

OETI: LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® gains momentum

The LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® is a worldwide consistent, independent testing and certification system for leather and leather articles of all levels of production, which is tailored to the needs of leather producing and processing industries.

OETI customers and LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®

The first LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® certificate in Austria goes to WOLLSDORF LEATHER. WOLLSDORF's CEO Andreas Kindermann states the reason for choosing this certification: "The LEATHER STANDARD is a worldwide consistent, independent testing and certification system for leather. Recurring inspections are carried out, which allows us to have our process stability and product quality monitored by external auditors regularly. We use the results to benchmark our products worldwide."

Another LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® certificate was recently awarded to OETI customer Vizyon in Turkey.

What advantages does the LEATHER STANDARD offer from a customer point of view?

Andreas Kindermann concludes stating the advantages for other companies: "An international expert community like OEKO-TEX® conducts ongoing research in the field of textile- and leather ecology. Every business should be interested in using the expertise provided to push its products towards the benchmark."

LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® in Detail

From January 2017, the OEKO-TEX® Association inspects and certifies leather products, such as all types of clothing, leather shoes, upholstery materials, as well as products that are a mixture of textiles and leather, in addition to textile products. The OEKO-TEX® Association is therefore responding to the latest developments in the textile and leather goods market.

The requirements of the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue are almost similar stringent as those in the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® criteria catalogue. Thus, key statutory regulations as well as numerous chemicals that are harmful to health are covered, even if they have not yet been legally regulated. Moreover, the LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX® corresponds to the requirements from the US Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) regarding lead. During certification, leather products are tested with regard to formaldehyde, heavy metals such as chromium(VI), chromium, arsenic, lead and cadmium, pesticides, chlorinated phenols, phthalates, processing agents and preservatives, PFOS, PFOA, as well as banned Azo colourants and other colourants, among other things. Product features, for example colour fastness, are also tested, and an

olfactory test is performed. The main component of products that are made from both leather and textiles determines the certification that applies to the product: STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® or LEATHER STANDARD by OEKO-TEX®. The tests, however, cover the complete product, including all textile and leather components, yarns, zip fasteners and buttons, etc.

Contact:

Helene Melnitzky, Manager Department of Ecology, melnitzky@oeti.biz, Tel: +43 699 16060817

Gerda Pongratz, Marketing & PR, pongratz@oeti.at, Tel: +43 699 16060825

ÖTI – Institut für Ökologie, Technik und Innovation GmbH

Spengergasse 20

1050 Vienna