



OEKO-TEX®
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE
DETOX TO ZERO 

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS





DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®

As many of you know, Greenpeace launched their Detox campaign in 2011 to shed light on toxic water pollution issues that a portion of the global apparel and textile industries is creating. Greenpeace has since issued numerous reports that have helped focus the industry on cleaning up most of the practices that have, for too long, gone unchecked in several parts of the world. For those companies who are interested in solving the challenges of Greenpeace's Detox campaign, we are pleased to introduce you to DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®. This new system validates, verifies and audits the alignments with the Detox campaign goals. Through the use of transparent and extensive MRSL compliance verification, industry-leading waste water and sludge measurement and control, as well as a

rigorous and comprehensive chemical management system, OEKO-TEX® provides an easy-to-use tool. Importantly, DETOX TO ZERO is based on the well-known STeP by OEKO-TEX® and an upgrade is available upon request. We hope this FAQ brochure will answer all of your questions but, if not, please feel free to reach out to contact your OEKO-TEX® institute for further information.



Georg Dieners

Secretary General | OEKO-TEX® Association

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1 The DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® system

» What is DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®? «

DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® is a smart and easy-to-use verification system for textile facilities whose goal is compliance and alignment with the DETOX campaign goals. DETOX TO ZERO is not a classic certification system because it does not focus on 'pass' or 'fail' status. DETOX TO ZERO focuses on continuous improvement by analyzing the situation within a facility and creating a robust plan to reduce hazardous substances in the production processes while implementing environmental protection procedures. DETOX TO ZERO provides an annual status report about chemicals used, evaluation of waste and waste water treatment analysis and environmental protection measures so the facility and its buyers have a continuous monitoring tool focused on achieving Detox campaign alignment.

2 Target groups

» Who can apply for DETOX TO ZERO and who is the target group in general? «

DETOX TO ZERO is designed for manufacturers within the supply chain of brands and retailers who signed the Greenpeace Detox commitment as well as such suppliers and purchasers who are striving to proactively ensure compliance with the Greenpeace Detox campaign goals.

» Why should my company choose DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®? «

The independently verified report from the OEKO-TEX® specialists and textile process experts provides:

- › A full status report of chemicals used in textile production and stock
- › Comprehensive MRSL verification to identify non-compliance of chemicals and emissions (including waste water)
- › Reduced monitoring complexity because of the OEKO-TEX® promise to provide up-to-date MRSL references, aligned with NGO and governmental requirements
- › An on-site verification report including findings, improvement measures and compliance with regard to Detox campaign goals
- › The ability to strengthen process and product safety using an easy-to-use checklist approach to self-assess the facility status before the OEKO-TEX® On-Site Visit
- › Full integration into the OEKO-TEX® product stewardship concept by using the STeP by OEKO-TEX® system
- › Waste water and sludge data online verification via OEKO-TEX® website

» What are the DETOX TO ZERO guidelines? «

The DETOX TO ZERO guidelines will help achieve the goal of eliminating hazardous substances within the textile production process and develop a transparent environmental protection system. The DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® verification criteria catalogue is available at www.oeko-tex.com.



» Is there an additional module available to upgrade my DETOX TO ZERO to STeP by OEKO-TEX®? «

DETOX TO ZERO is based on the well-known STeP by OEKO-TEX® engine to ensure compatibility within the OEKO-TEX® services. OEKO-TEX® offers an update from the DETOX TO ZERO system to STeP by OEKO-TEX® within six months starting from application. To upgrade DETOX TO ZERO to STeP, a broader questionnaire will be available covering:

- › Social compliance aspects
- › Quality management requirements
- › Profound health and safety criteria

The STeP by OEKO-TEX® system ensures full monitoring of a facility as well as a review process to establish continuous improvement programmes to achieve a high level of environmental and worker safety, eco-efficiency and productivity. For further information, please contact your OEKO-TEX® institute.

» What is the difference between DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® and the Detox campaign from Greenpeace? «

The Detox campaign is a grass-roots initiative formed to bring attention to unacceptable pollution within the textile value chain and to raise awareness about hazardous chemicals used within the industry. The goal of the Greenpeace campaign is to end toxic water pollution globally. The DETOX TO ZERO system provides an easy-to-use tool which determines the chemicals used in textile production, analyses MRLS compliance of such chemicals, reports the conformity status and outlines improvements. DETOX TO ZERO helps manufacturers and purchasers, as well as brands and retailers, monitor and fulfil the individual Detox and environmental protection commitments.



