

Press information

OEKO-TEX® trains additional auditors for STeP certification

16-Sep-2015 | 2208-EN

Zürich (hm/IS) At the end of June, 24 new STeP auditors successfully completed their training in Shanghai and can now assess interested companies on-site with regard to their sustainable production conditions as part of the STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification. The new STeP auditors come from China, Bangladesh, Germany, South Korea, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Denmark, Hungary, and Taiwan. In total, the 16 OEKO-TEX® Institutes with their contact offices in more than 60 countries now have 80 auditors at their disposal from all of the most important regions of global textile production.

Guided by trainers from the OEKO-TEX® Association, the new auditors completed an intensive four-day training programme. During the intensive programme, the auditors worked through the six modules of the STeP certification using practical examples. Furthermore, the participants also had an opportunity to discuss their different cultural backgrounds and the respective situation of the textile industry in their home countries. The main focus of the training was on the issues of independence, neutrality, and consistency when assessing the production facilities in the textile chain. The training also covered the everyday handling of the STeP assessment tool, the creation of check lists for the audits, and the drawing up of test reports as a prerequisite for a globally standardised procedure. To ensure consistency, STeP auditors who have not yet done field work at companies are accompanied and guided by an experienced colleague as they begin to put their training into practice.

The companies listed below, which were certified between March 2015 and July 2015, prove their comprehensive commitment with regard to environmental protection, sustainability and social responsibility with their certification in accordance with STeP by OEKO-TEX®.

A Penteadora - Soc. Ind. de Penteação e Fiação de Lãs, SA	Country: Portugal Certified on: 02 July 2015 Production stages: Spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing of yarn and textiles Products: Wool fabrics and blended wool fabrics for clothing, workwear, protective clothing and covers for game tables (such as billiards) Number of employees: 370 www.penteadora.pt
Cilander AG AG Cilander, Plant 2 Eisenhammer	Country: Switzerland Certified on: 03 June 2015 Production stages: Pre-treatment, dyeing, finishing and coating of fabrics and textiles Use: Clothing, technical textiles, home textiles, Middle Eastern and African textiles Number of employees: approximately 200 www.cilander.ch
Jiangsu Lianfa Textile CO., Ltd.	Country: China Certified on: 02 July 2015 Production stages: Weaving, knitting, dyeing and finishing of yarn, textiles and finished products Use: Yarn, T-shirts, blouses and shirts Number of employees: approximately 5,000 www.lianfa.cn
Konfekcija Breboteks Dool	Country: Macedonia Certified on: 03 June 2015 Production stages: Manufacture Use: Blouses and shirts
Laminats Orient, S.L.	Country: Spain Certified on: 20 May 2015 Production stages: Dyeing, finishing, and coating of textiles Use: Home textiles, sportswear, technical textiles, medical textiles Number of employees: 61 www.laminatesorient.eu

Penfabric Sdn. Berhad	Country: Malaysia Certified on: 02 June 2015 Production stages: Spinning, weaving, dyeing, finishing of textiles Use: Recreational clothing and sportswear, home textiles, furnishing fabric, work clothing, protective clothing Number of employees: 1,600 www.penfabric.com
POLIFOAM Plastic Processing Co., Ltd.	Country: Hungary Certified on: 02 July 2015 Production stages: Production of foam Use: Car, construction, insulating material, recreation, professional sports, tape, shoe and packing industries Number of employees: 135 http://polifoam.hu/
RTK, spol. s.r.o.	Country: Czech Republic Certified on: 24 March 2015 Production stages: Weaving and knitting of cotton textiles Use: Shirts and blouses, home textiles Number of employees: 50 www.rtkstro.cz
Sioen nv	Country: Belgium Certified on: 22 April 2015 Production stages: Spinning, weaving, coating and production of non-woven textiles Use: Technical textiles Number of employees: over 4,000 (entire group) www.sioen.com

Textilveredlung an der Wiese GmbH	Country: Germany Certified on: 03 June 2015 Production stages: Contract processing Use: Shirts and blouses, home textiles, technical textiles Number of employees: 140 www.wiese-textil.de
Veramtex Marly S.A.	Country: Belgium Certified on: 10 March 2015 Production stages: Special finishing of textiles and knitwear made of cellulose fibres Use: Clothing textiles, home textiles Number of employees: 15 www.veramtex.com
Willy Hermann Wirkwarenerzeugungs GmbH	Country: Austria Certified on: 24 June 2015 Production stages: Weaving and knitting of textiles Use: Clothing textiles, technical textiles Number of employees: 110 www.willy-hermann.com



Sustainable Textile Production (STeP) by OEKO-TEX®

STeP is an independent certification system for brands, retail companies and manufacturers from the textile chain who want to communicate their achievements regarding sustainable production to the public in a transparent, credible and clear manner. Certification can be obtained for production facilities in all of the processing stages, from fibre production, spinning mills, weaving mills, and knitting mills to finishing facilities and manufacturers of ready-made clothes.

For the STeP certification, all of the areas of the company that were of relevance with regard to sustainable production and social conditions were first analysed using a web-based assessment tool. This included the handling of chemicals and possible hazardous materials, environmental performance measured using a wide range of criteria, the implementation of an environmental management system, company responsibility in relation to employees, efficient quality management and safety in the workplace. During the subsequent audit of the production facilities, the specifications provided by the company were verified on site by the OEKO-TEX® auditors and a detailed audit report was created. The results of the individual areas are collected and

displayed together in a clear overall scoring system on the issued STeP certificate. But the decisive factor for many companies is also that the solutions implemented as part of the STeP certification are regularly reassessed to ensure continuous improvement and further positive development.



A Penteadora - Soc. Ind. de Penteação e Fiação de Lãs, SA



Cilander AG



Jiangsu Lianfa Textile CO., Ltd.



Laminats Orient, S.L.

PENFABRIC

Penfabric Sdn. Berhad



POLIFOAM Plastic Processing Co., Ltd.

RTK, spol. s.r.o.



Sioen nv



Textilveredlung an der Wiese GmbH





Veramtex Marly S.A.



Willy Hermann Wirkwarenerzeugungs GmbH

Willy Hermann
