# Customer Information

## Oeko-Tex® 2010 testing criteria go into effect / REACh compliance

The new Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 criteria for testing for harmful substances published at the beginning of this year will come into force as from 1 April 2010 at the end of a three-month transition period. As of this date, the following new rules will also be applied as part of every certification process:

- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)

  Synthetic fibres, yarns, plastic parts etc. are tested for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) for all four product classes. The total allowable limit for the 16 defined substances is 10 mg/kg; the limit for benzo[a]pyrene is 1 mg/kg.

- Diisobutyl phtalate (DIBP)

  In addition to the already regulated phtalates, this softener, which is also found in the list of REACh SVHC substances, may not be used.

- Organic tin compounds

  Dioctyltin (DOT) has been added to the list of prohibited organic tin compounds; the limit for product class I (baby and small children's articles) is as follows: 1.0 mg/kg; limit for product classes II - IV: 2.0 mg/kg.

- Quality assurance package

  For the targeted support and optimisation of operational quality assurance processes of companies participating in the Oeko-Tex® system across the globe, operational audits are being started as part of the newly introduced quality assurance package.

During the course of reformulating the Oeko-Tex® testing criteria at the beginning of this year, the Oeko-Tex® Association has also taken into account the expanded REACh list with SVHC candidate substances which was published on 13 January 2010 by the ECHA.

Accordingly, textile-relevant compounds such as anthracene, diisobuthyl phtalate, a variety of lead chromate compounds etc., which were recently added to the list of SVHC candidate substances, are now regulated and covered during the testing and certification process pursuant to the Oeko-Tex® Standard 100. The use of other substances, such as tris(2-chlorethyl)phosphate, is excluded on the basis of the prohibition on flame-retardant products.

The Oeko-Tex® Association will continue to place a special focus on the activities of the ECHA. Upon announcement of new candidate substances, the association will determine the relevance of the substance to the textile and garment industries and decide whether it should be included in the Oeko-Tex® criteria catalogue.

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