

## Innovative textile products and processes: from research to industrial application

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Director-general CENTEXBEL



#### Outline

- Profile CENTEXBEL
- Stackholders and their expectations
- Activities
  - Testing
  - Research
  - Consultancy



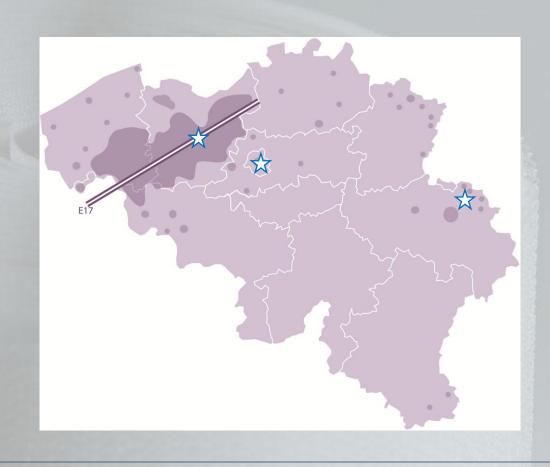
# Profile CENTEXBEL centre of competence

- collective centre of expertise uniting
  - 500 Belgian textile producers
  - over 100 freely associated national & international companies & organisations
- staff
  - 138 highly skilled collaborators



## Profile CENTEXBEL Centre of competence

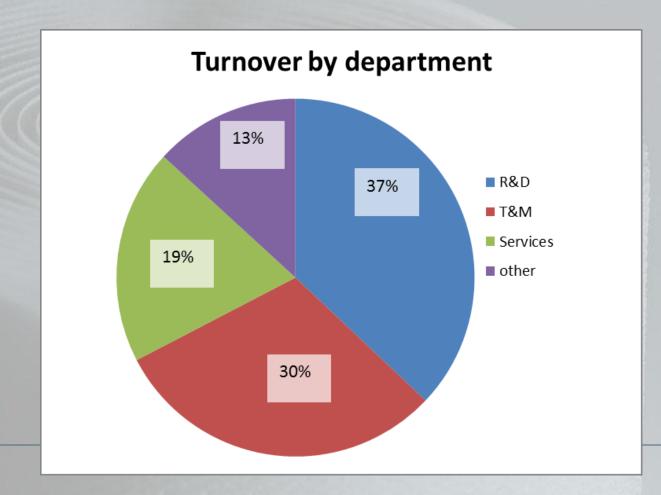
- Key figures
  - 138 staff members
  - 12 M€ turnover
- 2 locations
  - Ghent
  - Verviers





# Profile CENTEXBEL Activities

- 3 major synergetic activities
  - R&D
  - Services
  - Testing





### Activities Overview





# Stackholders expectations The textile industry in Belgium

- Important industrial sector and 4th European producer
- Presence of complete supply chain
- Strong position in technical and interior textiles:
  - Interior: B: 46 % EU15: 20%
  - Technical textiles: B: 30 % EU15: 20%
- Broad rang of business models:
  - Cost leadership: carpet, matrast ticking ...
  - Focus (niches): ropes, strings, ...
- > 85 % SME companies
- Supplier dominated
- Regional cluster



## Stackholders expectations Expectations of our stackholders

- Support of textile companies in strengthening competitive position (competitive) through:
  - Efficient standaardtesting and trouble shooting
  - Technological assistance: process, materials, applications, ...
  - Product- en process research & development
  - Introduction & support in EU-research & -networks
- support of textile companies in strengthening competitive position (pre-competitive) through:
  - Acquire knowledge new materials, techniques and processes
  - Initiatives to collectively tackle challenges
  - Explore new application areas (cross sectorial)
- Available expertise
  - Knowledge of TEXTILE products, processes and applications
  - Support and stimulation of cross-sectoral collaboration





# Activities Accreditated testing

- Testing
  - Physical lab
  - Chemical lab
  - Fire lab
  - Microbiology lab













# Activities Research activities

- 5 research fields
  - Biopolymers for use in textile processes & products
  - Nanoadditives in coatings and meltprocessing
  - Sustainable development
  - Multifunctional textile surfaces and related processes
  - Textiles in composities
  - Intelligent materials and smart textiles
  - Health, safety and security
- 3 research groups
  - Textile Functionalisation & Surface Modification
  - Functional Thermoplastic Textiles
  - Health, Safety & Security



