

**OEKO-TEX®**

INSPIRING CONFIDENCE

**STeP**



# THE INDEPENDENT CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE AND LEATHER PRODUCTION.





# IDEA

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## THE IDEA OF A BETTER WORLD.

### Consumers and NGOs

increasingly expect more than just high-quality textiles and leather goods. This is why OEKO-TEX® has developed the STeP – Sustainable Textile & Leather Production, proving to consumers a environmental friendly and socially responsible production.

The STeP certification is an important step towards MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®.

### The goal

of this modular certification system is the permanent implementation of environmentally friendly production processes, the improvement of health and safety and the promotion of socially responsible working conditions in companies

along the entire supply chain. By regularly updating the STeP criteria, certified companies are able to continuously improve their environmental performance and social responsibility in order to strengthen their economic situation and competitiveness.

### Prerequisite for the STeP certification

is the fulfilment of minimum requirements in 6 different modules.

Part of the environmental performance modul is the „Impact Calculator“, a carbon and water footprint tool that builds a clear picture of the facilities carbon and water footprint, allowing to take action in achieving the industry's goal to reduce water usage and carbon emissions.





# ADVANTAGES

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## WHAT ADVANTAGES DOES STeP by OEKO-TEX® OFFER?

### **Textile and leather manufacturers**

can significantly increase the efficiency of their production processes on the basis of a STeP certification. Our system helps them to position themselves in terms of sustainability and identifies areas where they can improve. STeP as an independent proof of sustainable production conditions contributes to an image enhancement that allows companies to develop new markets and supplier relationships.

### **Brands and retailers**

can measure and transparently report the social and sustainable impacts in their supply chain

thanks to STeP by OEKO-TEX®. OEKO-TEX® offers the opportunity to search for suppliers worldwide that meet their environmental performance and social responsibility requirements. This enables them to clearly and comprehensively document their joint commitment to sustainability along with the supply chain for the end consumer.

The STeP certification is a requirement for MADE IN GREEN, the traceable label for products that have been tested for harmful substances and produced in a sustainable way.



Independence



Textile & Leather  
expertise



Credibility



Standardised  
worldwide



Transparency



# PRODUCTION FACILITIES

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**STeP by OEKO-TEX® ASSESSES THE PERFORMANCE FOR  
THE ENTIRE PRODUCTION CHAIN.**

## TEXTILE PRODUCTION.



Dry and wet spinning, twisting  
and related processes



Manufacturing of accessories  
(e.g., zippers, buttons, labels)



Weaving, knitting, production of  
non-woven and related processes



Manufacturing of foam  
and mattresses



Pretreatment, dyeing, printing,  
finishing and related processes



Textile logistics



Making up of  
textile products



Other (e.g., non agricultural  
fibre manufacturing)

## LEATHER PRODUCTION.



Beamhouse



Tanning



Retanning, dyeing,  
fatliquoring



Finishing of leather



Making up of  
leather products



Leather logistics



# CERTIFICATION

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**THE CERTIFICATION PROCESS.**  
**THE FOLLOWING STEPS ARE NECESSARY FOR A STeP CERTIFICATION.**



**CERTIFICATION APPLICATION.**

Application form on  
OEKO-TEX® website



**ONLINE ASSESSMENT TOOL.**

Electronic Online  
Questionnaire



**ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION.**

Evaluation by trained OEKO-TEX®  
STeP auditors



**ON-SITE AUDIT.**

STeP auditor verifies data  
from assessment tool



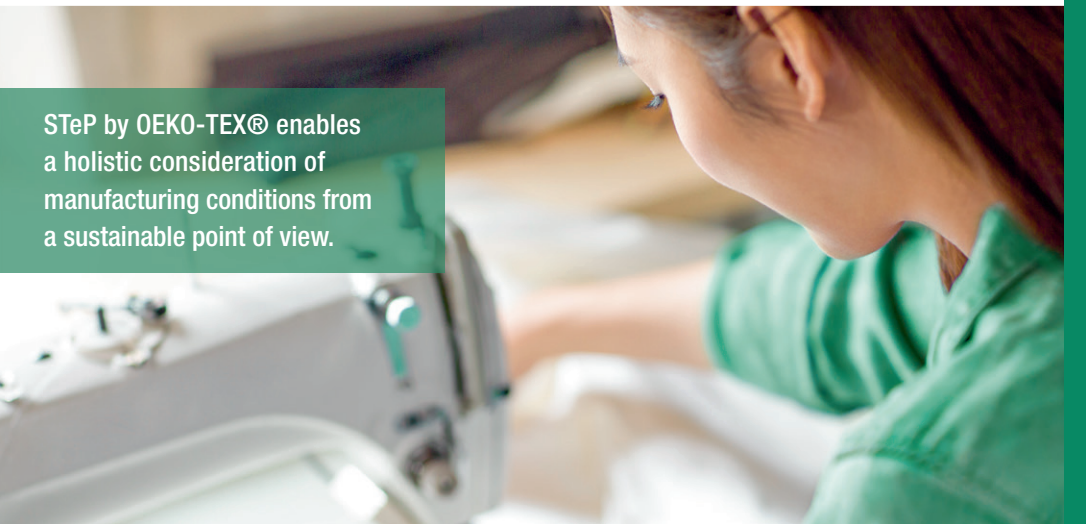
**EVALUATION.**

Corrective actions &  
support by STeP auditor



**CERTIFICATE &  
FINAL REPORT.**

OEKO-TEX® prepares a  
detailed final report



STeP by OEKO-TEX® enables  
a holistic consideration of  
manufacturing conditions from  
a sustainable point of view.



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