

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Vision. Dedication. Confidence.



# FOREWORD.

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## 02

Dear readers,

Over the past year, the word sustainability has increasingly come under the spotlight. For many of us, a certain lifestyle and consideration of sustainable products have become more important. The desire to lead a more ecological life has strengthened thanks to various initiatives and communicators. What may appear to some as a new trend, has been our mission for almost 30 years.

It is a movement that is taking a step in the right direction towards protecting our planet. Increasing CO2 emissions, a growing plastic waste industry and the associated climate change are radical threats to our environment and to future generations. Everyone must take responsibility and act!

For decades, OEKO-TEX® has drawn attention to the complex manufacturing processes for textiles and leather products and has worked to optimise these, thus changing the fashion and hometextile industry in the long term. With MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®, a product label has been created for textiles and leather products which makes the manufacturing chain traceable. From the yarn to the needle: The MADE IN GREEN product ID proves that the product has been tested for harmful substances and has been manufactured using sustainable processes and socially responsible working conditions.

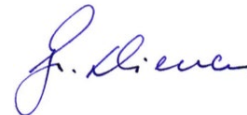
With MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®, we are making a contribution towards a more sustainable and informed society. However, we are aware that we still have a long way to go. We are in constant consultation with brands,

manufacturers and stakeholders and are working continuously on improving processes.

Each individual is responsible for our planet. There is no plan B for the earth. Our only option is to protect it. Together we can take the path towards a better future.

With this in mind, I wish you interesting reading and look forward to your feedback, suggestions and inspiration.

Yours faithfully,



**Georg Dieners**  
Secretary General  
OEKO-TEX®





# ENERGETIC AND EFFECTIVE. FOR A BETTER WORLD.

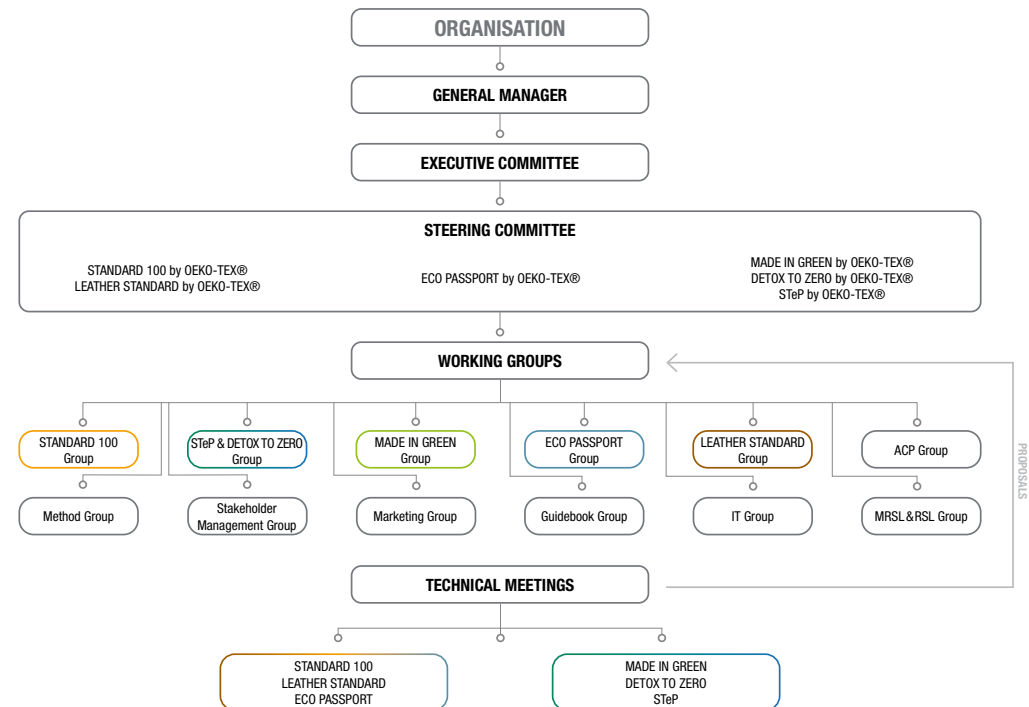
03



Broad expertise and a participatory negotiation process.