### Semi-Industrial equipment





### Semi-industrial equipment



hotmelt



compounding



Spray machine



Lab coating machine



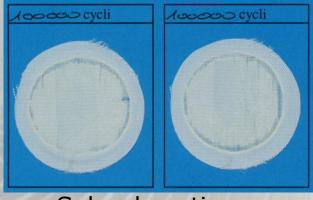
# Research and development with and for companies



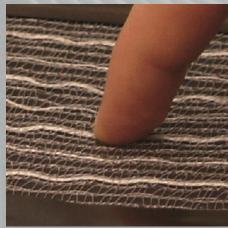
Optical fibers



Polyolefine dispertions



Sol-gel coatings



Pression sensing textiel



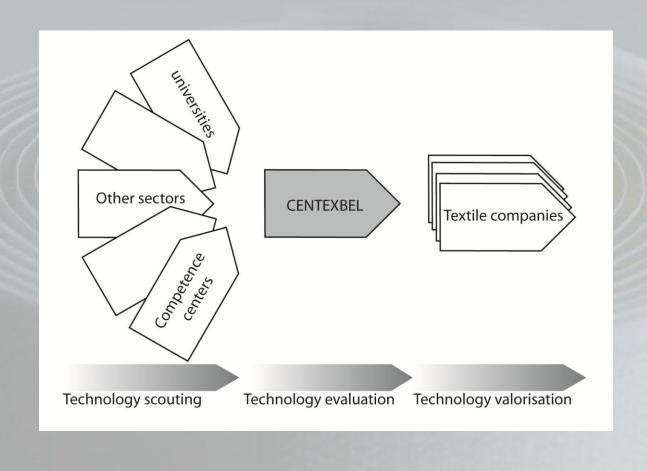
Selfreparing coatings



Hydrogels

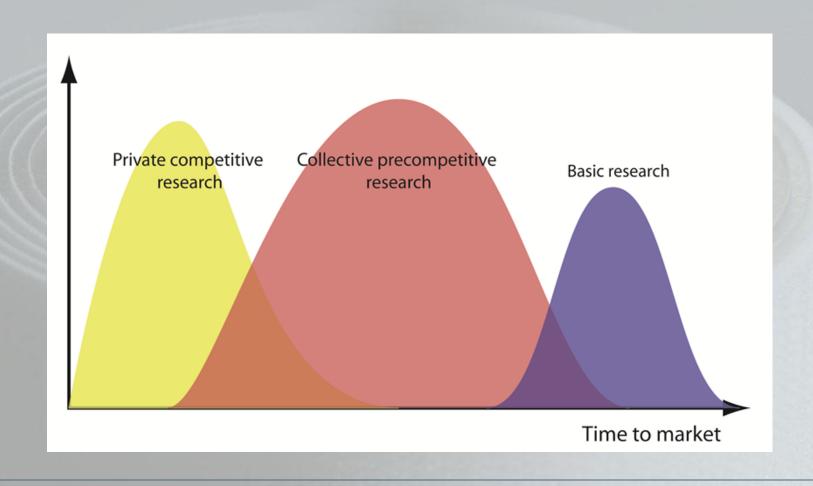


#### Rol of Centexbel





## Research portfolio

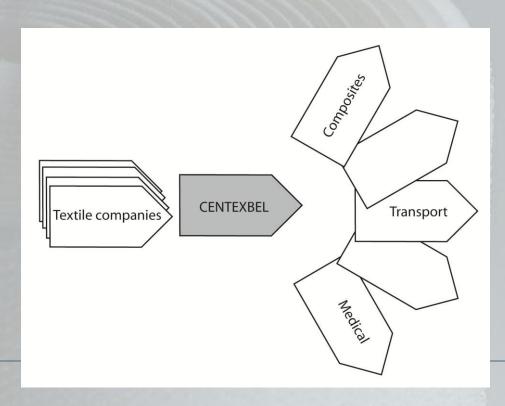




# Rol of Centexbel Cross sectorial activities

- Opening horizons for application of textile products
  - Construction industry
  - Composite industry
  - Medical applications

• .....





