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Hohenstein to test for new international GMO protocol

BÖNNIGHEIM (aba) Hohenstein has earned accreditation to test cotton for genetically modified organisms (GMOs) according to a new protocol that forms the basis of the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) Version 6.0, set for release in March 2020. Hohenstein is one of only a few institutes worldwide to qualify.

The new protocol was developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) International Workshop Agreement (IWA). The ISO IWA was formed in an effort to implement an official, standardised GMO testing protocol for GOTS certification.

GOTS is an internationally recognised standard for organic, natural fibres. While not all non-GMO cotton is organic, all organic cotton must be free of GMOs to be approved by GOTS. Beginning with GOTS Version 6.0, testing to verify non-GMO seed cotton is required.

Hohenstein performs the GOTS-approved GMO test by isolating cotton DNA from the undyed product and testing for the worldwide most common cotton lines. A positive test result clearly indicates that genetically modified cotton seeds had been used.

This is one of three methods of testing for GMOs offered by Hohenstein, which has also developed detection methods that can be used on cotton further down the supply chain, including raw fibre, yarn, fabric and finished goods. Hohenstein has been accredited according to ISO 17025 by DAKKS for all three methods. In addition, GMO testing is carried out in accordance with STANDARD 100 by OEKO-TEX.

Editor:

- Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG
- Hohenstein Textile Testing Institute GmbH & Co. KG
- Hohenstein Institut für Textilinnovation gGmbH

Global Marketing & Sales

Hohenstein
Schlosssteige 1
74357 Bönnigheim
GERMANY
Phone: +49 7143 271-515
E-mail: press@hohenstein.de
www.hohenstein.com

Your contact person for this text:

Isabel Schober
Telefon: +49 7143 271-708
E-Mail: i.schober@hohenstein.de

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Hohenstein has developed molecular biological detection systems especially for cotton products. It covers all aspects of the supply chain, from raw cotton to yarns and fabrics to end products. Manufacturers, brands, certifiers and consumer protection organisations receive clear yes / no results for GMO-free cotton products.

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The sample is crushed and cotton fibres are mechanically and enzymatically extracted. The genetic material (DNA) is separated from the fibres and purified through a multi-stage process.

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About Hohenstein

With over 1,000 employees in more than 40 branches, offices and laboratories worldwide, Hohenstein is an internationally oriented testing services provider and research partner in the textile industry. Hohenstein has developed molecular biological detection systems especially for cotton products, covering all aspects of the supply chain, from raw cotton to yarns and fabrics to end products. You can find more information about Hohenstein and the company's portfolio of services at www.Hohenstein.com.