The OEKO-TEX® Association consists of 18 independent textile and leather institutes in Europe, Japan and their worldwide contact offices. Our core tasks are the development and advancement of our standards. To ensure that the standards remain at the highest technical level, they are revised every year. Various OEKO-TEX® committees (see illustration) deal with all the necessary documents. The committees are made up of experts from various areas and countries who jointly discuss possible adjustments. Textile engineers, technicians, chemists, lawyers, social scientists, marke-

teers, etc. are represented so that as many perspectives as possible can be considered. Through this broad-based expertise and the participatory negotiation process, we create high-quality standards that meet the high demands for transparency and credibility. The operational work is the responsibility of the institutes, i.e. they carry out the laboratory tests and audits in the customer's operations. Overarching tasks are handled by the OEKO-TEX® office in Zurich.



# OUR PROMISE. RELIABILITY. TRUST. VISION.

04

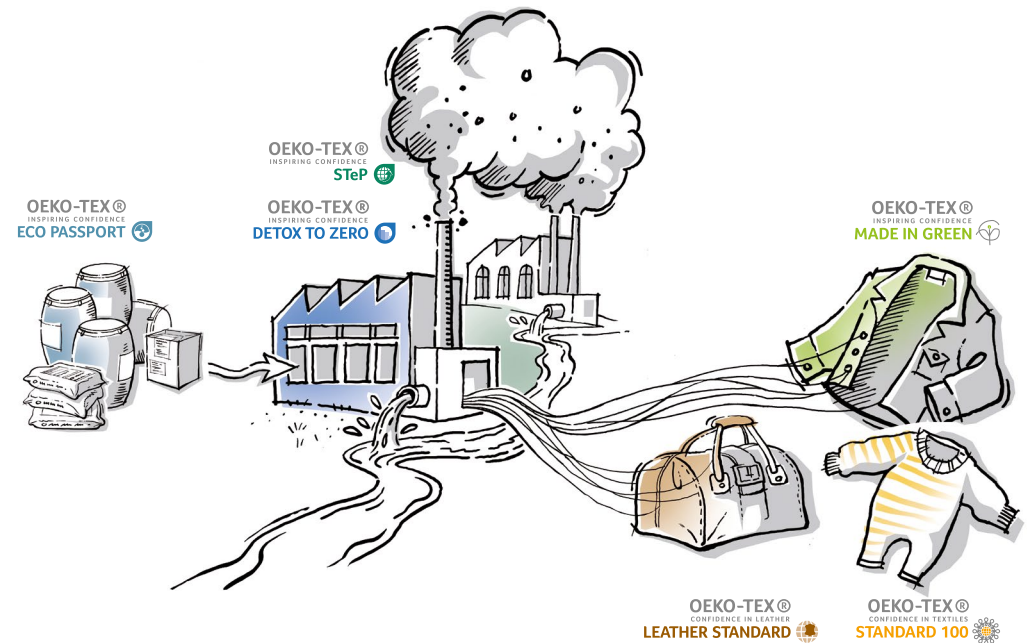
The OEKO-TEX® portfolio is growing. The STANDARD 100 has been in existence since 1992 and we have continued to develop since then. While consumer protection and human ecology were still the cornerstones of product testing at the beginning of the 1990s, today further requirements have been imposed on industry and trade. Above all, sustainability. Some speculate that sustainability is just a trend. We say: Sustainability is the future. That is why we have defined sustainability for ourselves and expanded our portfolio accordingly. So that we can continue to offer our customers solutions and create trust for consumers despite the changed framework.

„OEKO-TEX® understands sustainability as a process. This process is the equal inter-

action of environment, social and economic action. The aim is to preserve life and economic activity for future generations as well“.

Therefore, communication is a central concern for us, in addition to the actual testing. The OEKO-TEX® labels are a simple and valid communication instrument between retailers and consumers. On this basis, we enable consumers to make responsible decisions. MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX® is our flagship.

**We say: Sustainability is the future.**



# TRADEMARK PROTECTION.

05



The misuse or infringement upon intellectual property has always presented a big challenge since it is not something tangible but rather an intangible value. In the Digital Age this challenge has become greater due to the ease of copying, distribution and even modification of documents through the

technical possibilities at everyone's fingertips. This issue is particularly present in the certification industry as the trust that the market bestows upon a certificate is of prime importance.

In this respect, the OEKO-TEX® Association introduced a number of legal measures in

order to protect our valuable assets across the distribution channels. We take legal action against any form of infringement and strive towards a market consciousness that our globally protected trademarks cannot be infringed upon without consequences. We feel confident that our dedication in this

matter will both benefit our customers and their consumers in the long run.



