

Oeko-Tex® - new in 2012 !

At the start of every new year, Oeko-Tex® publishes a new version of the Oeko-Tex® standard 100. In order to do so, Oeko-Tex® continues to closely monitor market and product developments, new research and the various legislations, including REACh. As a consequence Oeko-Tex® is a label with relevant requirements, adapting to the for ever changing world and scientific knowledge. We are glad to be able to inform you about the new adaptations.

Chromium (Cr)

Class IV raises the limit values of extractable chromium for leather products from 2.0 mg/kg to 10.0 mg/kg. This exception corresponds with the Best Available Techniques (BAT) on the present market and does not result in health problems when these products are used in a correct manner.

Phthalates

The following phthalates have been added to the Oeko-Tex® criteria:

Di-C6-8 short-chain alkyl phthalates	(DIHP - CAS: 71888-89-6)
Di-C7-11 short-chain alkyl phthalates	(DHNUP - CAS: 68545-42-4)
Di-n-hexyl phthalate	(DHP - CAS: 84-75-3)
di-(2-methoxyethyl)phthalate	(DMEP - CAS: 117-82-8)

These phthalates will be evaluated in all classes. The total permitted amount of phthalates remains unchanged at 0,1 weight percentage.

Solvent residues

A new category has been added to the list of parameters, i.e. the “solvent residues”. Within this category, coatings and wet-spun fibres will be evaluated on the presence of 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidine (NMP - CAS: 872-50-4) and N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMAc - CAS: 127-19-5). The limit value is 0,1 weight percentage per component.

Surfactants

Following an existing requirement of Oeko-Tex® 1000, Oeko-Tex® 100 will also verify alkylfenol ethoxylates (APEO). The testing will focus on nonylfenol (NP), nonylfenol-(1-9)-ethoxylates (NP(EO)1-9), octylfenol (OP) and octylfenol-(1-2)-ethoxylates (OP(EO)1-2).

Limit values:

Nonylfenol:	0,01 w-%
Octylfenol:	0,01 w-%
nonylfenol-(1-9)-ethoxylates:	0,1 w-%
octylfenol-(1-2)-ethoxylates:	0,1 w-%

In order to give the companies time to implement the necessary changes, the requirements will be effective from April 1st, 2013 onwards. This parameter will not affect companies certified according to Oeko-Tex® 1000, since they are already in conformity with this parameter.

The above mentioned criteria will apply from April 1st, 2012 onward, excepting the surfactants.

Verification tests

Compared to previous years, more certified products will be verified in 2012. Until last year, a minimum of 15% of the annually issued certificates had to be verified. From this year onward, this will be 20%.

During the past years, an average of 18% of the certificates have been verified in respect to their Oeko-Tex® conformity, by purchasing certified products in shops. This was paid by the Oeko-Tex® association.

Special products

The Oeko-Tex® standard 100 has been complemented and therefore able to certify special products such as tents, seats, rucksacks, pushchairs... according to Oeko-Tex® standard 100.

Application documents

Next to the new Oeko-Tex® standard 100, new versions of the following documents are now available:

- Application document to obtain a new Oeko-Tex® 100 certificate
- Application document for prolongation of existing Oeko-Tex® 100 certificate
- Declaration of conformity
- Oeko-Tex® standard 200, including a general description of the test methods

The documents can be downloaded on <http://www.centexbel.be/oeko-tex-and-human-ecology> or requested by e-mail to : oekotex@centexbel.be

Contact

For more information on the adaptations or in general on Oeko-Tex®, please don't hesitate to contact the Centexbel Oeko-Tex® team.

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