

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS





---

## MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®

Today's global consumer seeks high-quality and high-performing textile products. Importantly, however, consumers today demand textiles and clothing that are harmless to their health and are produced in factories that are good for both workers and the environment. The MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label is offered exclusively for textile products that are:

- › Made with materials tested for harmful substances
- › Made in environmentally friendly facilities
- › Made in safe and socially responsible workplaces

Every MADE IN GREEN-labelled product has a unique product ID and/or a QR Code. This code allows a product to be tracked using a smartphone or a desktop browser. This traceability brings new levels of supply chain

transparency to brands, retailers, manufacturers and, importantly, the consumer.

This brochure will answer some of the most frequently asked MADE IN GREEN questions but please contact any of our member institute offices for more information ([www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)).



**Georg Dieners**

Secretary General | OEKO-TEX® Association

## BASICS

- 1 The MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® system
- 2 Target groups
- 3 Benefits
- 4 OEKO-TEX® guidelines
- 5 MADE IN GREEN vs corporate sustainability strategies
- 6 Requirements for issuing the label
- 7 MADE IN GREEN – unique selling points

## LABELLING SYSTEM

- 8 Application for the label
- 9 Technical and system requirements
- 10 Validity of the label
- 11 The label and its underlying certificates
- 12 Visual label elements
- 13 Checking the authenticity of the label
- 14 Tracing of labelled products
- 15 Label issuer controls the flow of information
- 16 Issuing the label

## PRODUCT ID / QR CODE

- 17 Purpose of product ID/QR Code
- 18 Information provided by the MADE IN GREEN label
- 19 Uniqueness of the product ID
- 20 Combination of product IDs
- 21 Generate a product ID

## OTHER

- 22 Product label vs certificate
- 23 MADE IN GREEN and the incremental OEKO-TEX® services
- 24 STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® vs  
MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®
- 25 Label use without being a community member
- 26 Supply chain information
- 27 Combined requirements for issuing a label
- 28 Further information
- 29 About OEKO-TEX®

1

## » What is MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®? «

MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® is a traceable product label that applies exclusively to textiles:



**Made with materials tested for harmful substances.**



**Made in environmentally friendly facilities.**



**Made in safe and socially responsible workplaces.**

The MADE IN GREEN product label can be awarded to any kind of textile product anywhere in the world at any stage of the textile supply chain. Labelled products can be easily traced, thus offering new levels of transparency to consumers and business partners alike.

②

---

## » Who can apply for the MADE IN GREEN label? «

Any company within the textile supply chain can apply for the MADE IN GREEN label.

③

---

## » What are the benefits for labelling products with MADE IN GREEN? «

The MADE IN GREEN product label communicates that MADE IN GREEN textiles are not only tested for harmful substances (certified according to STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®) but also sustainably produced in accordance with OEKO-TEX® guidelines. It is a means of benchmarking the supply chain and providing an overview of every component of the production stream. The label enables consumers to make sustainable purchasing decisions.

4

---

## » What are the OEKO-TEX® guidelines? «

The OEKO-TEX® guidelines refer to certain criteria defined in the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® Standard. These can be found in the download area on our webpage. The criteria state which components and facilities must hold two separate OEKO-TEX® certifications in order to get the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® label. The first certification system is STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®, which verifies that the final textile product has been tested for more than 300 harmful substances. The second is STeP by OEKO-TEX®, a certification system for sustainable textile production, which analyses and evaluates existing production conditions with respect to the use of environmentally friendly technologies and products as well as safe and socially responsible workplaces. You can find further information on the guidelines for both certifications in the MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® Standard.

5

---

## » Can I use a MADE IN GREEN label as proof of my sustainability strategy? «

Yes, absolutely. MADE IN GREEN shows not only a commitment to sustainable textile production, but also the actual implementation of this process. The most critical stages must be STeP-certified. With a MADE IN GREEN label, companies verify that their textile product has been tested for harmful substances and sustainably produced in accordance with OEKO-TEX® guidelines.