# OEKO-TEX® AND AMD START COOPERATION ON THE SUBJECT OF SUSTAINABILITY.

06



The first cooperation between OEKO-TEX® and the Academy for Fashion & Design in Düsseldorf (AMD) was launched on 10 April 2018. The cooperation brought the students closer to how certifications can make manufacturing processes more sustainable and create more transparency along the

textile value chain. By launching a design competition, OEKO-TEX® also supported aspiring fashion designers in dealing with the topics of product safety and sustainability in their own collections. The collections were produced with certified fabrics and ingredients from OEKO-TEX®. A jury con-

sisting of Georg Dieners (Secretary General OEKO-TEX®), Prof. Claudia Ebert-Hesse (Dean of Studies AMD), Gudrun Allstädt (Textile Industry) and Uta Feldmann (Senior Design Manager C&A Europe) selected four winners from the 19 competition participants who were supported with prize mo-

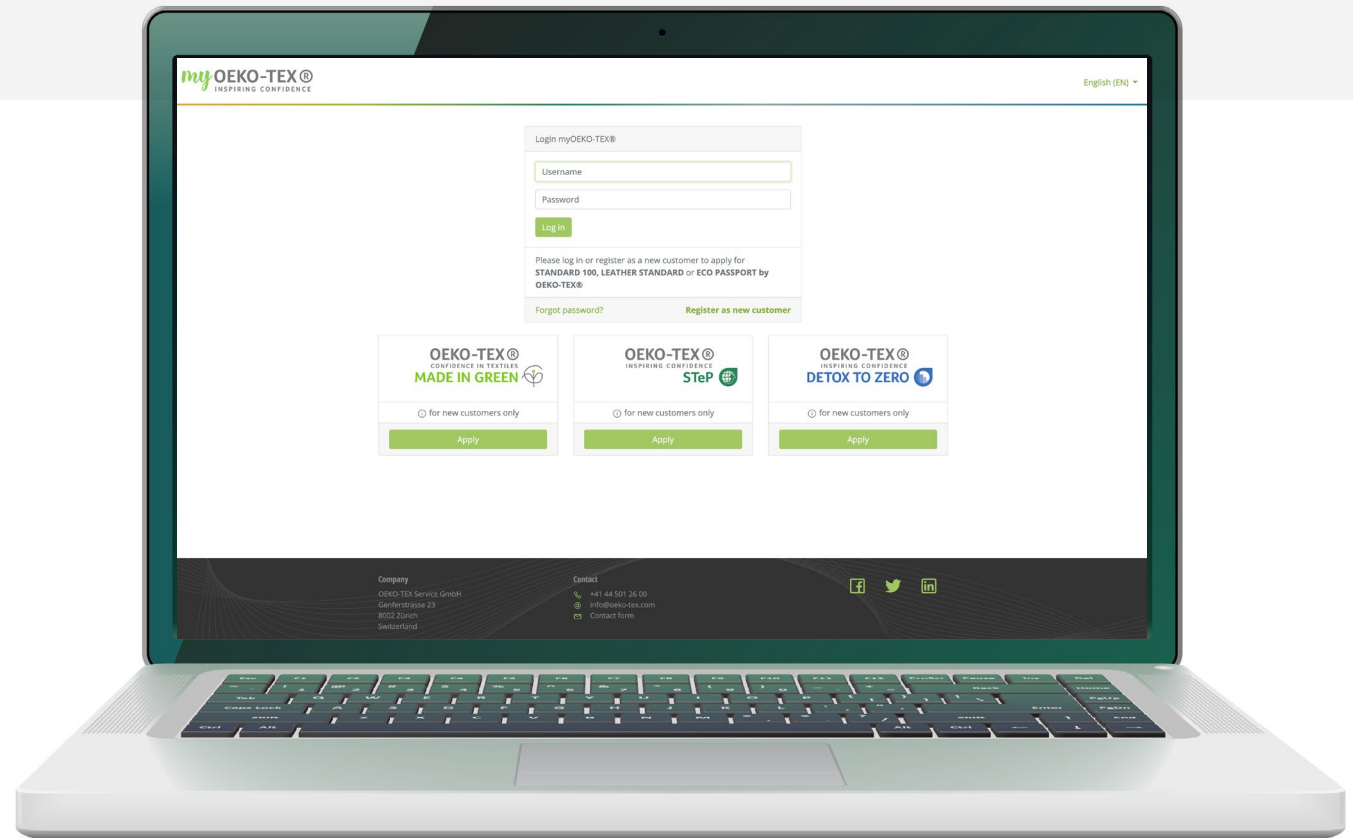
ney. As part of the AMD Graduate Fashion Show in January 2019, 10 collection pieces were presented to a large audience at the Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf.