### Research topics

- Hot research topics
  - Biopolymers
  - UV curable coatings and hotmelts
  - Nano-additives in coating and extrustion
  - Sol-gel coatings
  - .....
- Examples:
  - Sol-gel
  - UV-curable coatings
  - Carbon nanotubes



## EXAMPLE 1 Sol-gel

- 'Old' existing technology for coating on glass surfaces
- Sol: colloidal solutions of metal oxides
  - Met-O-Met; "Met" = silicium, titaan, vanadium, ...



- Gel: obtained through evaporisation of solvent in the sol
- sustainable layers of eg. Si-O-Si (~glass)
- Nano-porous surface
- Thickness:~100nm



# Challenges sol-gel

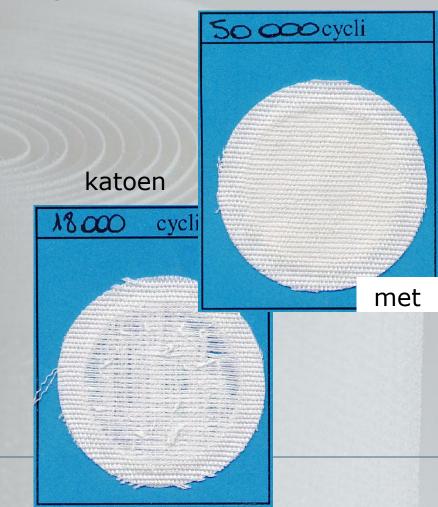
- Classical sol-gel technology requires:
  - Long processing time
  - High temperatures curing proces
  - Large quantities of solvents (ethanol)
- Suited for textiles if:
  - Process time is short
  - Low temperature processing
  - Preferably water based coating



- Increase in abrasion & pilling resistance
  - Industrial trials
    - technical textiles
    - Interior textiles

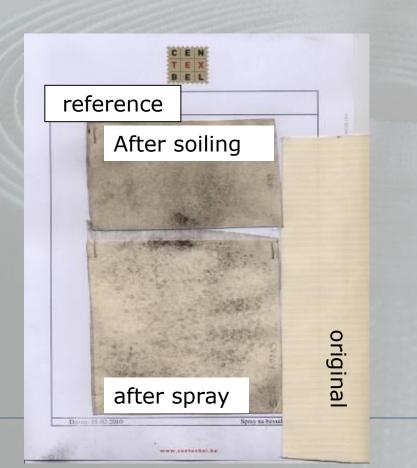
lycra

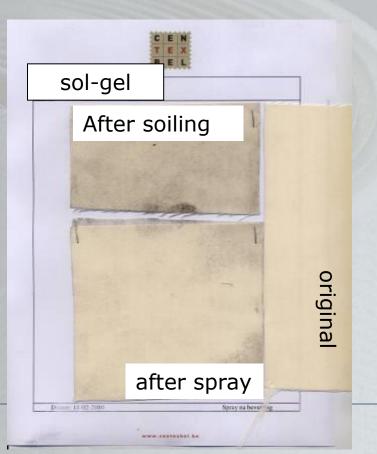
met





Easy to functionalise (dirt repellency)

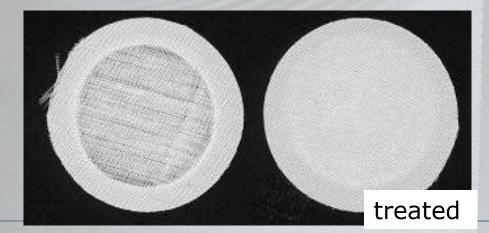






- Implementation in industry
  - 2 EC-projects: technical textiles & PPE
  - 2 O&O-projects: interior & technical textiles
  - 1 SME study: interior textiles
  - 5 feasibility studies: interior, PPE, technical textiles, clothing

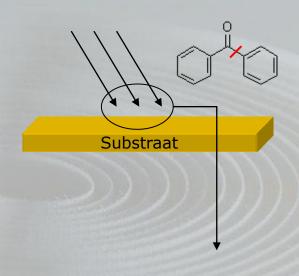
    polyester - 100,000 t

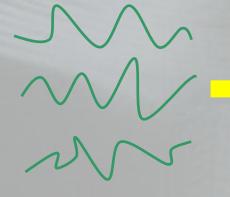


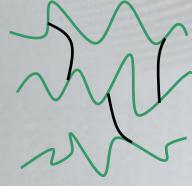


### EXAMPLE 2 Radiation based curable coatings

Interaction with elektromagnetic radiation and linear polymer  $\rightarrow$  development of three dimensional network

