

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS





ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®

The textile and clothing industries are changing with great speed. Industry associations and NGOs are prodding all elements of the supply chain to adhere to more rigorous and responsible chemical management systems. Brands and retailers, concerned with their reputation and public image, are asking suppliers to provide additional disclosures that chemicals used in their products pose no human or environmental risk. The international OEKO-TEX® Association is proud to offer ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® as a trusted answer to these chemical disclosure concerns. ECO PASSPORT is a two-step process by which manufacturers of textile processing chemicals and chemical compounds are able

to transparently confirm that their products meet the criteria for environmentally responsible textile production, all while maintaining confidentiality for their proprietary information. We look forward to working with the textile and clothing industry to implement and expand this important certification throughout the supply chain.



Georg Dieners

Secretary General | OEKO-TEX® Association

BASICS

- 1 The ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® system
- 2 Target groups
- 3 Benefits for chemical manufacturers
- 4 Apply for ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®
- 5 The ECO PASSPORT for traders and resellers

CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

- 6 Purpose of the unique certification number
- 7 Validity of a certificate
- 8 The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide
- 9 Duration of the certification process
- 10 Costs involved
- 11 Disclosure of confidential recipes
- 12 RSL and MRSL verification
- 13 Proof of certification
- 14 Required information

TECHNICAL TERMS AND DETAILS

- 15 Comparison of OEKO-TEX® chemical restrictions
- 16 ECO PASSPORT and STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®
limit values
- 17 Chemical groups and categories
- 18 One certificate for different products
- 19 ECO PASSPORT and STANDARD 100 product classes
- 20 ECO PASSPORT and STeP by OEKO-TEX®
- 21 STANDARD 100 certification covers additional aspects
- 22 MRSL ZDHC product conformity

OTHER

- 23 ECO PASSPORT vs other comparable market solutions
- 24 Further information
- 25 About OEKO-TEX®

①

» What is an ECO PASSPORT certification? «

ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® is a mechanism by which manufacturers and suppliers demonstrate that their products can be used in sustainable textile production. The ECO PASSPORT programme offers two distinct yet complementary stages:

Stage 1 Restricted Substance List (RSL) and Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL) screening

Stage 2 Analytical verification performed in an OEKO-TEX® member institute laboratory

Products that meet the requirements of both two processes earn the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® certification and will be entered into the OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide which is the OEKO-TEX® central sourcing platform of pre-certified articles and materials.

CERTIFICATE

STAGE I RSL / MRSL SCREENING

STAGE II ANALYTICAL VERIFICATION



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» Who can apply for an ECO PASSPORT certificate? «

Any textile chemical manufacturer can apply for the ECO PASSPORT certification. The ECO PASSPORT is applicable to chemical products (base by textile, colourants and auxiliaries) as well as their preparations which are foreseen to be used in the textile, clothing and/or closely related industries. For traders and resellers of chemicals special conditions apply. Information about applying for the ECO PASSPORT certification is available at: www.oeko-tex.com/ecopassport.

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» What are the benefits for the producer of an ECO PASSPORT-certified product? «

The ECO PASSPORT certificate proves that ECO PASSPORT-certified textile chemicals do not contain in serious concentrations harmful substances that are mentioned on the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® Restricted Substance List (RSL). The analytical verification of the textile chemical product ensures that harmful substances of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® RSL are not present in critical concentrations and thus the ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals are approved for use in STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®. Furthermore, via the ECO PASSPORT RSL and MRSL screening process it is checked that the product components (main constituents and impurities) declared by the applicant are not mentioned on the STeP by OEKO-TEX® Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL), the SVHC candidate list of REACH and/or the MRSL of ZDHC.

4

» How can I apply for the ECO PASSPORT? «

You have two options to get started. Contact one of our OEKO-TEX® member institutes or simply fill out the application form at www.oeko-tex.com/ecopassport.

5

» Can traders/resellers of chemicals apply for certification? «

An authorised trader or reseller, who is buying an ECO PASSPORT-certified product and reselling it under a different trade name without additional formulation changes, will be able to hold an ECO PASSPORT certificate for a base fee only.

6

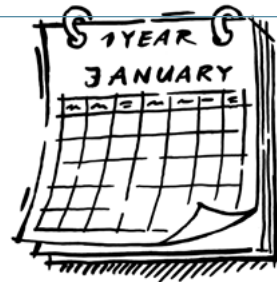
» Every ECO PASSPORT certificate has a unique certificate number. What is the purpose of this number? «

Each issued ECO PASSPORT certificate has an individual certificate number. The certificate number is a unique identification number, which is linked with the specific scope and validity of the ECO PASSPORT certificate. The validity and the products covered by the certificate can be verified by entering the certificate number into the ECO PASSPORT website: www.oeko-tex.com/ecopassport.