# PRODUCT RANGE HIGHLIGHTS. MADE IN GREEN by OEKO-TEX®.

07

A more user-friendly menu guidance for myOEKO-TEX® of MADE IN GREEN has been introduced.

The interface was redesigned and the performance has been improved, especially concerning article and supply chain management. All available label versions can now be downloaded by the customer and an easy invitation system for suppliers has been implemented.





# PRODUCT RANGE HIGHLIGHTS.

## STeP by OEKO-TEX®.

08

We are committed to work towards a better tomorrow with our stakeholders.



Sustainable Textile & Leather Production by OEKO-TEX® is an important step in the right direction. STeP is available throughout the entire production chain. Manufactures in every processing stage can be certified, if eligible. The focus of a STeP certification is chemical management, environmental performance, environmental management,

social responsibility, quality management, as well as the health and safety of employees. Since the 1st of April 2019, leather producers can now apply for STeP as well. With the widening of this standard to leather articles we show our commitment to constantly develop our standards further. All processes from beamhouse to tanning, retanning,

dyeing, fatliquoring, finishing and making up can be certified. The STeP self-assessment has been updated accordingly: 30 new leather specific questions have been added. Furthermore, the new claim “INSPIRING CONFIDENCE” is now also available for the STeP standard.

**OEKO-TEX®**  
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE  
**STeP** 



# PRODUCT RANGE HIGHLIGHTS. DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX®.

09

In 2018 a pilot project was conducted together with Greenpeace and Utenos Trikotazas.

Greenpeace's Detox campaign was launched in 2011 aiming to create awareness and to take responsibility in the clothing industry due to its' significant contribution to pollution. In the last years noteworthy progress has been achieved by Detox committed brands. In 2018 a pilot project was conducted together with Greenpeace and Utenos Trikotazas (Lithuania) accompanied by HOHENSTEIN and DTI. The Greenpeace Global Textile

Procurement Trial Standard was developed based on this project. It was published 30th April 2019 and covers raw material use, production processes and product testing (t-shirts, bags and other merchandise). Its' objective is minimal impact and conformity with the organizations core values through transparency and management of hazardous chemicals. DETOX TO ZERO by OEKO-TEX® has been declared the tool of

choice by Greenpeace for process control in the field of chemicals and waste water management. It includes MRSL screening of all chemicals used, analysis and evaluation of established chemicals management, as well as testing of waste water and sludge with regard to the eleven groups of harmful substances focused on by Greenpeace.

**OEKO-TEX®**  
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE  
**DETOX TO ZERO** 



# PRODUCT RANGE HIGHLIGHTS. ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®.

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Leather chemicals can receive an ECO PASSPORT certificate as well, alongside with textile chemicals

The standard ECO PASSPORT was created to support companies that avoid chemicals which are harmful to the environment and human health. That way they can prove that their products can be used in an ecologically sustainable production. As of May 2019, leather chemicals can receive an ECO PASSPORT certificate as well, alongside

with textile chemicals. Furthermore, a new testing Matrix has been developed with our experts at FLIK and PFI.

**OEKO-TEX®**  
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE  
**ECO PASSPORT** 



# PRODUCT RANGE HIGHLIGHTS. ECO PASSPORT by OEKO-TEX®.

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Business partnership  
with BHive by GoBlu.

The OEKO-TEX® Association is pleased to have entered into a business partnership with GoBlu. BHive by GoBlu is a new chemical management app that helps to display the chemical usage throughout the supply chain. All ECO PASSPORT data available in the Buying Guide has now been integrated into the BHive app, which is a useful tool

during audits and On-Site-Visits. Each institute in the OEKO-TEX® Association has received a free account and can cultivate a “chemical library” for every facility audited via STeP and ECO PASSPORT. This is done with ease since every chemical can be scanned via the app.

OEKO-TEX®  
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE  
ECO PASSPORT 



# CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSURANCE.

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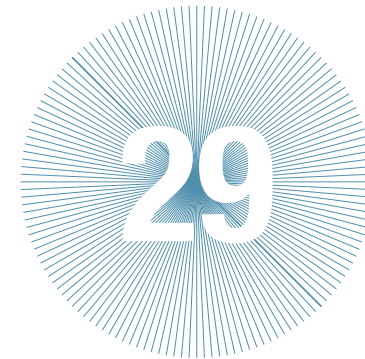
## Round robin test

In principle, an interlaboratory comparison is a method of quality assurance for measuring procedures as well as measuring and testing laboratories. For OEKO-TEX® identical samples are tested with identical methods. The comparison of the results makes it possible to make statements about the measurement accuracy in general or about the measurement quality of the institutes involved. In order to ensure the quality of the results and thus to guarantee the quality of the certifications, the institutes which test for OEKO-TEX® are obliged to carry out annual interlaboratory comparisons.