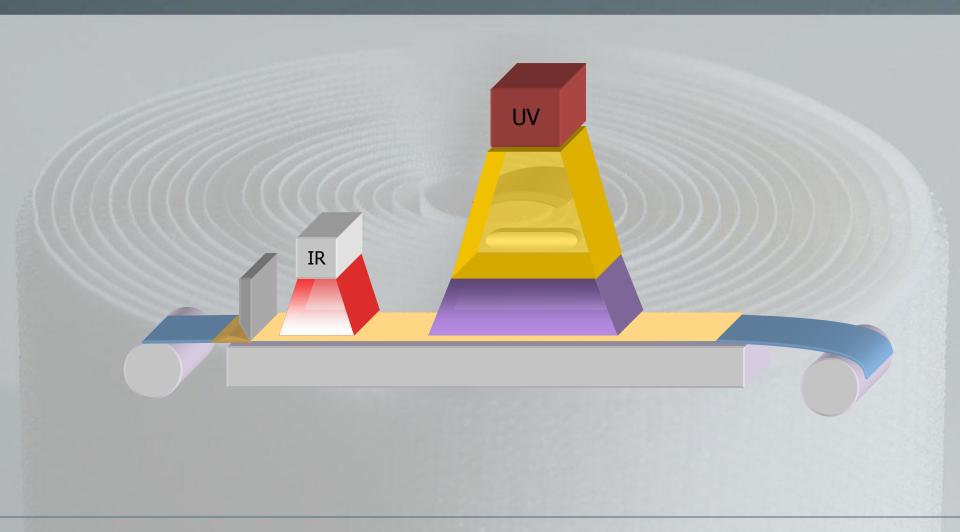








## UV curing technology





### Types uv-curing systems

## Liquid uv-coatings water additive photo-initiator monomeer oligomeer • 100 % uv-systems Aqueous uv-dispersion

- 100% systems
  - Most important group
  - monomeer for dilution
  - liquid
  - no solvent/water
- aqueous uv-system
  - aqueous dispersion
  - usually no monomeer
  - evaporation of water necessary



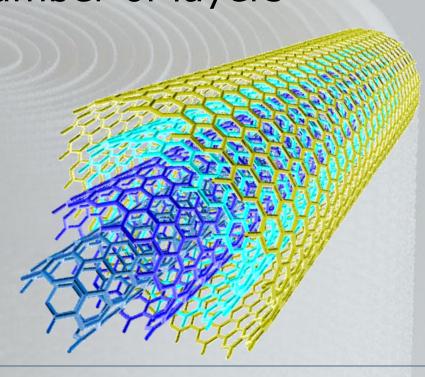
### Challenges to resolve

- Known technology for hard surfaces
  - How to modify the coatings for flexibility
  - Ensure sufficient curing to avoid volatile organic components
- Textile functional properties
  - Flame retardancy
  - Anti-static properties
  - Anti-bacterial properties
  - .....



# EXAMPLE 3 carbon nanotubes

- Graphite structures
  - With length >> diameter
- Different types of CNT: number of layers
  - single-walled
  - double-walled
  - multi-walled
- interesting properties
  - Mechanical stength
  - Thermal conductivity
  - Elektrical conductivity





### Challenges

- Compatibility problems with
  - Polymers (PP, PES, PA)
  - Coating pasts and padding liquids

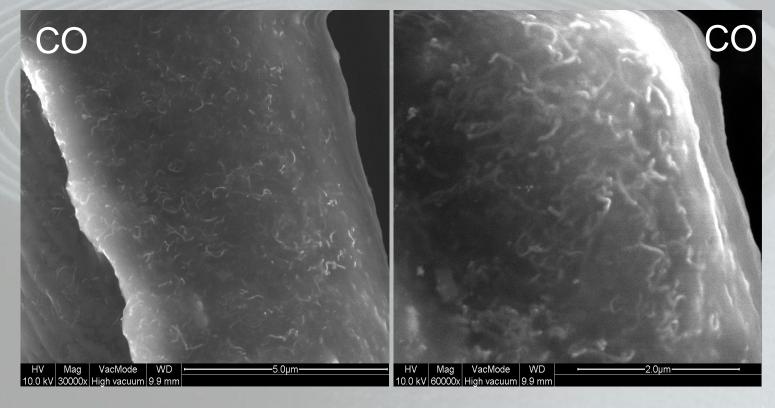
#### Solution

- Modification of the CNT by attaching suitable chemicals
- Danger to deteriorate other properties (e.g. UV stability, ...)



