QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Question: Is it planned to test EN 20345:2022 as well?

Answer: This standard specifies the requirements that working footwear must meet in order to be labelled as safety footwear. It therefore falls into the category of personal protective equipment (PPE). Hohenstein plans to take the next step of also having the PPE category in its portfolio and obtaining the necessary accreditations for this.'

Question: To what extent do the tests for durability and material resistance add to each other in the quality label?

Answer: "Durability" of shoes is based on the fact that firstly the materials themselves must be "durable" in terms of quality, for example sole materials should only show extremely low abrasion and the outer materials should not break as long as the shoe is worn. In addition to the material properties, the processing of the materials must also meet the quality requirements. For example, the bonding of the sole and the upper must be of high quality to guarantee "longevity".

In this respect, the tests add to each other, as "durability" is based on both material resistance and the good workmanship of these materials.

Question: Are materials such as Bluesign certified materials also accepted in the certification process?

Answer: Only OEKO-TEX® certified materials are accepted in the OEKO-TEX® certification process. Certificates from other labels are not accepted.

Question: Are all certified colours always specified or is a specification such as "all colours" possible? If a supplier produces seasonally different colours is it necessary to have every single color included in the certificate? How is it possible to avoid high costs?

Answer: It is always best to submit samples for certification that cover most production possibilities to give the client the most flexibility. In terms of colours, submitting samples that represent the whole range of dyes in use is the best option in order to avoid colour restrictions in the certificate scope. Based on the dye lists and the recipes of each individual sample, all dyes in use can be tested for certification. As all dyes have been tested, the certificate scope will have no colour restrictions. This helps our client to save costs and provides more flexibility during the certificate's validity period.

Link to Checklist Sample Materials:

https://www.hohenstein.com/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Other/HOHENSTEIN_Checklist_Sample_Materials_STANDARD-100_LEATHER-STANDARD_EN.pdf

Question: What are the approximate costs of having a finished shoe certified?

Answer: The costs cannot be determined in advance. The only fixed costs of certification are the licence fee and the handling fee. All other costs depend on the scope of testing, which depends on the quantity of components, the quantity of different suppliers, the different colours, the different material compositions, etc. In general, materials that have a matching OEKO-TEX® certificate ("matching" means: material description, annex, product class and validity match to the article) do not have to undergo laboratory testing and therefore do not contribute to the costs.

You are welcome to contact oeko-tex@hohenstein.com to submit your documents to us and receive a cost estimate.

Question: How do the OEKO-TEX® test criteria differ from the REACH standard requirements?

Answer: The OEKO-TEX® Association is monitoring the REACh candidate list (SVHC substances of very high concern) and the REACh Annexes XVII and XIV very closely.
If you look at the candidate list or the annexes in more detail, you will find a huge number of substances and requirements/parameters. Substances that, in the opinion and assessment of the OEKO-TEX® Association, are relevant in the production of textiles and garments are considered in the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100.
Either by direct testing or by exclusion via an indirect way. If changes occur, the OEKO-TEX® expert committees decide whether reactions are necessary.

However, you will also find parameters/substances in the annexes and lists that are not included in the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 and are not tested as they are not classified as relevant in textile production in the opinion of the OEKO-TEX® Association.

In Annex XVII you will find, for example requirements regarding prohibited azo dyes, nickel release, various flame retardants (e.g. TRIS, TEPA, PBB's), pentachlorophenol, cadmium, lead, nonylphenol, nonylphenol ethoxylates, phthalates, chromium (VI) compounds, dimethyl fumarate. You will also find these in the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 catalogue of requirements.

Although not all parameters/substances on the REACh SVHC candidate list and Annexes XVII and XIV are mentioned and tested in the OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 (for the reasons mentioned above), the OEKO-TEX® Association is of the opinion and is convinced that with an OEKO-TEX® certification and OEKO-TEX® certified materials, you are very well positioned with regard to the SVHC candidate list and Annexes XVII and XIV.

Links to the OEKO-TEX® Appendices 4 and 6:

https://www.hohenstein.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Test_Standards/OEKO-TEX/OEKO-TEX_STANDARD_100_Limit_Values_Appendices_4_5_EN.pdf

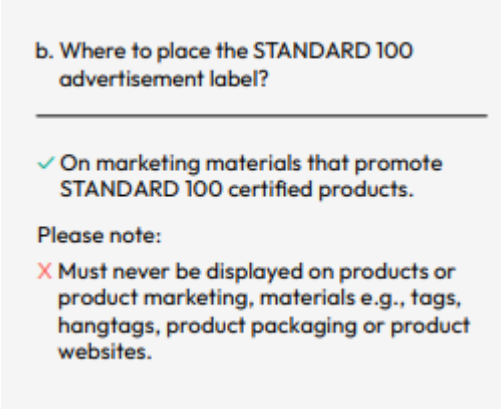
and

https://www.hohenstein.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Test_Standards/OEKO-TEX/OEKO-TEX_STANDARD_100_Limit_Values_Appendices_6_7_EN.pdf

Question: Is there a label for catalogues that can be used generally for all items?

Answer: On page 30 of the Labelling Guide, you will find information on the advertising-only label (also called a summary certificate).This can be used for advertising purposes, e.g. in the catalogue. It is important to note that the advertising label may not be applied directly to the product.

An excerpt from the Labelling Guide on this:



b. Where to place the STANDARD 100 advertisement label?

✓ On marketing materials that promote STANDARD 100 certified products.

Please note:

X Must never be displayed on products or product marketing, materials e.g., tags, hangtags, product packaging or product websites.

Link to the Labelling Guide/Guidebook:
https://www.oeko-tex.com/fileadmin/user_upload/Marketing_Materialien/Labelling_Guide/OT_Labelling_Guide_EN.pdf

Question: Asked the other way around: What does a test for chromium VI cost, what does a paint cost? Just as a house number.

Answer: The test costs for chromium VI are EUR 165.00 (net) per sample.

Question: OEKO-TEX® is a great system but we find we have trouble getting a copy of the testing behind it. Is this something we can make easier as suppliers often use them for many things which are not really covered.

Answer: Unfortunately, we are not allowed to share test reports from our clients with third parties. You may request the test reports of the certified materials from your supplier. The supplier is free to hand out the test reports to his clients. This will enable you to compare the certified material you purchase from your supplier with the test report.

Question: Are there differences between the OEKO-TEX® requirements vs. AFIRM. If so, which ones? "

Answer: *Yes, although few, there are differences between OEKO-TEX® vs AFIRM requirements. These are for example Bisphenol A (limit value AFIRM with 1 ppm, limit value OEKO-TEX® with 100mg/kg). AFIRM's limit value is applicable to items intended to come in contact with mouth, where OEKO-TEX® does not classify shoes as having direct mouth contact.*

Feel free to get in touch if you would like a detailed listing of the differences.

Contact: oeko-tex@hohenstein.com