## » What are the conditions for labelling a product with MADE IN GREEN?«

**Requirements and criteria for marketing MADE IN GREEN on textile products that consumers buy at retail:**

- 1) The product shall be STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® certified.
- 2) All the making up facilities shall be SteP by OEKO-TEX® certified.
- 3) A single component that equals or exceeds 5% of the total weight of the product as well as at least 85% of the total weight of the product shall be supplied by SteP by OEKO-TEX® certified production facilities. This concerns only wet/chemical production facilities (excluding wet spinning processes).



7

## » What is the difference between MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® and other labels available on the market? «

MADE IN GREEN has the following advantages:

- › The MADE IN GREEN label is a transparent communication tool that you can use to inform consumers and other stakeholder groups about your responsible business conduct in a trustworthy manner.
- › Certifying a product according to STANDARD 100 helps to ensure legal compliance and effective consumer protection.
- › At the same time, certifying production plants according to STeP also helps create sustainable production and working conditions in the supply chain.





8

## » How can I apply for MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®? «

There are two ways of getting started. Contact one of our OEKO-TEX® member institutes ([www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)) or simply fill in the application form at [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com).

9

## » What are the system requirements for issuing MADE IN GREEN labels? «

In order to issue a MADE IN GREEN label, a company must work within MySTeP, a database for managing your supply chain connections. MySTeP not only connects companies with their suppliers, but also assists them in managing the products they purchase from their respective suppliers.





⑩

---

## » How long does a MADE IN GREEN label remain valid? «

For the label owner, the validity of the label ends after one year. It must then be renewed. If there are any changes in the supply chain regarding MADE IN GREEN conditions, a new label must be issued. Product information can be accessed for up to five years using the product ID or QR Code.

⑪

---

## » What happens if, during the MADE IN GREEN label validity period, a mandatory certification is not renewed or is withdrawn for some reason? «

If a mandatory certificate (STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® or STeP by OEKO-TEX® for mandatory stages) expires for a particular label within the one-year period, the label owner must ensure that the certificate holder renews the certificate(s). OEKO-TEX® allows a three-month grace period to renew the certificates before OEKO-TEX® withdraws the label. If the MADE IN GREEN criteria are no longer met, the label owner must ensure that MADE IN GREEN labelling ceases immediately. Labelling of goods produced while the MADE IN GREEN conditions are not met is not allowed.

## » Can I change the visual elements of the MADE IN GREEN label? «

There are different label and hang tag options that can be used by your company. To find out more, see our Labelling Guide.



13

---

### » How can a buyer be sure that the label is authentic? «

The MADE IN GREEN label takes advantage of a product ID. The buyer can authenticate the label by entering the ID on [www.madeingreen.com](http://www.madeingreen.com) or scanning the QR Code. If you use the MADE IN GREEN label internally, you will get validity confirmation when you enter the number into your MADE IN GREEN dashboard.

14

---

### » Can I trace back the product to the manufacturer or only the country where the manufacturers are located? «

The product can be traced back either to the production country or countries, at least for the critical stages (as defined in MADE IN GREEN guidelines). Traceability directly back to the manufacturers is possible and can be defined individually by the users. Our goal is a 100% traceable supply chain.



15

---

### » Who decides what information is given to the buyer? «

The label issuer decides what information to release to the buyer. Within the system itself, all the direct and indirect suppliers for the MADE IN GREEN label may determine what kind of information they want to deliver up the supply chain.

16

---

### » How long does it take to issue a MADE IN GREEN label? «

A MADE IN GREEN label can be issued immediately. On average it takes only a few days provided that the conditions regarding MADE IN GREEN are fulfilled.