» What does Detox by achieving Zero? «

The Greenpeace Detox campaign actually aims to eliminate all hazardous chemicals from the textile supply chain by 2020. As everybody knows, chemicals cannot be replaced overnight. Therefore, companies are requested to create a road map in order to archive their Detox commitments. Greenpeace defines 'Zero' as a detection limit based on a full ban of usage.

DETOX TO ZERO starts with the road map approach. Before determining detection limits, we check the current status of chemicals used and identify the level of conformity with the published MRSL criteria. By adding waste water and sludge testing to this procedure, we identify the critical procedures where chemicals are used and recommend replacement of named substances. If a chemical cannot be easily replaced, a fixed time-limit exemption is put in place for a specific use if it can be demonstrated that there are currently no alternative chemicals or processes to avoid the chemical in question. It is also required that all technical measures be taken to manage the risk of pollution, through improvements in waste water treatment, for example.

The DETOX TO ZERO concept of continuous monitoring and status reporting allows transparent communication of the facility's Detox status and outlines the milestones to reduce hazardous substances on the road to fulfil the 2020 commitment.

» What about the ZDHC compliance of DETOX TO ZERO? «

ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) is an industry-driven initiative which provides a platform to consolidate questions raised by the Greenpeace Detox campaign. As a forum, the ZDHC Group is striving to reduce the complexity raised by the Greenpeace 2020 goals. OEKO-TEX® supports the ZDHC initiative and ensures, through various OEKO-TEX® services, compliance with the ZDHC MRSL.

We believe the market seeks a service which monitors a company's progress toward the Detox commitment. With DETOX TO ZERO, we are serving companies globally with an easy-to-use tool that monitors, reports and improves chemical management systems in order to align with the Detox 2020 commitment.

» What is the main difference between STeP and DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®? «

DETOX TO ZERO has a different scope from STeP by OEKO-TEX®. DETOX TO ZERO concentrates mainly on chemical management and verifies, through waste water as well as sludge testing, for example, the Detox conformity of a facility. DETOX TO ZERO focuses on the use and handling of process chemicals with the aim of reducing their environmental impact.

STeP covers Chemical Management and Environmental Management, but not exclusively. With the STeP by OEKO-TEX® system, facilities ensure a comprehensive and holistic sustainability approach. This includes social compliance, quality management and a full set of health and workers' safety regulations. Please find more information at www.oeko-tex.com.





» How do I communicate the compliance status and report results to my stakeholders? «

DETOX TO ZERO users have two options to communicate their achievements:

1. Use the DETOX TO ZERO report to communicate with all individual stakeholder groups.
2. The DETOX TO ZERO website allows any type of stakeholder to verify the results of a DETOX TO ZERO facility. Based on the report number and company name, if approved by the DETOX TO ZERO facility, report data like waste water and sludge testing information which did not exceed the DETOX TO ZERO limits can be found. This supports the 'right to know' principle to communicate improvements to your supply chain partners.

» Am I allowed to label products with DETOX TO ZERO? «

DETOX TO ZERO is a production site verification system only. If you are interested in labelling your products, please visit our website to learn more about our STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®.

12 Transparency

» What does transparency mean when using DETOX TO ZERO? «

OEKO-TEX® provides guidelines and further information in a fully transparent manner at www.oeko-tex.com. The verification of DETOX TO ZERO can also be found here. Facilities with a DETOX TO ZERO report can provide status and report information to their individual stakeholder groups via the OEKO-TEX® website. This is optional and OEKO-TEX® ensures a high level of data protection. The DETOX TO ZERO status report provides comprehensive information about the current facility status and improvements to fulfil the Detox criteria.

13 The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide

» What is the OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide? «

The OEKO-TEX® Buying Guide is a Web-based portal for sourcing OEKO-TEX®-tested and verified textiles, textile materials and components as well as textile chemicals, auxiliaries and dyestuffs. Companies that have been through the DETOX TO ZERO process can be listed in this guide to show their efforts just as STeP-certified facilities are able to do. This platform is publically available and allows manufacturers, purchasers, retailers or brands to source not only from DETOX TO ZERO companies but also certified textile materials and textile chemicals from OEKO-TEX®-verified companies.

Please find more information at www.oeko-tex.com.

» Can I use the DETOX TO ZERO report as a proof of my sustainability story? «

Yes, absolutely. DETOX TO ZERO shows a commitment to environmentally responsible textile production, specifically focused on the chemical management and environmental protection.

All information gathered during the DETOX TO ZERO process and stated in the DETOX TO ZERO report can be used for internal and external reporting. To tell a more comprehensive sustainability story, we would like to introduce you to MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®. Please contact your OEKO-TEX® institute for further information.





