



## OEKO-TEX® STeP: New regulations in 2025

At the start of the year, the OEKO-TEX® Association as usual updates the applicable test criteria, limit values and requirements for its range of certifications and labels. The following new regulations for OEKO-TEX® STeP come into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, after a three-month transition period:

### Recognition of OEKO-TEX® STeP as fully aligned with ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program

In 2024, the rollout of the recognition of STeP certification in the ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program officially began. With this recognition, we are proud to announce a seamless solution for STeP certification holders who are interested in participating in the ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program. They can leverage their sustainability efforts to gain recognition within the ZDHC Supplier to Zero Program. By doing so, they streamline their compliance process with significantly reduced efforts and costs. Customers can directly upload their STeP certificate onto the ZDHC Supplier Platform for recognition.. The alignment of certifications leads to reduced costs for STeP-certified companies seeking ZDHC recognition.

If certified STeP customers wish to join, they should contact their certifying institute.

### OEKO-TEX® STeP standard 01.2025

Due to increased sustainability requirements in the market, we see the need to reinforce our sustainability criteria in the below listed modules with the following new **Exclusion Criteria in the STeP standard**.

#### Chemical Management

4.2.10 Handling and storage of chemicals, gases, auxiliaries, dyes, solvents, machine oils etc.

Employees shall also be provided with appropriate training in the handling and use of these chemicals. Suitable training materials should be prepared.

4.1.3 Chemical inventory list

The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) shall be available for each chemical in the facility (both production-relevant and non-production-relevant) and easily available/accessible to relevant employees.

#### Environmental Management

4.3.7.2 Non-Compliance and corrective action

Nonconformities and corrective actions shall be documented.



#### 4.3.8.1 Nomination of a responsible person

A person with responsibility for all aspects of the environmental management system shall be named.

### Health and Safety

#### 4.6.5 Records/Documentation

Shall document operational health and safety training activities.

### Quality Management

#### 4.5.9.3 Sourcing of raw materials Wood/Cellulose

It is expected that the origin of the wood/cellulose used in the manufacture of dissolving pulp is known.

#### 4.5.9.3 Sourcing of raw materials Leather Traceability

For unprocessed or incoming leather material the following traceability shall be available:

- Basic: Traceable back to slaughterhouse group, region or country (e.g. geo-referenced location) by physical marking and/or reliable data system.
- Advanced: Traceable back to single slaughter-house and country by physical marking (e.g. laser engraving a number-code) and/or reliable data system.
- Best practice: Traceable back to single slaughterhouse and farm by physical marking (e.g. laser engraving a number-code) and/or reliable data system.

### Social Responsibility

#### 4.4.3 Social Responsibility Management System

The written social policy or code of conduct shall be signed by a representative of upper-level management.

For more information on the new OEKO-TEX® test criteria, please contact OEKO-TEX® ([info@oeko-tex.com](mailto:info@oeko-tex.com)) or your local OEKO-TEX® institute ([www.oeko-tex.com/institute](http://www.oeko-tex.com/institute)).



STeP

After a three-month transition period, the new OEKO-TEX® STeP regulations will become binding on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.