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Testing laboratories  
have participated



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Test parameters  
were checked



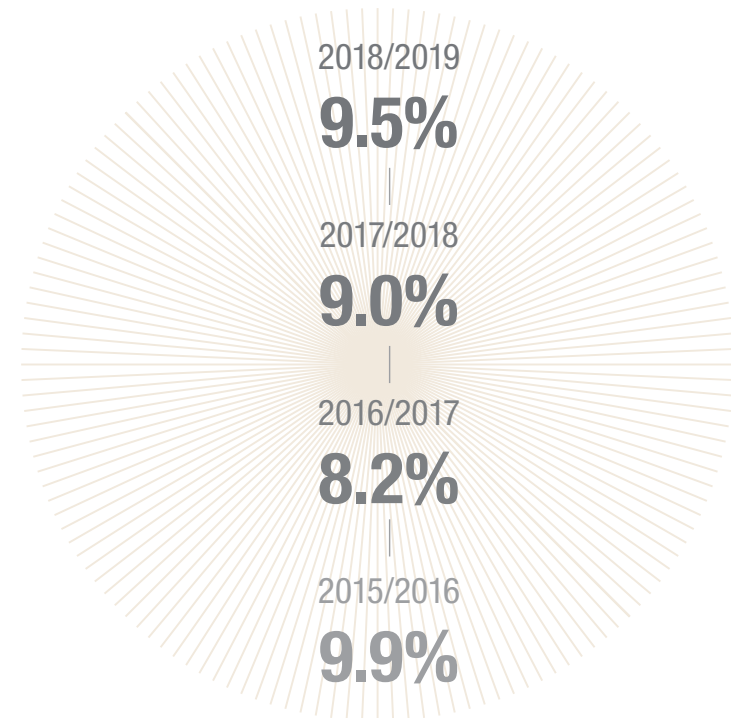
# CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSURANCE.

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## Product controls

Within the framework of OEKO-TEX® quality assurance, product inspections of the STANDARD 100 certifications were carried out in the past financial year. 4,192 certificates were inspected from companies in 62 different countries, of which 71.1 % came from Asia, 27.5 % from Europe and 1.6 % from other regions. This is appr. 25% of all STANDARD 100 certificates. The total of 6.821 samples were taken either in stores or during audits. This year, 34 different product groups were covered. In 90.5 % of the random samples drawn, the inspection confirms the positive result of the certification. 9.5%, on the other hand, failed the control

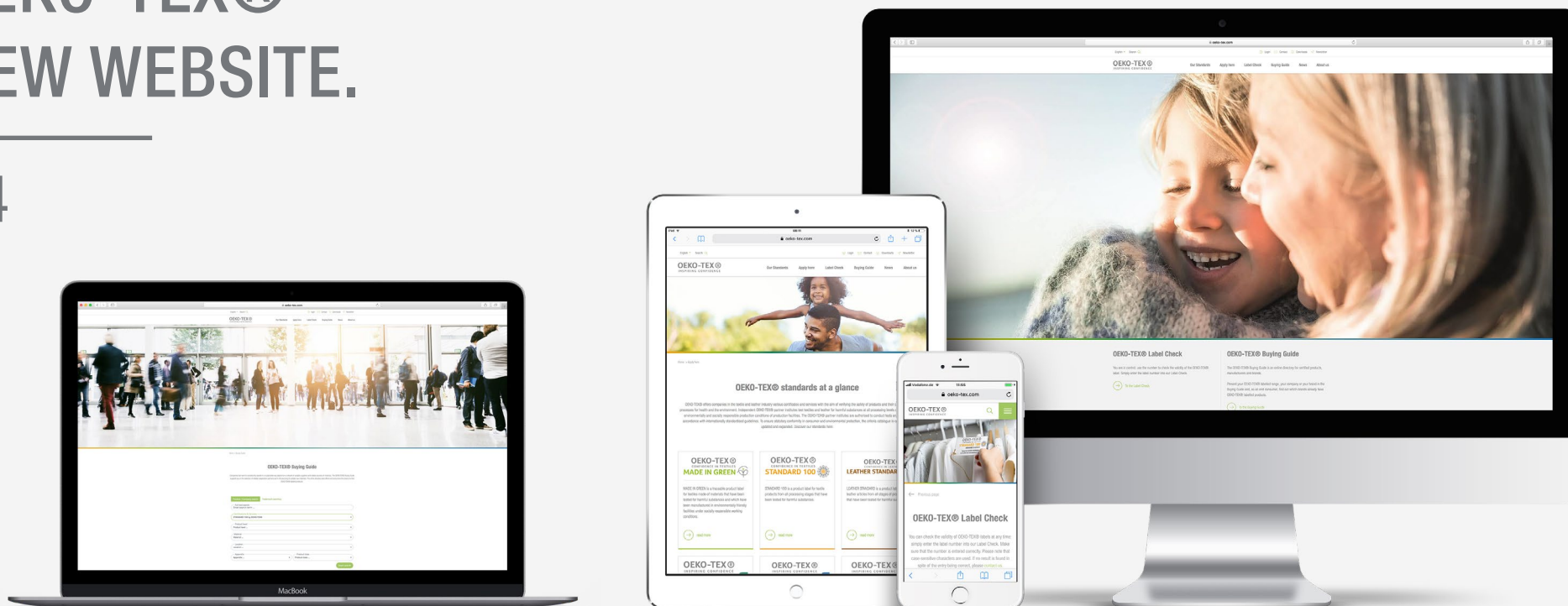
test. The certificate holders are informed of the results. If a deviation is found during a control test, the certificate holder receives obligations. The certificate holder must prove compliance with these requirements and submit a new material sample to verify the successful implementation of the requirements. In case of renewed deviations or a refusal to cooperate, the certificate may be revoked.



