



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of numerous skeins of white yarn. The skeins are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern, creating a textured, three-dimensional effect. The lighting is soft, highlighting the individual strands of the yarn.

CERTIFICATIONS:

PROCESS CERTIFICATIONS

AND

PRODUCT CERTIFICATIONS

PRIVATE CERTIFICATIONS



# PRODUCT CERTIFICATIONS

\_Oeko-Tex®

\_Ecolabel

\_AIAB

\_GOTS

These certification trademarks are voluntary actions for companies which desire to a quality certification. Besides the two well-known European trademark - Ecolabel and Oeko Tex – which are regulated by defined rules, there are a some private certifications - AIAB and GOT - which are developed by organization or certification centers.



# THE OEKO-TEX®

## THE TEXTILE ECOLOGY

can be divided into four area:

### \_PRODUCTION ECOLOGY

involves the effects of production processes on man and the environment, e.g., operation safety, material, water and energy consumption, waste water and waste treatment as well as noise and dust generation\_OEKO-TEX STANDARD 1000

### \_HUMAN ECOLOGY

it concerns with the effect of chemical elements, contained in the textile, on health of consumer\_OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100

### \_PERFORMANCE ECOLOGY

it deals with the uses of textile use e.g., washing, dry-cleaning and care cycles

### \_DISPOSAL ECOLOGY

it is related with the disposal of textiles. Recovering, recycle and disposal (thermal elimination and dumping)



## OEKO-TEX STANDARD 1000

To complement the product-related Oeko-Tex® Standard 100, the Oeko-Tex® Standard 1000 is a testing, auditing and certification system for environmentally-friendly production sites throughout the textile processing chain.

To qualify for certification according to the Oeko-Tex® Standard 1000, companies must meet stipulated criteria in terms of their environmentally-friendly manufacturing processes and provide evidence that at least 30% of total production is already certified under Oeko-Tex® Standard 100.

The required criteria include:

- \_use of environmentally-damaging auxiliaries and dyestuffs prohibited
- \_compliance with standard values for waste water and exhaust air treatment
- \_optimisation of energy consumption
- \_avoidance of noise and dust pollution
- \_measures to ensure safety at the workplace
- \_use of child labour prohibited
- \_introduction of basic elements of an environmental management system

The company is monitored by an auditor from member institutes of the “Oeko-Tex® International - Association for the Assessment of Environmentally Friendly Textiles”. The certificate is valid for three years.

## OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100

Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 is a globally uniform testing and certification system for textile raw materials, intermediate and end products at all stages of production.

The tests for harmful substances comprise substances which are prohibited or regulated by law, chemicals which are known to be harmful to health, and parameters which are included as a precautionary measure to safeguard health.

A tested textile product is allocated to one of the four Oeko-Tex® product classes based on its use. The more intensively a product comes into contact with the skin, the stricter the human ecological requirements it must fulfil.

Manufacturers are entitled to mark successfully tested products or article groups with the Oeko-Tex® label and to advertise in other forms as long as it has been proven within the extensive laboratory tests that all components, including accessories, comply with the specified test criteria without exception. A certificate which is issued applies for one year and can be renewed as often as required.

### CERTIFICATION

Textile products may be certified according to Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 only if all components meet the required criteria without exception. Certification is obtained by application in writing from the manufacturer to one of the authorised test institutes or official offices around the globe. The samples submitted are tested exclusively in the member institutes in Europe and Japan in order to ensure a consistently high level of testing. A prerequisite for the award of certification by the relevant test institute or the responsible certification centre is a declaration of conformity by the manufacturer, stating that the successfully tested textile samples shall correspond at all times with

the quality of the products manufactured or sold throughout the twelve month licence period.

The Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 provides the textile and clothing industry with a globally uniform standard for the objective assessment of harmful substances for the first time. Raw materials, intermediate and products at all stages of processing throughout the manufacturing chain, including accessories, are tested and certified.

The Oeko-Tex® system permits the use of source materials which already have certification, thus simplifying the flow of information between the companies involved regarding the human ecological quality of the products supplied.



# ECOLAB



## WHAT ECOLABEL IS

The European Ecolabel is a voluntary scheme, established in 1992 to encourage businesses to market products and services that are kinder to the environment. Products and services awarded the Ecolabel carry the flower logo, allowing consumers - including public and private purchasers - to identify them easily. Today the EU Ecolabel covers a wide range of products and services, with further groups being continuously added.

While the logo may be simple, the environmental criteria behind it are tough, and only the products, which are kindest to the environment, are entitled to carry the EU Ecolabel.

What is more, this is a label that consumers can genuinely trust. The criteria are agreed at European level, following wide consultation with experts, and the label itself is only awarded after verification that the product meets these high environmental and performance standards.

## CRITERIA

Criteria are not based on one single factor, but on studies which analyse the impact of the product or service on the environment throughout its life-cycle, starting from raw material extraction in the pre-production stage, through to production, distribution and disposal.

The flower logo helps manufacturers, retailers and service providers gain recognition for good standards, while helping purchasers to make reliable choices.

The EU Ecolabel is part of a broader action plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production and Sustainable Industrial Policy adopted by the Commission on 16 July 2008.

It is available only for the final product and lasts only three years.

The logo on textile products tells: substances with harmful effects on the aquatic environment and air have been limited during fibre production and the risk of allergic reactions has been reduced.