7

» What is the validity period of an ECO PASSPORT certificate? «

An ECO PASSPORT certificate is valid for one year (12 months) from the issue date. A certificate renewal can be applied for up to three months before the end of the validity.



» What is the OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide? «

The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide is the Web portal for sourcing pre-certified materials and substances. This is the well-known OEKO-TEX® preferred substance list for all OEKO-TEX®-certified materials. For the ECO PASSPORT the preferred substance list indicates textile chemicals, colourants and auxiliaries which are certified. This platform is publically available and allows purchasing manufacturers or brand designers to source certified textile materials and textile chemicals from verified certificate holders. The database includes an ECO PASSPORT search function to look for:

- › Trade name
- › Chemical group and category

Please find more information at www.oeko-tex.com/ecopassport.



9

» How long does it take to receive an ECO PASSPORT certificate? «

The complete ECO PASSPORT certification process typically takes two to four weeks once the application is complete and samples are received. Based on the complexity of the applying product the certification process can be conducted within a shorter or a longer period. For more details please contact your OEKO-TEX® partner institute.

10

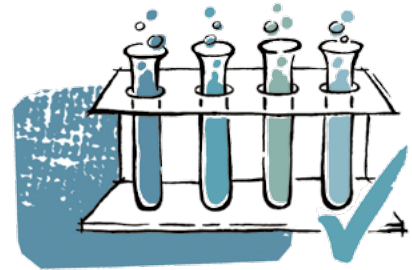
» What are the costs for an ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®? «

The costs for an ECO PASSPORT certification depend on the amount of chemical products and their specific grouping. The RSL/MRSL screening, as well as the right to label ECO PASSPORT products is covered within the base fee. Additional costs occur based on the individual testing programme, which is related to the applying products and their amount.

11

» My recipe is confidential. Do I have to share it? «

The OEKO-TEX® Association recognises that chemical recipes including bills of substances (BoS) are highly valued, proprietary information. OEKO-TEX® makes every effort to treat the information as highly confidential. In order to receive an ECO PASSPORT certificate, the Chemical Abstract Service Number (CAS) must be disclosed, as well as all harmful components in excess of 1% and substances known as carcinogens in excess of 0.1%. The information a chemical producer provides is encrypted and stored by the certifying institute and the OEKO-TEX® Association.



12

» What does RSL/MRSL screening mean? «

The Restricted Substance List (RSL) and Manufacturing Restricted Substance List (MRSL) screening is a CAS number by CAS number comparison. We compare the substances provided by the ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® applicant with the RSL of STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®, the MRSL of STeP by OEKO-TEX® – already covering the ZDHC MRSL – and the SVHC list of REACH.

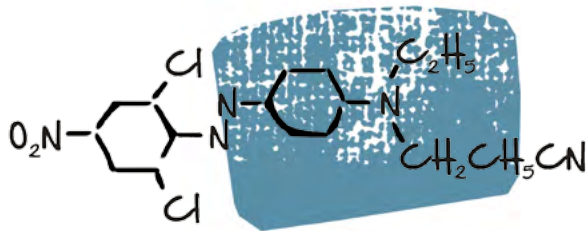
13

» What does a certified company receive to document certification? «

A certified company will receive a report of the RSL/MRSL screening, an analytical test report and an ECO PASSPORT certificate. The certificate includes a unique identification number, a validity date and a list of the products covered by the certificate.

» What information is a chemical producer required to provide? «

To receive an ECO PASSPORT certificate, the chemical producer must provide at least the Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number information for recipe ingredients. Including the concentration levels in the bills of substances (BoS) list is not mandatory but gives you a selling benefit for brands and manufacturers looking to source greener textile chemicals.





» What is the difference between the chemical restrictions in ECO PASSPORT, STeP and STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®? «

Each of the OEKO-TEX® products has been created to satisfy a specific segment or need within the textile value chain. ECO PASSPORT, STeP and STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® each have different chemical restrictions. The ECO PASSPORT system is designed for textile chemicals only, STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® is for textiles and textile accessories and STeP by OEKO-TEX® is for textile manufacturers.

In general, however, there is a great deal of similarity within the OEKO-TEX® systems, because the focus is on protecting the consumer, the worker and the environment from the negative impact of chemicals that are used in the textile industry. The chemicals and the threshold values included in ECO PASSPORT address lots of harmful substances that may be used in textile production, not just those remaining on a finished textile. In this way a manufacturer using ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals can have confidence that the use of pre-certified chemical products will not cause any problems under foreseeable circumstances on the produced textiles for meeting the requirements of STANDARD 100 and STeP by OEKO-TEX®.