Proportion of failed certificates in the control tests.

# OEKO-TEX® NEW WEBSITE.

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The aim of the OEKO-TEX® has always been to create more transparency along the textile production chain, to protect consumers and thus to ensure greater safety and trust for all parties involved. In order to communicate these values even better online, the entire Internet presence has been

optimised and redesigned. With the new website, OEKO-TEX® is focusing above all on added value for users. Thanks to the clear navigation and clean design, all information is bundled at a glance and can be easily accessed. The new full-text search also makes it easier for website users to

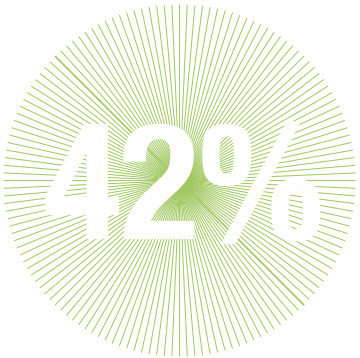
obtain information. Another change concerns the previous division into B2B and B2C websites, which has now given way to a uniform concept. The Label Check is placed prominently in the navigation and now enables you to query the validity of all Label including MADE IN GREEN. With the

new website will also include the integrated Platform MyOEKO-TEX® launched, with the goal of the certificate application and administration.



# OEKO-TEX® SOCIAL MEDIA.

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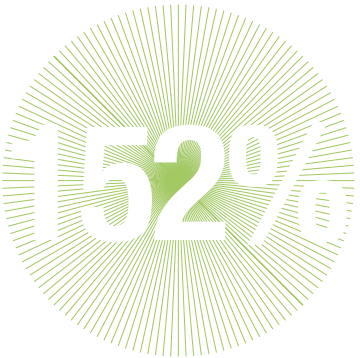