# AIAB

FOR ORGANIC TEXTILE



## WHAT AIAB IS

Is a trademark links to the organic product (food, cosmetics and cleanser) which follow the AIAB (Associazione Italiana Agricoltura Biologica). It analyzes the environmental impacts from the fiber growing to the analysis of the whole production chain.

Moreover it provides an analysis of work conditions in the textile field for ensuring comply with worker right. Thus this is an ethical and environmental certification.

## CRITERIA

This trademark certifies a textile product made of organic yarn:

- \_congruent to CE 834/07
- \_without bleach washing containing chlorine
- \_without use of metal as nichel, chrome, copper and cobalt in the dyeing and printing phase.



WHAT GOTS IS

The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is the worldwide leading textile processing standard for organic fibres, including ecological and social criteria, backed up by independent certification of the entire textile supply chain. The standard is valid for fibre products, yarns, fabrics and clothes and covers the production, processing, manufacturing, packaging, labelling, exportation, importation and distribution of all natural fibre products.



AIM

The aim of the standard is to define worldwide recognised requirements that ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer. Textile processors and manufacturers are enabled to export their organic fabrics and garments with one certification accepted in all major markets.

LABEL

**LABEL-GRADE 1: organic or organic - in conversion**  
≥ 95% certified organic fibres, ≤ 5 % non-organic natural or synthetic fibres

**LABEL-GRADE 2: made with X% organic or made with X% organic in conversion**  
≥ 70% certified organic fibres, ≤ 30 % non-organic fibres, but a maximum of 10% synthetic fibres (up to 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)

CRITERIA

FOR FIBER PRODUCTION

The key criteria for fibre production can be identified as:

Organic certification of fibres on basis of recognised international or national standards (e.g. EEC 834/2007, USDA NOP)  
Certification of fibres from conversion period is possible if the applicable farming standard permits such certification  
A textile product carrying the GOTS label grade ‘organic’ must contain a minimum of 95% certified organic fibres whereas a product with the label grade ‘made with organic’ must contain a minimum of 70% certified organic fibres.

FOR PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING

- \_All chemical inputs (e.g. dyes, auxiliaries and process chemicals) must be evaluated and meeting basic requirements on toxicity and biodegradability/eliminability
- \_Prohibition of critical inputs such as toxic heavy metals, formaldehyde, aromatic solvents, genetically modified organisms (GMO) and their enzymes
- \_The use of synthetic sizing agents is restricted;

- knitting and weaving oils must not contain heavy metals
- \_Bleaches must be based on oxygen (no chlorine bleaching)
- \_Dyes that release carcinogenic amine compounds are prohibited
- \_Discharge printing methods using aromatic solvents and plastisol printing methods using phthalates and PVC are prohibited
- \_Restrictions for accessories (e.g. no PVC, nickel or chrome permitted, no plastic appliqué or inlays)
- \_All operators must have an environmental policy including procedures to minimise waste and discharges
- \_Wet processing units must keep full records of the use of chemicals, energy, water consumption and waste water treatment, including the disposal of sludge. The waste water from all wet processing units must be treated in a functional waste water treatment plant.
- \_Packaging material must not contain PVC
- \_Technical quality parameters must be met (s.a. rubbing, perspiration, light and washing fastness and shrinkage values)
- \_Raw materials, intermediates, final textile products as well as accessories must meet stringent limits regarding unwanted residues
- \_Minimum social criteria based on the key norms of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) must be met by all processors



# PRIVATE CERTIFICATION

\_TEXTILE AND HEALT REQUIREMENTS





## WHAT THE TEXTILE AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION IS

The Textile and Health Association pursues the goal of assuring consumers the safety and transparency of textile products, while making them aware of the real values of high quality products.

The Association brings together all the actors involved at national level in the development of the textile sector: Industry (production and distribution), Health Authorities, Consumers and Researchers.

It is also supported by the major national scientific and health institutions and national consumer associations.

## THE ISSUE

The context in which the Association operates can be briefly summarized as follows:

\_The health situation. Dermatologists have been highlighting the potential risks to consumer health deriving from the production and use of TA products.

\_The reference standards. There are private standards and the European Ecolabel standard, but these alone are not sufficient for global management of the problem.

\_The reference legislation. The current legislation is only generic, with little applicative utility.

\_The controls. At government level coordination in the programming of controls is non-existent.

## STANDARDS UNI

To bring order to the context the Association coordinated a UNI Workgroup that prepared a standard entitled: *"Management of textile, apparel, upholstery, footwear and accessories safety"*.

## ORGANIC TEXTILE

The association has contributed to defining the position of Italy on this subject with the UNI, which has now been brought to CEN level and can be summarized as follows:

### In a preliminary phase

\_limiting the use of the term biological exclusively to natural fibres, produced by a biological agricultural cycle (as regulated by EU directives)

\_demanding the same certification for these products as in the foodstuffs industry

\_permitting their traceability

\_permitting only indications of the following type on labels "textile article made with X% of (.....) fibre produced by biological agriculture"

### In a second phase

\_perfecting the processes and substances admissible for treating fibre (conservation, spinning, weaving, dyeing, finishing) to bring order to the myriad of private standards

## CERTIFICATION

From the point of view of the consumer and the manufacturing companies, based on the traceability of the entire textile production system and the knowledge of all the chemical substances used in it, the Association has begun to issue the following declaration to companies: *"the product ... manufactured by ... meets all Textile and Health requirements and is part of the Textile and Health Project financed by the Ministry of Health, aimed at safeguarding human health, to guarantee consumers the safety and transparency of the textile product"* and presently the certification process will be guaranteed by an organization accredited at international level.