# Onderzoek carbon nanotubes

 Electron microscopy of cotton + CNT finish (padding)





# EXAMPLE 4 Textile as sensor

Textile sensing in concrete

- Detecting vibration
- Detecting cracks







#### **Instruments**

- Support by funding is needed:
  - Regional funding of R&D
    - Flemish government (collective & private research)
    - Wallon government (collective & private research)
  - National funding of R&D
    - Federal government (Research to support standardisation)
  - European funding of R&D
    - FP7, CIP, cohesion funds
- Involvement of Belgian textile companies is a key performance factor





### Activities Consultancy

- Technological support of companies
  - Technological consultancy (trouble shooting)
  - Sustainable development (environmental issues)
- Certification of products
  - Private labels (ökotex, GUT, ...)
  - Compulsary labels (CE-marking PPE, Carpets)
- Certification of systems
  - ISO9000, ISO14000
- Training & dissemination



## SUSPRO<sup>3</sup> Sustainable Production, Processes & Profit

Support of textile companies to develop sustainable products en processes















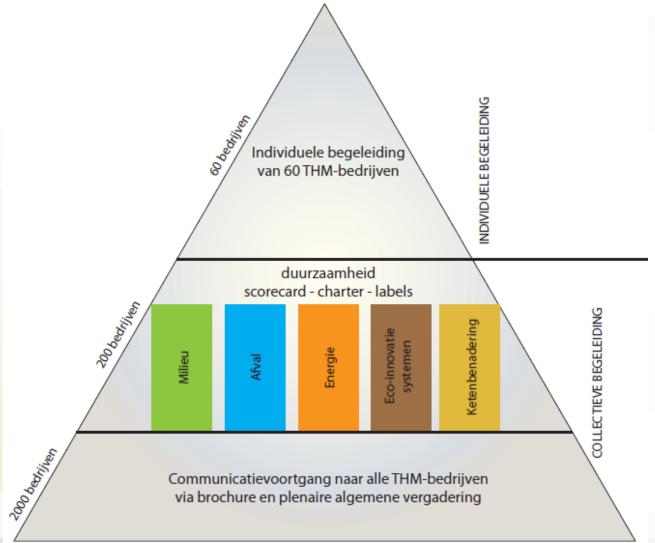


SUSPRO<sup>3</sup> support companies which integrate sustainability in their strategy and communicate this to all 'stakeholders'.

Do well and talk about it!!



### Aanpak





### Collective support

- Accompanying collectively 120 companies
  - 5 interactive workgroups



- Bi-monthly meetings: 240 participants
- Development of practice guide



### Individual support

- Detecting and implementation of actions to become more sustainable
  - Signing of sustainability charter
  - At least 2 action
- Implementation eco-innovation scorecard

30 companies signed charter



### Sustainability charter











#### Duurzaamheidscharter <<bedrijf>>

Als directie van .......zijn wij ervan overtuigd dat het succes van ons bedrijf in een belangrijke mate bepaald wordt door milieutechnische, maatschappelijke en economische aspecten op een coherente manier te integreren in onze bedrijfsvoering. Overleg met alle belanghebbenden maakt deel uit van dit proces.

Wij zijn er tevens van overtuigd dat deze focus zal resulteren in een competitief voordeel voor ons bedrijf. Door deze inspanning collectief te voeren zal dit ook gelden voor onze sector en regio. In deze context ondersteunen wij dan ook ten volle het SUSPRO<sup>3</sup>-project van Fedustria, Centexbel en TCHN voor de sectoren textiel, hout en meubel.

