

# Webinar: Recycled Materials in OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Fit for Circularity

## Questions & Answers

**Question:** Is your certification independent from Control Union (GRS)?  
Or is there any collaboration?

**Answer:** The OEKO-TEX® certifications are independent and do not collaborate with Control Union.

**Question:** We are a fan and customer of OEKO TEX® certifications for many decades. Unfortunately, we are facing a huge issue and losing sales due an OEKOTEX® certification. Regard to our last launch, polyamide yarns produced from an oil obtained from a chemical recycling process, precisely pyrolysis, instead of using crude oil. Our problem regards to receiving OEKO-TEX® class II instead of class I. Even there is no toxicity product for babies in our polyamide yarns, but just because is a post-consumer recycling process, was the first answer. It's a pity, we are losing sales for not having class I. Personally I believe post-consumer recycling is the future and class II certification does not help us to improve sales and new developments. I shared this issue with HOHENSTEIN booth at ISPO last November, but not definition has been done by the laboratory yet. Would you kindly reconsider my request of reanalysing giving OEKO-TEX® class I to our new polyamide yarns? We are completely available to supply directly HOHENSTEIN with our yarn samples. Please let us have your comments.

**Answer:** In general, each recycling process must be evaluated closely, therefore a detailed documentation regarding the recycling process must be provided. The recycled materials from a pyrolysis process are, regarding their structure and purity, very close to the virgin material. Therefore, this kind of material can be certified according to product class I. However, a second test series is required.

**Question:** What differentiate OEKO-TEX® recycling certificate and GRS certificate?

**Answer:** The OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification performs tests regarding harmful substances. All products must meet the criteria of the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100. Further transparency and traceability are given through the separate certificate.

**Question:** OEKO-TEX® is still known for free chemicals certification. Most customers demand GRS certification to make the claim recycled content as TC is involved in it. How can an OEKO-TEX® certification be used to make recycled claim when there's no such transaction certificate involved in this programme?

**Answer:** OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification stands for testing regarding harmful substances and the certified products are harmless to human health. The OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 criteria catalogue has strict regulated limit value sets: [https://www.oeko-tex.com/importedmedia/downloadfiles/OTS100StandardSubDocumentAnnex4and5\\_02.2023\\_en\\_de.pdf](https://www.oeko-tex.com/importedmedia/downloadfiles/OTS100StandardSubDocumentAnnex4and5_02.2023_en_de.pdf), [https://www.oeko-tex.com/importedmedia/downloadfiles/OTS100StandardSubDocumentAnnex6and7\\_02.2023\\_en\\_de.pdf](https://www.oeko-tex.com/importedmedia/downloadfiles/OTS100StandardSubDocumentAnnex6and7_02.2023_en_de.pdf)

In the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Recycling certification we ask the applicant about all delivery documents and about a mass balance. Further information about the sources (pre-/post-consumer material), origin (e.g. form yarn scrap or fabric scrap) and the recycling process are also requested. During an on-site visit this information is checked closely.

**Question:** How can we be certain that our supplier is using post-consumer PET bottles instead of newly made PET bottles?

**Answer:** The supply chain must be provided in detail. In the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Recycling certification we ask the applicant about all delivery documents and about a mass balance. Further information about the sources (pre-/post-consumer material), origin (e.g. form yarn scrap or fabric scrap) and the recycling process are requested. During an on-site visit this information is checked closely.

**Question:** Are you thinking about some kind of collaboration with GRS?

**Answer:** Thank you for the input we will discuss this within the OEKO-TEX® Association.

**Question:** A fabric containing 15% recycled cotton can be OEKO-TEX® certified and labelled as containing recycled fibre?

**Answer:** For an OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Recycling certificate is the minimum recycling content > 20 %. If the recycling content is less than 20 % it is certified in an OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certification. A separate certificate is not necessary.

**Question:** We want to go in for a recycling certification but not finding any source for post-consumer cotton fibre.

**Answer:** To find companies, which already certified recycled cotton, please check our Buying Guide: <https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/buying-guide>.

**Question:** Can a product be certified OEKO-TEX® recycling, if it is not certified OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100?

