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STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® test criteria: New regulations in 2017

At the start of the year, the OEKO-TEX® Association has, as usual, updated the applicable test criteria and limit values for product certification in accordance with the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®. The following new regulations come into force on 01 April 2017 for all certifications, following a three-month transition period:

- At the parameter “per- and polyfluorinated compounds”, a large number of substances have been added or listed explicitly by name in product class I (items for babies and small children) and provided with limit values. On the one hand, these substances include perfluorooctane sulfonate compounds such as PFOSA, PFOSF, N-Me-FOSA etc., which are derived from perfluorooctane sulfonic acid. On the other, they include other per- and polyfluorinated carbonic acids and sulfonic acids as well as numerous fluorinated alcohols (fluorotelomer alcohols) and fluorotelomer acrylates. Due to the large number of compounds, to Annexes 4 and 5 of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® are referenced here.

  As a result, in product class I, the use of per- and polyfluorinated compounds is severely restricted and nearly eliminated, which also provides further continued support for the “Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) initiative” and the “Detox campaign.”

- A large number of substances are also included in the list of regulated softeners (phthalates) in all of the product classes. They are:

Substance:	CAS no.:
Di-ethyl phthalate (DEP)	84-66-2
Di-iso-octyl phthalate (DIOP)	27554-26-3
Di-n-propyl phthalate (DPrP)	131-16-8
Di-n-nonyl phthalate (DNP)	84-76-4
1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, di-C6-10 alkyl esters	68515-51-5
1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, mixed decyl and hexyl and octyl diesters	68648-93-1

  The existing sum limit values for product classes I to IV (0.1 % = 1000 mg/kg) remain unchanged. This takes substances from the “ZDHC initiative” (DEP, DIOP, DPrP, DNP) and the ECHA-SVHC candidate list (1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, di-C6-10 alkyl esters respectively mixed decyl and hexyl and octyl diesters) into account.

- Three other organic tin compounds are regulated with limit values in all product classes. In detail, they are dipropyltin (DPT), monophenyltin (MPhT) and tetraethyltin (TeET).

  The following limit values apply for each substance:

Product class I:	1.0 mg/kg
Product classes II to IV:	2.0 mg/kg

  This supports requirements of ZDHC (MPhT), Detox (TeET) and the standard EN 71-3 (DPT).

- The four UV stabilisers already regulated in product class IV since the start of 2016, UV 320 (CAS no. 3846-71-7), UV 327 (CAS no. 3864-99-1), UV 328 (CAS no. 25973-55-1) and UV 350 (CAS no. 36437-37-3), are each now also provided with the limit value 0.1 % (= 1000 mg/kg) in product classes I to III. These UV stabilisers are listed in the REACh ECHA SVHC candidate list (Substances of Very High Concern).

- At the parameter “pesticides”, the substances chlorobenzilate (CAS no. 510-15-6) and phosphamidone (CAS no. 13171-21-6) are added additional and integrated into the list of individual substances in Annex 5 of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®. Chlorobenzilate and phosphamidone, for example, are also noted in the EU Ecolabel (“EU flower”) for textile products. The existing limit values for the sum of pesticide substances remain unchanged at:

  Product class I; sum of all pesticide substances: max. 0.5 mg/kg
  Product classes II to IV; sum of all pesticide substances: max. 1.0 mg/kg

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- Requirements and references that relate to leather materials and leather products are taken from the 2017 edition of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® respectively adapted where necessary because the OEKO-TEX® Association has published the standalone new LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® on 1 January 2017. The new LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® is specially tailored to leather materials and leather products, contributes to a high level of effective product safety from the perspective of the consumer and allows producers of leather goods in every stage of production to have products that have been tested for harmful substances recognised and demonstrate them to the consumer. The standard can be viewed on the OEKO-TEX® website at www.oeko-tex.com.

- At the parameter “extractable heavy metals”, the footnote for copper was expanded. The exemption in the footnote now states: “No requirement for accessories and yarns made from inorganic materials, respecting the requirements regarding biological active products.

  This change makes it clearer that there are no requirements in place for the content of “extractable copper” for metallic accessory parts made from copper and copper alloys but also, for example, for specific core yarns, which may contain a metallic copper wire wound with textile yarns. However, the footnote also makes it clear that the special regulations set for biologically active products in the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® must be observed and complied with for the use of biologically active products based on copper.

- The use of the blue colourant “Navy Blue” (index no. 611-070-00-2; EU no. 405-665-4), which poses a high potential risk to the environment and whose use is regulated by European directive 2003/3/EU of the Commission dated 6 January 2003 and in Annex XVII of the REACh Regulation is now also explicitly prohibited for product certification according to the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and its use is therefore not permitted. The use of Navy Blue already has been prohibited for many years now within the framework of STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification for production facilities. Requirements of the ZDHC initiative are also supported by this measure.

- Various application documents have been compiled to make applications easier. One shared document is now provided for initial applications, renewals and extensions of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®.

With many of these new measures the OEKO-TEX® Association significantly supports both the „Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) initiative“ and the „Detox campaign“ and sensitizes the textile production chain for a responsible handling with possible harmful substances in textile products and contributes with his pioneering role to an effective consumer protection.