## » Every MADE IN GREEN label shows either a product ID and/or a QR Code. What is the purpose of this ID? «

Each MADE IN GREEN label issued has an individual product ID. The product ID, in the form of a number and/or a QR Code, shows where the product was made and that the product has been tested for harmful substances and produced sustainably in accordance with OEKO-TEX® guidelines. This information can be found by entering the product ID at [www.madeingreen.com](http://www.madeingreen.com) or by scanning the QR Code.



## » What detailed information appears with the product ID or the QR Code on the MADE IN GREEN label? «

The information displayed with the product ID consists of:

- › The MADE IN GREEN-labelled article
- › A map of all stages involved in the supply chain
- › Confirmation that this garment is MADE IN GREEN

Additionally, depending on the data release level granted by the supply chain, the consumer and buyer may have more information available to them.



19

---

### » Do I need a separate MADE IN GREEN product ID for each article? «

Each unique production line requires a separate product ID. For example, green T-shirts produced in China will have one product ID and green dresses produced in India will have another product ID.

20

---

### » Can different products be combined into one MADE IN GREEN label? «

To allow for end-to-end tracking, products with different supply chains cannot be combined under one label.

21

---

### » Where does the product ID on the label come from? «

The product ID is generated for each article by the OEKO-TEX® system. The label issuer receives the ID via the MADE IN GREEN dashboard.

22

---

## » Do I need a MADE IN GREEN certificate? «

MADE IN GREEN is not a certificate but a product label that allows consumers and buyers to understand the manufacturing details of labelled textiles in a transparent way.

23

---

## » What is the difference between MADE IN GREEN, MySTeP, STeP and STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®? «

MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® is a traceable product label. MySTeP by OEKO-TEX® is a database and a supply chain management tool. STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® is a product certification and product label indicating that the product has been tested for harmful substances. STeP by OEKO-TEX® is a certification for textile companies regarding sustainable production conditions.

» **Do STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® compete with each other? «**

No. The STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® label can be placed on products tested for harmful substances. The MADE IN GREEN label can be placed on products that are not only tested for harmful substances but also produced in sustainable textile facilities. As an additional benefit, MADE IN GREEN allows consumers and buyers to trace labelled products in a transparent way.



25

---

» **Can I get a MADE IN GREEN label even if my company is not certified by OEKO-TEX®? «**

Yes, if you don't produce textile goods yourself and your suppliers fulfil the MADE IN GREEN conditions, you can issue MADE IN GREEN labels. If you produce textiles yourself, your factory must be STeP by OEKO-TEX®-certified and the product must be STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®-certified.



26

---

» **Why does MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® include companies that are not part of the current OEKO-TEX® community? «**

The overall goal of MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® is to have traceable products tested for harmful substances and sustainably produced in accordance with OEKO-TEX® guidelines. By making supply chains visible, with the aid of MADE IN GREEN information about every supplier can be made available, not just suppliers that have received OEKO-TEX® certification.



27

---

» **Can I issue MADE IN GREEN labels having just a STeP certificate or only STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX®? «**

No. MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® requires the combination of the STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX® and STeP by OEKO-TEX® certification in accordance with OEKO-TEX® guidelines.

28

---

» **Where do I get further information about MADE IN GREEN? «**

For further details please visit [www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com), [www.madeingreen.com](http://www.madeingreen.com) or contact one of our partner institutes ([www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)).



## 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](http://www.oeko-tex.com). Connect with OEKO-TEX® on [Facebook](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and on [Twitter](#).

### Published by

OEKO-TEX® Association  
Genferstrasse 23  
P.O. Box 2006 | CH-8027 Zurich  
[info@oeko-tex.com](mailto:info@oeko-tex.com)  
[www.oeko-tex.com](http://www.oeko-tex.com)



**OEKO-TEX® Association**

Genferstrasse 23

P.O. Box 2006 | CH-8027 Zurich

Phone +41 44 501 26 00

info@oeko-tex.com

www.oeko-tex.com

**Follow us on:**



/oekotex



@OEKO\_TEX\_Int



/company/oeko-tex-international



/OEKOTEXassociation