increase



Twitter

1001 Followers



increase



LinkedIn

9250 Followers



increase



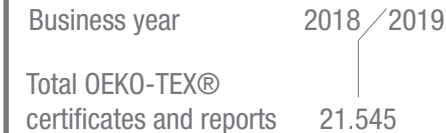
Facebook

4482 Fans

# INCREASED DEMAND. OEKO-TEX® IN NUMBERS.

16

Number of OEKO-TEX®  
certificates and licenses - total



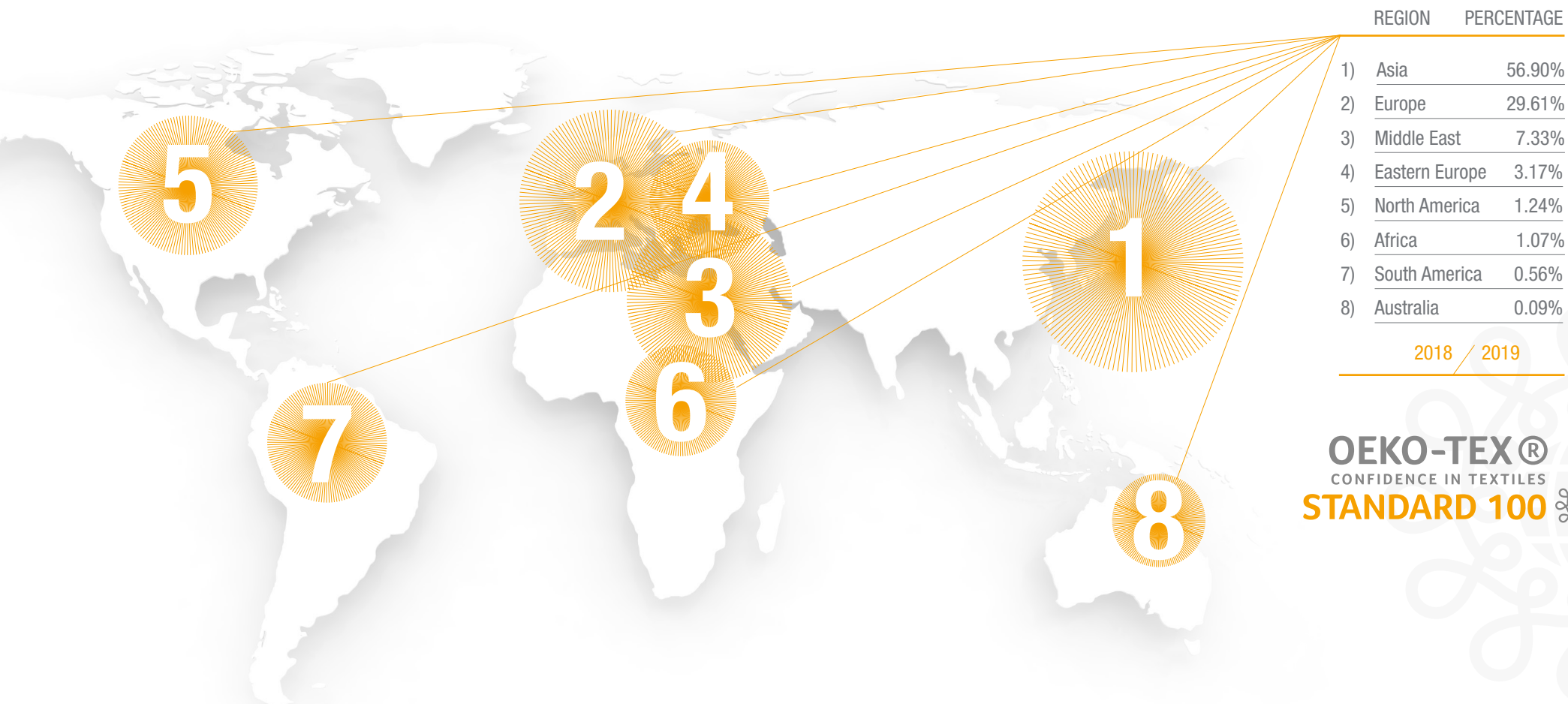
Number of valid certificates and  
licenses 2018/2019





# STANDARD 100 BY OEKO-TEX®. CERTIFICATES WORLDWIDE.

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**OEKO-TEX®**  
CONFIDENCE IN TEXTILES  
**STANDARD 100** 

# MADE IN GREEN BY OEKO-TEX®. LICENCES WORLDWIDE.

18



REGION PERCENTAGE

1)	Europe	47.90%
2)	Asia	44.00%
3)	Middle East	4.83%
4)	North America	2.91%
5)	Eastern Europe	0.37%

2018 / 2019

**OEKO-TEX®**  
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE  
**MADE IN GREEN**





# LEATHER STANDARD BY OEKO-TEX®. CERTIFICATES WORLDWIDE.

19



	REGION	PERCENTAGE
1)	Europe	47.80%
2)	Middle East	26.10%
3)	Asia	19.60%
4)	North America	4.35%
5)	Australia	2.17%

2018 / 2019

**OEKO-TEX®**  
CONFIDENCE IN LEATHER  
**LEATHER STANDARD** 

# STeP BY OEKO-TEX®. CERTIFICATES WORLDWIDE.

20



	REGION	PERCENTAGE
1)	Asia	64.08%
2)	Europe	18.07%
3)	Eastern Europe	9.35%
4)	Middle East	7.19%

