including the results of the online assessment tool and the expert audit. The associated STeP certificate indicates both a final overall rating and the individual scoring for each of the six core modules.

THE COMPELLING BENEFITS OF STEP BY OEKO-TEX® CERTIFICATION

- The STeP certification is designed especially for production facilities and enables a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the sustainable production processes and conditions achieved.
- Services and certificates already provided or attained (e.g. ISO 14001, SA 8000, BSCI, ISO 9001) can be integrated into STeP.
- With STeP, companies are able to increase the efficiency of their production processes, improve social and environmental conditions as well as strengthen their economic situation and competitiveness.
- As part of the STeP certification, DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® is our tool for wet processing companies to analyse their chemical performance with regard to the goals of the Greenpeace Detox campaign or the ZDHC MRS� requirements.
- The STeP certificate is the prerequisite for MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®, our product label for articles tested for harmful substances and produced in a sustainable way.

THE PATH TO STEP BY OEKO-TEX® CERTIFICATION

1. Complete the application form online on the OEKO-TEX® website and confirm the terms of use.
2. Upon receipt of the access data from the responsible OEKO-TEX® institute, complete the web-based STeP assessment tool.
3. The OEKO-TEX® institute evaluates the information provided and the documents submitted.
4. The OEKO-TEX® institute verifies the data obtained in the form of an on-site audit at the production facility.
5. The OEKO-TEX® institute draws up a detailed audit report including a final assessment and issues the STeP certificate.

VALIDITY

The STeP certificate is valid for 3 years.