Door het continu streven naar verbetering in al onze producten, processen en diensten willen wij zowel de tevredenheid van stakeholders vergroten, de arbeidsomstandigheden verbeteren, de milieu-impact minimaliseren als de bedrijfsresultaten optimaliseren. Bewust van deze verantwoordelijkheid verbinden we ons tot:

- Het formuleren en evalueren van aantoonbare en significante doelstellingen m.b.t. duurzaamheid, binnen minstens twee van de volgende SUPRO<sup>3</sup> pijlers milieu, energie, afval, eco-innovatie en ketenbenadering;
- 2. Het ondernemen binnen een maatschappelijk verantwoord kader
- Het ter beschikking stellen van de nodige materiële en menselijke middelen voor het realiseren van deze doelstellingen;
- 4. Het intern bekendmaken van deze doelstellingen;
- 5. Het extern zichtbaar en bekend maken van onze keuze voor duurzame bedrijfsvoering;
- De actieve deelname van onze bedrijfsmedewerkers aan tenminste 2 SUSPRO<sup>3</sup>-werkgroepen rond milieu, energie, afval, eco-innovatie en/of ketenbenadering;



- Overview most important labels
- 35 labels
- 4 groeps
  - Organic (verplicht)
  - Organic
  - Eco
  - Ethical

#### Guide labels

Overview matrix	Organic criteria	Chemical criteria	Process criteria	Social criteria	Textile	Furniture	Wood
EU regulation No: 834/2007	y	x	×	x	у	×	у
The Global Organic Textile Standard	y	у	x	у	У	×	×
Organic Exchange	y	x	x	x	у	×	×
International Wool Textile Organisation	у	у	x	у	у	×	x
KRAV	y	у	x	у	у	×	x
IVN	у	х	x	у	у	×	x
Biogarantie	у	у	×	у	у	×	×
Naturiand	у	у	×	×	У	×	×
EU-Ecolabel	x	у	у	x	у	у	у
Oeko-Tex100	x	у	x	x	у	х	×
Oeko-Tex1000	×	у	у	у	у	×	×
Nordic Ecolabel	x	у	у	x	у	у	у
The Blue Angel	×	у	у	у	У	У	у
Blue Sign	x	у	у	у	У	×	x
Certipur	x	у	x	x	(y)	(y)	x
euroLATEX ECO-standard	x	у	у	x	(y)	(y)	x
Milieukeur	x	у	у	x	x	У	x
NF Environnement	x	у	у	x	х	у	x
GUT	x	у	у	×	у	×	×
Made in Green	x	У	у	у	У	×	x
C2C	x	У	у	у	у	Y	у
Better Cotton Initiative	x	у	(y)	(y)	у	×	x
Proof of Trust	x	у	У	x	у	У	у
FSC	x	у	у	у	x	У	у
PEFC	x	у	у	у	x	У	у
EPD	×	у	у	×	У	У	У
Fairtrade Labelling Organisations	x	x	×	у	У	у	у
Max Havelaar	x	x	x	у	у	x	x
Belgisch sociaal label	x	х	x	у	у	у	у
Made-By	у	x	×	у	у	×	×
Fair Wear	x	x	x	у	У	×	x
STEP	×	x	(y)	у	У	×	×
BSCI	x	x	(y)	У	У	У	у
SA8000	x	x	x	y	у	у	у



#### Organic Exchange





#### Introduction

This voluntary organic 'fibre only' standard offers two possibilities to certify the use of organically grown cotton fibres in textiles.

#### OE 100 Standard

The OE 100 Standard is for tracking and documenting the purchase, handling and use of 100% certified organic cotton fibre in yarns, fabrics and finished goods. A company labelling its finished products as containing organic cotton, may refer to the OE Standard by mentioning.

- "Made with 100% organically grown cotton" only for products containing 100% organic cotton
- "Made with organically grown cotton," for products containing 95% or more organic cotton, as long as the remaining content is not

Note that the OE 100 Standard can be applied to individual components of a product as long as all of the components containing cotton are certified to the standard. However, the care/content labels still have to name the actual percentages of each textile flore. Organic Exchange has aligned itself with the GOTS system in order to reduce the complexities and costs for all parties involved.

OE 100 Standard requires that all of the cotton is grown organically and provides criteria for proper handling and tracking of the organic cotton through all textile processing steps. If does not have criteria for substances used during processing.