2018 / 2019



# ECO PASSPORT BY OEKO-TEX®. CERTIFICATES WORLDWIDE.

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REGION PERCENTAGE

1)	Asia	62.00%
2)	Europe	24.00%
3)	North America	7.36%
4)	Middle East	4.75%
5)	South America	1.66%
6)	Eastern Europe	0.24%

2018 / 2019

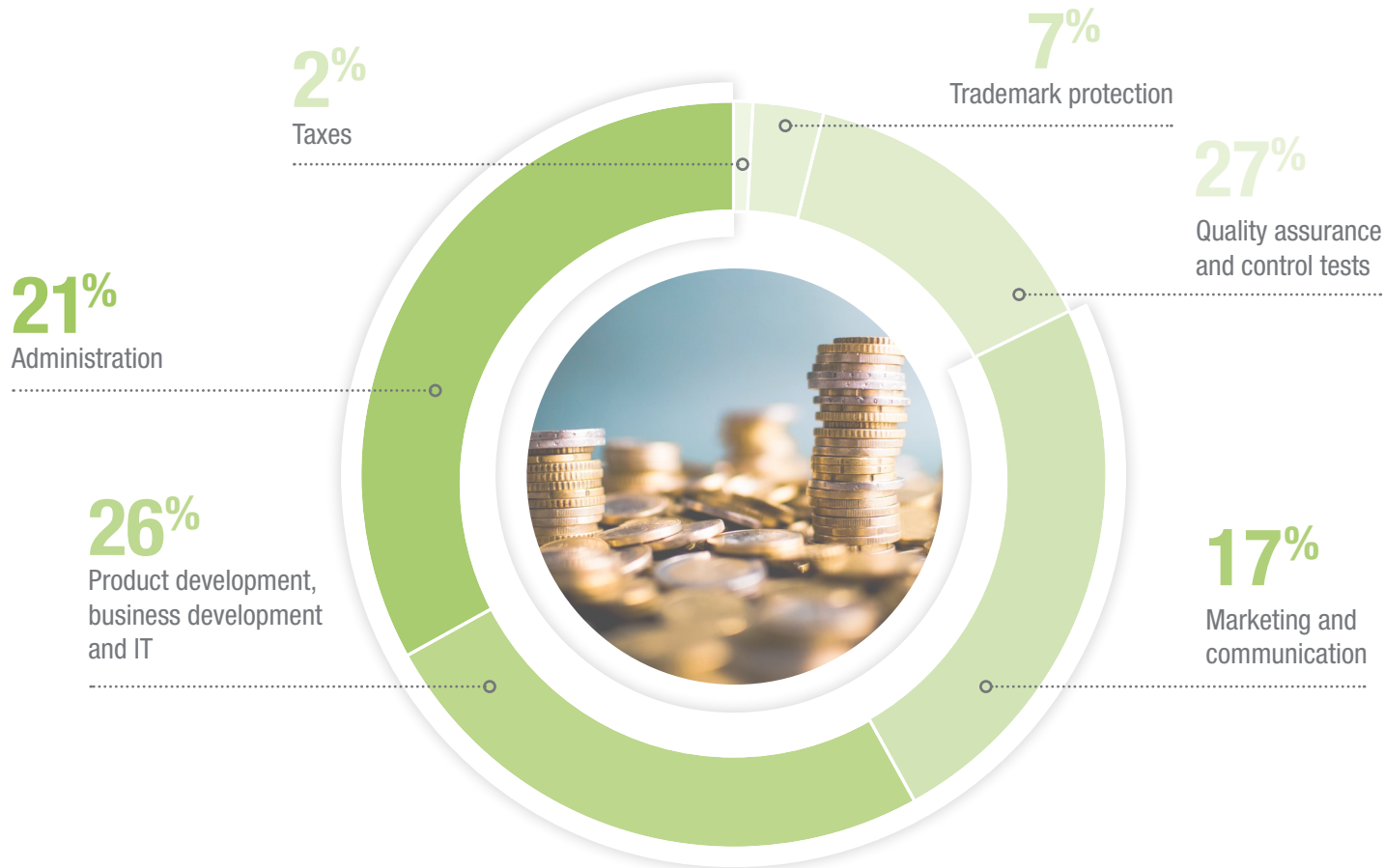
**OEKO-TEX®**  
INSPIRING CONFIDENCE  
**ECO PASSPORT** 



# AN OVERVIEW OF EXPENSES. QUALITY IN FOCUS.

22

The financing of OEKO-TEX® is based on the licence fees for its products.



# PUBLISHER.

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of the Canton of Zurich