More information about these products and chemical requirements can be found at www.oeko-tex.com.

16

» What are the threshold values for testing and why are some values higher than STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®? «

The list of chemicals and threshold values can be found here: www.oeko-tex.com/ecopassport.

The threshold values of chemicals included in the ECO PASSPORT certification are higher for some parameters than the finished product values of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® certification. This matter is related to the fact that chemicals usually do not remain on the textile to the same extent as they are applied. These values have been set in order to ensure compliance of the finished textile with the requirements of STANDARD 100 and STeP by OEKO-TEX®. The threshold values for chemicals which are prohibited in either STANDARD 100 or STeP by OEKO-TEX® have been established based on legal requirements and our long-standing experience.

17

» What does chemical group and category mean? «

For the ECO PASSPORT certification process four different chemical groups are listed: auxiliaries, colourants, finishing assistants and other textile chemicals. Those groups are clustered in categories like disperse dyes for colourants or adhesives for finishing assistants. Those categories will be used to cluster certificates covering more than a single chemical product.

18

» **Products applying for an ECO PASSPORT contain different ingredients and concentrations. Can they all be covered by a single certificate? «**

The applying chemical products need to be linked to a specific group and category during the application procedure. If different products are related to the same category, a single certificate for those chemical products can be issued. The categories and chemical groups are defined in ECO PASSPORT Standard document (see ANNEX V).

19

» **Will ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®-certified chemicals meet all classes (I–IV) of STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®? «**

ECO PASSPORT certification has been designed so that a company using chemicals certified according to the standard can have confidence that they will meet the chemical requirements of STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®. Under some circumstances the ECO PASSPORT certificate will show the restrictions transparently and the parameters mentioned have to be checked on the finished textiles.

» Will ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals meet all requirements of STeP by OEKO-TEX®? «

ECO PASSPORT requirements are aligned with the Manufacturing Restricted Substance List of STeP by OEKO-TEX®. This includes that substances of high concern are restricted to the intended use in manufacturing processes. The threshold values of the ECO PASSPORT are required to verify those requirements.



21

» **If a textile product is produced only with ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals, will testing be required for STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® certification? «**

A product produced with only ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals does not require a full test programme of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® procedure. However the ECO PASSPORT process does not consider an additive or interactive effect of individual ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals used together or parameters influenced during the production process. The utilisation of ECO PASSPORT-certified chemicals should be disclosed during the application process for STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and will be taken into account.



22

» **Are ZDHC requirements covered by the ECO PASSPORT certification system? «**

The threshold values, as defined in the ECO PASSPORT standard document, are congruent with the ZDHC limit values or, in some cases, more rigorous. The ZDHC requirements, including the MRL parameters and their limit values defined in the latest ZDHC version, are considered during ECO PASSPORT certification stages.



» What is the difference between ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX® and other products available in the market? «

ECO PASSPORT combines the values and strength of two different verification stages to ensure the highest level of confidence on using and sourcing textile chemicals:

- › **RSL / MRL screening:** Quick assessment and compliance with legal requirements and OEKO-TEX®
- › **Analytical verification:** Testing of contaminants and impurities

ECO PASSPORT is a new mechanism available on the market that combines these two critical stages to provide a high level of confidence regarding chemicals of concern for buyers of textile chemicals. Including the ECO PASSPORT-certified materials allows chemical suppliers and brands to design, produce and sell textile products based on chemicals screened for sustainability. The OEKO-TEX® Association supports the global chemical suppliers to market their products to over 10,000 OEKO-TEX® clients globally in a harmonised and third-party-verified manner.

» Where do I get further information about ECO PASSPORT? «

For further details please visit: www.oeko-tex.com/ecopassport, or contact one of our partner institutes.

About OEKO-TEX®

With 25 years of experience, OEKO-TEX® leads the world in empowering and enabling consumers and companies to protect our planet by making responsible decisions. OEKO-TEX® provides standardised solutions which optimise customers' manufacturing processes and help deliver high quality, more sustainable products. All of the products within the OEKO-TEX® portfolio are used to strengthen our customers' systems, processes or products and, ultimately, they help create more sustainable companies. To date, 10,000 manufacturers, brands, and retailers in almost 100 countries are working with OEKO-TEX® to ensure that their products are tested for potentially harmful substances and millions of consumers around the world look for OEKO-TEX® labels before making buying decisions. OEKO-TEX® certified products and suppliers can be located in the OEKO-TEX® Online Buying Guide at www.oeko-tex.com/products. Connect with OEKO-TEX® on [Facebook](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and on [Twitter](#).

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