# **Choosing OEKO-TEX**<sup>®</sup>

Nilörn holds two group certificates which covers majority of certified products in our supply chain. Published January 2024



# Introduction to OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> STANDARD 100

The foundation of the OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> STANDARD 100 dates back to 1992. The aim was to use laboratory testing to ensure that the textile products included in the certification were harmless to health. Today it is one of the most well-known product certifications for ensuring that textiles have been tested for harmful substances and are meeting the requirements of the standard.

All textile articles in every stage of processing are suitable for a STANDARD 100 certification. This includes everything from the threads to the finished fabrics and finished articles. For a product to become OEKO-TEX® certified, each component needs to be certified and meet the requirements.

"OEKO-TEX" STANDARD 100 certification means that a product, material, accessory, or other textile related goods, has been tested for substances that could harm human health."



#### Product classes and annexes

A product class is a group of different articles categorised according to their intended utilisation and the STANDARD 100 testing for harmful substances are based on the product's purpose. For products provided by Nilörn only Product Class 1 and 2 are applicable.

#### PRODUCT CLASS 1

This product class includes products for babies and has the strictest requirements and limit values.

#### PRODUCT CLASS 2

This product class includes products with skin contact. This comprises articles that come into direct contact with the skin to a large extent, such as blouses, shirts, underwear, mattresses, etc.

#### PRODUCT CLASS 3

This product class includes products without skin contact. This covers articles that have no or minimal contact with the skin, such as jackets and vests, belts, etc.

#### **PRODUCT CLASS 4**

This product class includes decoration materials. It covers all articles including initial products and accessories used for furnishing purposes, such as tablecloths, curtains, upholstery fabrics, etc. When testing for meeting the OEKO-TEX® criteria, there are two different tables with limit values:

Annex 4 – requirements for relevant substances of Annexes XVII and XIV of the REACH Regulation and the ECHA-SVHC Candidate list.

Annex 6 – expanded test criteria for companies focused on the Greenpeace Detox campaign. The limit values in Annex 4 are complemented with further and stricter limit values for many test parameters and substances, not for human health, but for improved environmental performance in the production of textiles to align with the Detox campaign.

More information about the test criteria available at www.oeko-tex.com/en/downloads



#### Test criteria

The tests included in the standard refers to legal regulations and banned chemicals. In addition, harmful chemicals are included, even if they are not yet regulated legally. The criteria and limit values are revised at least once a year. The OEKO-TEX® laboratory tests include around 100 test parameters and consider the intended use of the textiles. The more intensive the skin contact of a textile product, the stricter the limit values for each product class. The different product classes are explained on the next section.

#### Availability

Nilörn holds two group certificates which covers majority of certified products in our supply chain. The types of products included in our certificates (subject to change):

#### SE10-190, ANNEX 4, PRODUCT CLASS 1:

- Woven labels and tapes
- Printed labels
- Woven webbings
- Embroidery patches
- Heat transfer printed labels
- Rubber labels
- Heat stamped and/or engraved labels
- Buttons





#### SE18-1902, ANNEX 6, PRODUCT CLASS 1:

- Woven labels
- Printed labels
- Heat transfer printed labels
- Silicone labels
- Metal accessories, as snaps, buttons, badges etc.
- Woven and printed labels and tapes made of recycled polyester

#### The STANDARD 100 is not applicable for:

- Leather materials/articles. These products are tested and certified according to the OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> LEATHER STANDARD.
- Chemical, auxiliaries, inks, and colourants. These products can be tested and certified according to the OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT.

#### Other OEKO-TEX® certifications

#### OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN:

Traceable product label for all kinds of textiles and leather products that have been manufactured in environmentally friendly facilities under safe and socially responsible working conditions. The MADE IN GREEN label also reassures consumers that the textile or leather product is made of materials that have been tested for harmful substances.

#### **OEKO-TEX® LEATHER STANDARD:**

An internationally standardised testing and certification system for leather and leather goods at all production levels, including accessory materials. The certification supports companies along the supply chain with the implementation of high human-ecological product safety.

#### OEKO-TEX® STeP:

For Sustainable Textile & Leather Production and is a modular certification system for production facilities in the textile and leather industry. The goal of STeP is to implement environmentally friendly production processes in the long term, to improve health and safety and to promote socially responsible working conditions at production sites. The target groups for STeP certification are textile and leather manufacturers as well as brands and retailers.

#### OEKO-TEX® DETOX TO ZERO:

An efficient verification system for the textile and leather industry which aims to implement the criteria of the Greenpeace DETOX Campaign within production facilities. In this case, instead of certification, there is an analysis tool for the optimisation and monitoring of chemicals management and wastewater quality.

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#### **OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT:**

An independent certification system for chemicals, colourants and auxiliaries used in the textile and leather industry. A multistep process analyses whether each individual ingredient in the chemical product meets the statutory requirements and that it is not harmful to human health. Both brands and manufacturers value the ECO PASSPORT as credible proof of sustainable textile and leather production.

#### Renewal and audits

The certificate holders shall renew their certificate once a year before it is expired. As holder of a STANDARD 100 certificate, Nilörn will undergo regular audits by OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> independent testing institutes. A mandatory company visit take place in a 3-year cycle.



STANDARD 100

#### Some frequently asked questions

#### Q: Which items can be certified?

A: Any textile item but also accessories, threads, buttons etc.

#### Q: What are the advantages of having OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> certified products?

A: Ensuring that the items are free from harmful substances and meeting legal requirements.

## Q: How do I check if an OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> certificate is valid?

A: OEKO-TEX® has their own database where one can make a search on the certificate number to see if the certificate is valid, and what items are included in the scope. <u>www.oeko-tex.com/en/</u> <u>label-check</u>



# Q: What does the OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> STANDARD 100 certification process look like?

A: One will apply to an OEKO-TEX® Institute, the institute will check submitted documents and sample materials to define the extent of testing and test parameters.

After successful laboratory tests and provision of all necessary documents, one will receive the STANDARD 100 certificate and a detailed test report from the OEKO-TEX® Institute.

# Q: Where can information about Appendix and product class be seen on a certificate?



# Q: How long is an OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> certificate valid for?

A: Each certificate has a validity period of 1 year.

## Q: Can a recycled material obtain an OEKO-TEX<sup>®</sup> certificate?

A: Yes, most often a separate certificate will be issued for recycled materials. Additional information is required during application and is checked during testing and on-site visit.