» Which individual steps are included in the DETOX TO ZERO process? «

1. Apply online or contact your OEKO-TEX® institute
2. User receives brief questionnaire to:
 - Gather information about the chemical management system
 - Collect an inventory of chemicals used, including CAS number, MSDS information as well as main ingredients, components additives and, if possible, information about impurities
 - Gather waste water and sludge information
3. Preliminary status report will be issued by the DETOX TO ZERO Web-based system
4. On-Site Visit from an OEKO-TEX® specialist to verify the stated company data and process information
5. Final status report including improvements and compliance level

16 Time frame

» How much time should be planned for completing the initial DETOX TO ZERO process? «

Based on market feedback and a comprehensive product testing phase, you should plan up to eight weeks from starting the application until receiving the first status report. Depending on the improvement level regarding the Detox requirements, the process can be shortened or extended. For example, getting the results from the waste water and/or sludge testing can take up to three weeks.

Please contact your OEKO-TEX® Institute for further information.

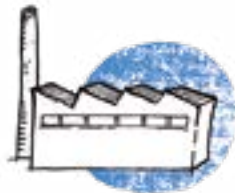
17 Waste water and sludge testing

» Who is responsible for the waste water and sludge testing? «

The DETOX TO ZERO process requires the facility to provide an up-to-date waste water and sludge testing report. An OEKO-TEX® audit specialist will verify if the test results are in compliance with the reporting values of the DETOX TO ZERO MRSL. More details about the parameters and values can be found online at www.oeko-tex.com. OEKO-TEX® acknowledges testing results from any accredited testing laboratory. For further information please contact your OEKO-TEX® institute.

» How does DETOX TO ZERO help a facility already operating with sustainable systems in several areas or /and holding sustainability and eco-efficiency certificates? «

OEKO-TEX® welcomes all facilities and suppliers which participate in the global textile sustainability movement. Such companies have already made a huge contribution toward a greener and more socially responsible textile value chain. If you decide to use DETOX TO ZERO before choosing complementary systems, OEKO-TEX® will help you verify conformity to the criteria set as efficiently as possible. If you are not sure whether the implemented systems acknowledge the Greenpeace Detox campaign and the elimination of hazardous substances, the OEKO-TEX® offices are happy to help you identify your compliance level.





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» Who can obtain the DETOX TO ZERO report? «

Any textile production facility from spinning mills, manufacturers of textile fabrics and textile finishing facilities up to manufacturers of ready-made articles or producers of foams, mattresses and textile accessories can apply for DETOX TO ZERO. The reporting of individual areas within multistage production facilities (e.g. only finishing) is also possible. Agricultural processes such as the cultivation of cotton or the production of sheep wool, as well as post-production stages such as transport, are not within the scope of the DETOX TO ZERO system.



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How to apply for DETOX TO ZERO

» How can I apply for the DETOX TO ZERO system? «

There are two ways to get started. Contact one of our OEKO-TEX® institutes or simply fill out the application form at www.oeko-tex.com.

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Costs involved for the verification process

» What are the costs for DETOX TO ZERO? «

The costs for DETOX TO ZERO depend on the size of the company, the completeness and accuracy of the chemical inventory as well as the extent to which the company has already implemented measures regarding environmental protection. The system fee is EUR 780 (excl. VAT) and includes a report valid for one year. Additional costs are the man-days for support during application, preparation of the assessment, preparation, execution and documentation of the audit, issuing of the report and the travel expenses for the auditors.

» Where do I get further information about DETOX TO ZERO? «

For further details, please visit www.oeko-tex.com or contact one of our globally available OEKO-TEX® institutes.





About OEKO-TEX®

With 25 years of experience, OEKO-TEX® leads the world in empowering and enabling consumers and companies to protect our planet by making responsible decisions. OEKO-TEX® provides standardised solutions which optimise customers' manufacturing processes and help deliver high quality, more sustainable products. All of the products within the OEKO-TEX® portfolio are used to strengthen our customers' systems, processes or products and, ultimately, they help create more sustainable companies. To date, more than 10,000 manufacturers, brands, and retailers in almost 100 countries are working with OEKO-TEX® to ensure that their products are tested for potentially harmful substances and millions of consumers around the world look for OEKO-TEX® labels before making buying decisions. OEKO-TEX® certified products and suppliers can be located in the OEKO-TEX® Online Buying Guide at www.oeko-tex.com. Connect with OEKO-TEX® on [Facebook](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and on [Twitter](#).

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