

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.

STeP by OEKO-TEX® certified production facilities make an important contribution so that products along the value chain can be recognized with the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label. The certification enables also an easy and transparent communication of sustainability commitment to customers and other stakeholders.



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:

- **Chemical management** is covering the optimisation of different aspects, which includes a risk assessment and management of chemicals used in production, ban and substitution of hazardous chemicals to reach a clean input management.
- **Environmental performance** is considering a wide range of aspects to improve the efficiency on the ground and long-term, including the responsible handling of wastewater and emissions (e.g., reduction of carbon footprint and water usage).
- **Environmental management** module is requesting a management tool or concept that captures a documented description of the processes and activities to achieve environmental goals and continuous improvements towards greater sustainability.
- **Social responsibility** deals with the ILO core labour Standards and is covering a wide range of aspects like prevention of child labor and discrimination as well as regulation of wages and benefits, including the surveillance of working hours that need to be in compliance with the STeP Standard.
- **Quality management** is looking at the traceability, responsibilities for and documentation of goods flows within the facility, meaning the correct implementation of risk management and the commitment to ongoing improvements.
- **Workplace safety** is covering measures for safety at the workplace and proving safety of buildings and production plants (e.g., through construction measures, escape plans, separation of production areas) as well as implementing risk prevention and regular trainings.

As of January 2022 a new tool is included in the STeP certification: The Impact Calculator. The tool measures the carbon and water footprint for facilities. Using the impact calculator couldn't be easier. A series of data entries builds quickly a clear picture of the carbon and water footprint, allowing to take decisive steps in achieving the industry's goal to reduce water usage and carbon emissions 30% by 2030 – today.

LEARN MORE.

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.
- A great advantage for STeP certified facilities is the tracking of their key performance indicators: a facility can show their reductions within energy use, water use, air emissions etc. over time.
Additionally companies can measure their carbon and water footprint on different levels, which is giving them an initial estimate and assessment on materials and process steps that contribute the most to their overall environmental impact.
- 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 by OEKO-TEX® certification wet processing companies analyse their chemical performance with regard to goals of our STeP by OEKO-TEX® Manufacturing Restricted Substances List, which is compliant with the Greenpeace Detox campaign and ZDHC MRSL 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 directions 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.