

RECYCLED MATERIALS IN OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100

BENEFITS OF A RECYCLING CERTIFICATION

With their past lives, recycled materials present a special challenge in certification. Due to their diverse origin, they must be examined and tested more extensively and frequently in the certification process. To clearly distinguish between virgin and recycled materials, the STANDARD 100 certificates must be separated and processed according to their own guidelines. Once the recycling certificate is issued, a recycling hangtag can be provided to be used for marketing purposes. The separate certificate ensures transparency and quality consistency throughout the whole supply chain and facilitates B2B and B2C communication in regard to recycling requirements.



CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

What can be certified as “recycled” under the definition of OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100?

The table below portrays the articles most commonly classified as “recycled”.

If your product is not on the list or further explanation is needed, do not hesitate to contact us!

RECYCLED	NOT RECYCLED
Pre- and post-consumer recycling materials which undergo a chemical refurbishing process in order to reach their new state	Any product which is directly returned to the production process, e.g. collected cotton fibre from the carding room floor
Reprocessed yarn spinning material which has been melted down, chemically recycled, etc. before re-entering the spinning process	Rejected or second-quality yarn or fabric stock that is simply discoloured and dyed over
Yarns, fabrics, garments, household recycling collection, post-consumer PET bottles, utility bottles, melted-down plastic articles	Feathers, downs, metals
	Pre-consumer PET bottles



PLEASE NOTE:

Post- and pre-consumer materials with unknown sources may not be certified with OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 product class I.

PRODUCT CRITERIA

A separate recycling content certificate must be issued if the **final product** contains a **recycling of 20 to 100%**.

Fabrics, yarns, fibers, and other semi-finished products:
amount of actual recycled content in the product

Readymade garments or home textiles: amount of actual recycled content in the main components of the product.
Main components: e.g. main fabric, lining fabric, filling

Which articles may be combined into one OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 certificate, and which must be separated?

- ✓ Mixtures of recycled materials with virgin materials of the same composition may be certified together.

EXAMPLE

Polyester/recycled polyester fibre fill.

- ✗ 100 % recycled materials **may not be** certified together with 100 % virgin materials.
Recycled articles with at least 20 % recycling content may not be certified together with virgin articles.

EXAMPLE

- 100 % recycled polyester fibre fill **may not be** certified together with 100 % virgin polyester fibre fill.
- Pillowcase made of cotton and recycled polyester fill (recycled content > 20%: from post-consumer PET bottles) **may not be** certified together with pillowcase made of cotton and virgin polyester fill.

In any case, mandatory information required by the institute includes:

- Source of the recycled material (pre-/post-consumer material, PET bottles, garment collection, etc.)
- Recycling percentage in the final product
- Additionally for ready-made garments or home textiles: Weight of the main components
- GRS, OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100, or other third-party certificate for the recycled materials; if neither are available, a mass balance must be provided
- Effective quality management system for consistent product quality

CONTACT

Hohenstein
Schlosssteige 1
74357 Bönningheim
GERMANY
Phone: +49 7143 271-575
E-Mail: oeko-tex@hohenstein.com