

**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

not only want high-quality textiles and leather goods that are harmless to health, but also increasingly expect environmentally friendly and socially responsible production. This is why OEKO-TEX® has developed STeP – Sustainable Textile & Leather Production.

### 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.





# ADVANTAGES

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

### Brands and retail companies

STeP offers the opportunity for a worldwide search of suppliers who meet their requirements in terms of environmental protection and social responsibility. This enables them to document their joint commitment to sustainability together with the supply chain in a clear and comprehensive manner for the end consumer.

### 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.



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.**



**1**

**CERTIFICATION APPLICATION.**

Application form on  
OEKO-TEX® website



**4**

**ON-SITE AUDIT.**

STeP auditor verifies data  
from assessment tool



**2**

**ONLINE ASSESSMENT TOOL.**

Electronic Online  
Questionnaire



**5**

**EVALUATION.**

Corrective actions &  
support by STeP auditor



**3**

**ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION.**

Evaluation by trained OEKO-TEX®  
STeP auditors

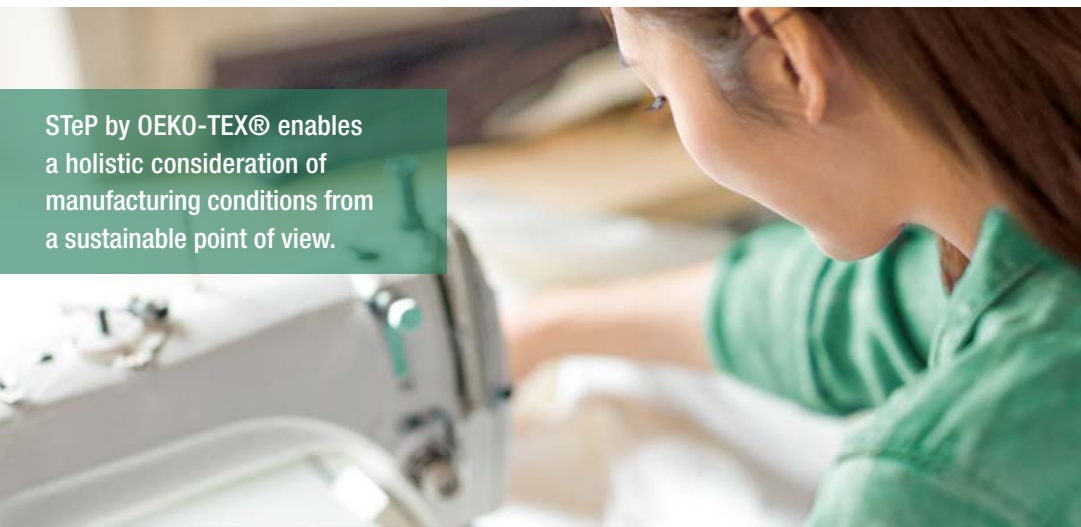


**6**

**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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