**Answer:** We can also test non-certified recycled materials. In this case, all materials need to be tested according to the criteria of OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100. The documentation about the origin, source and recycling process as well as a mass balance have to be provided.

**Question:** To collect the documentations from our suppliers, there were some of them only available with GRS certificate to cover for recycling. Is it possible if we show you the GRS in our process to apply OEKO-TEX® certificate for our recycled products?

**Answer:** Yes, it is possible to hand in the GRS certificate to provide the origin of the recycled materials.

**Question:** What is sample requirement for get recycled materials in OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100?

**Answer:** Please find all details in this document: [https://www.hohenstein.com/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Downloads/Other/HOHENSTEIN\\_Checklist\\_Sample\\_Materials\\_STANDARD-100\\_LEATHER-STANDARD\\_EN.pdf](https://www.hohenstein.com/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Other/HOHENSTEIN_Checklist_Sample_Materials_STANDARD-100_LEATHER-STANDARD_EN.pdf)

The special requirement regarding recycling is the 2<sup>nd</sup> test series. In this case, we request recycled material of another batch after about 3 months to proof the product conformity.

**Question:** How do we trace the source of 100% natural recycled quality?

**Answer:** Post-consumer material must be traced by delivery notes and mass balance through the complete supply chain. This shows the input and the output of the material (B2B transaction).

**Question:** Can we state the fibre name "recycled ...." with this OEKO-TEX® Certificate? ( I mean on sew label)

**Answer:** If the products meet the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 - Recycling requirements it is possible to mention "recycled" also on the sew in label. The official frameworks regarding labelling must be also considered.

**Question:** What is the customer communication OEKO-TEX® recycling? Specific label exists?

**Answer:** Recycled material is certified under OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100, therefore the label is the same. You receive an additional hangtag for more visibility and with the certificate number, the products can always be identified on the <https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/label-check>.

**Question:** If we have purchased 59 % recycled polyester, 29 % polyester, 12 % polyamide fabric. So, can we add this composition in our garment scope certificate?

**Answer:** In this case, if the fabric is produced from 59 % recycled polyester/29 % polyester/12 % polyamide the recycling content is more than 20 %. This meets the criteria of the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Recycling certificate.

If all garments of the ready-made garment certificate are produced with a recycling content more than > 20 %, this material can be combined in one certificate.

**Question:** So, we had no OEKO-TEX® certificate before, but when we applied the form for new recycled OEKO-TEX® certificate, and ask some of our suppliers to provide their recycled OEKO-TEX® to proof for our products, they are unable to provide OEKO-TEX®, but only GRS, this means that, we can apply our recycled OEKO-TEX® by GRS from our suppliers because if we ask for another certificate, it will take a lot of time for waiting.

**Answer:** GRS can be handed in as a proof of the source/origin of the recycled materials. However, the products must be also tested according to the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 criteria.

**Question:** Which certificate will we include a mixture of 12 % recycled polyamide and 87 % organic cotton?

**Answer:** If less than 20 % are recycled, an OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certificate can be issued. If you'd like you can also apply for our new OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON.

**Question:** Obtain the recycle certification, will Hohenstein request a factory audit?

**Answer:** Yes, an on-site visit will take place every 3 years.

**Question:** What would you suggest/propose to mattress company with 100 % PES covers if they would like to have a smooth transition all their fabrics to recycled ones?

**Answer:** The total recycled content of the whole mattress must be above 20 % to apply for an OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Recycling certificate. You can change material composition by material composition and as soon as you reach the 20 % recycling content, the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 – Recycling requirements must be met.

**Question:** Where can we find our vendor supply chain to trace and collaborate?

**Answer:** <https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/buying-guide>

**Question:** Most of the cases the natural fibre unit doesn't have a clear picture from where all the inputs are coming in, as it is unorganized supply chain.

**Answer:** We are also able to certify post-consumer garment collections, in this case we need the information about the material composition, the origin (post-consumer material), the source (garment collection), the recycling process and a mass balance. A 2<sup>nd</sup> test series is necessary. We can certify cellulosic- and animal-based fibres regarding product class II – IV and Annex 4 and 6.

**Question:** Is there a transaction certificates involved?

**Answer:** Until now, no transaction certificate will be issued. We trace the supply chain through delivery notes/invoices.