#### OE Blended Standard

The OF Blended Standard applies to all goods containing a minimum of 5% organic, or organic in conversion, cotton. The new version of OF Blended Standard does not allow for blends of conventional cotton and is only awarded when the cotton content is organically grown or in conversion. The manufacturing operations may label finished goods as being "Made with X% organically grown cotton," where "X" accurately reflects the final behavior they are not fathic.

#### Critaria

The criteria depend on the market where the textile product will be sold. The environmental criteria refer to the organic regulations for the growing of organic conton.

Organic Exchange also defines additional criteria for spinning, weaving and knitting, dyoing and finishing. The storage of raw materials is also regulated.

#### Accordington

Organic Exchange has developed an accreditation system in line with the one recently developed for GOTS. By keeping the systems as similar as possible, both organisations reduce time and expenses.

#### Costs

- OE application fee: 1000 USD
- OE certification fee: 50 USD

OE collects upon reporting by the certification body.

OE unit certification fee: 50 USD

#### Contact

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+1 806 428 3475

info@organicexchange.org

http://www.organicexchange.org

#### Label guide

#### Oeko-Tex®Standard 100



DNA | Textile industry | Human health | Global | Private, collective | 3" party controlled | REACh Conformity

#### Introduction

Oeko-Tex® 100 was introduced in 1992 and has become the world's best known textile certificate with over 9500 certified companies in more than 80 countries worldwide, for a total of almost 100.000 certificates. It is owned by the international Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile Ecology (Oeko-Tex®) in Switzerland.

The Oeko-Tex\* association is composed of 15 textile research and text institutes. These member institutes are active in over 50 countries worldwide and are responsible for the testing and ceremication according to the Oeko-Tex\* Standard 100. A complete list of member institutes can be found on the website of the Oeko-Tex\* association.

Oeko-Texº 100 is a globally uniform testing system for textile, from raw materials up to finished garments at every step of the production. A product can only be certified when each and every component meets the requirements as stated by Oeko-Texº.

Not only textile producers can obtain Oeko-Tex\* certification, also producers of non-textile accessories, such as buttons and zippers, and dyers and printers.

The Deko-Tex\* 100 certificate consists of 4 products classes, depending on the intended use of the product. A class I certificate is for products for babies and small children under 36 months, while a class II certificate is for products with direct skin contact. Class III certificates are for products with no direct skin contact and Class IV is for textile products for decorative purposes.

An Oeko-Tex® certificate is not limited to one article. It can include an entire product range made up of similar components.

#### Criteria

The testing parameters are based on scientifically proven parameters and are updated annually according to legislation and research. The following requirements are used:

- substances which are prohibited by law, such as carcinogenic dyestuffs
- substances which are regulated by law, such as heavy metals and formaldehyde
- substances which are not regulated or prohibited by law, but that are known to be harmful to health.
- parameters which are included as a precautionary measure to safeguard human health, such as colourfastness and pH.

The latest annual update of January 2011 includes the following new criteria:

- Short chained (C10 to C13) chlorinated paraffins and tris(2-chloroethyliphosphate are explicitly placed on the list of banned flameretarding substances, Both have a limit value of 0.1 per cent per mass.
- The limit value of total lead (Pb) content has been set at 90 ppm for all four product classes. This limit is well below the U.S. regulation of 300 ppm, or 100 ppm as of August 2011.

12 | the SUSPRO guide to labelling 28 | the SUSPRO guide to labelling







a total approach



### Communication/ visibility

our commitment for the future

**SUS** tainability

**PROduct** 

**PROcess** 

**PROfit** 









#### VEUBELBEURS BRUSSEL zon. 7 > woe. 10 nov. 2010 | 9-19u | Brussels Expo Heizel



## Helping companies in dealing with REACH

- How to implement REACH in a textile company
  - REACH specific points of attention and obligations
  - Guide 'REACH for the textile industry'
- How?
  - Company audit
  - Working group communication
  - Working group strategy
- Participation of 60 companies





#### Conclusion

#### CENTEXBEL:

- Regional research collective centre
- Very close and strong liks to regional textile industry
- Shaped by its stackholders
- Supports the competitivity of the regional textile industry
  - Collective industrial research
  - Collective support actions