



Ecodesign in the Textile sector

Unit 05: Certifications in the Textile sector:

STeP by Oeko-Tex®, UNI EN ISO 9001, UNI EN ISO 14001, SA8000, OHSAS 18001, ISO 45001.



Objectives

- Resume the principles of quality, environmental, safety and health management certifications in the workplace: UNI EN ISO 9001, UNI EN ISO 14001, SA8000 OHSAS 18001
- Know the STeP by Oeko-Tex® certification as a harmonized sustainability certification

ISO 9000 series

Quality management

It consists of a series of regulations and guidelines that define the requirements for the implementation of a quality management system.

It provides an analysis of business opportunities - mission definition and company vision expressed through quality policy.

A careful control commensurate with the company context is carried out on the management of human and instrumental resources.

It involves following company areas:

- corporate management
- planning
- marketing
- design
- sale
- supply
- production or supply
- installation
- after-sales service

ISO 14000 series

the ISO 14000 series on Environmental Management Systems is:

a system to control all the processes of a company that are related to the external environment and which have an impact on it.

The aim of an EMS is:

« to define and to document the methodologies to carry out the activities under control, always from a more environmentally friendly perspective".

The benefits to implement an EMS such as the ISO 14001 standard are:

- Continuous improvement of corporate environmental performance
- Control of processes and activities that have an impact on the external environment
- Guarantee of compliance with formal obligations
- Optimization of costs due to compliance with legislative requirements and management of environmental aspects
- Green Marketing

SA 8000

The SA 8000 standard (Social Accountability 8000: 2014) is:

an international certification standard drawn up by the CEPAA (Council of the Economical Priorities Accreditation Agency) and aimed at certifying some aspects of corporate management related to corporate social responsibility (CSR - corporate social responsibility).

The aspects involved in SA 8000 are:

- respect for human rights
- respect for workers' rights
- protection against the exploitation of child labour
- the guarantees of safety and health at work

OHSAS 18001

OHSAS 18001 is the international Standard for occupational health and safety management systems

It aims to make a company's control, knowledge and awareness of all the possible risks present in normal and extraordinary situations in the workplace.

OHSAS 18001 certification is an effective tool to optimize the management of risks to the health and safety of workers.

The aims of the OHSAS 18001 standard are:

- establish a safety management system to eliminate or minimize the risks associated with your activities
- implement, maintain and continuously improve the safety management system
- ensure to comply with the declared security policy
- demonstrate the conformity to third parties
- request certification / registration of the safety management system to an external body;

ISO 45001

It does not differ from OHSAS 18001, establishes the requirements of management systems for health and safety at work. integrates and replaces the OHSAS 18001 standard, and aims to help organizations guarantee workers' health and safety.

The high-level structure of the standard, as for all the other ISO standards, allows to have:

- same structure for all management systems
- use of texts and common terminologies
- standards easier to understand
- more efficient application of integrated management systems

Sustainable Textile Production (STeP) by Oeko-Tex®

The STeP standard provides an analysis and a global sustainability assessment of a company's processes

Introduced in 2013, the STeP certification aims to evaluate a company with respect to environmental, social, health and safety of workers and the safety of products used and realized.



STeP certifies the production facilities, from the production of fibers to the manufacture of the final textile products.

Establishes levels of performance in terms of sustainability of production regardless of the country of production.

STeP by Oeko-Tex®

The STeP certification is issued at three different levels on the basis of the degree of satisfaction of the requirements of the standard.

- Level 1 = minimum entry level
- Level 2 = good implementation with further optimization possibilities
- Level 3 = exemplary implementation

The requirements of the STeP standard concern:

- the **Management of chemical substances** used in the production process
- **Environmental performance** (in reference to the binding legislation of the country or to minimum requirements present in the standard itself, following the principle that the most stringent requirement is applicable)
- **Environmental Management and Protection** (in reference to ISO 14001)
- **Corporate Social Responsibility** (in reference to the SA8000 standard)
- **Quality management** (in riferimento alla norma ISO 9001)
- the **Health and safety of workers** (with reference to the OHSAS 18001 standard to the binding legislation of the country or to the minimum requirements present in the standard itself)

STeP by Oeko-Tex®

Management of chemical substances:

- Compliance with the guidelines of a list of substances subject to restrictions (RSL)
- Proper management of hazardous substances
- Respect for the principles of "green chemicals"
- Periodic training on the handling of the chemicals used
- Obligation to appropriately communicate used dangerous chemicals subject to restrictions and their risks
- Monitoring of the use of chemicals

Environmental performances

- Respect of the limit values established by the STeP or by the binding legislation of the country
- use of the best production technologies available
- Optimization from an environmental point of view of production processes
- Efficient use of resources
- Responsible management of waste, waste water, emissions, etc.
- Reduction of the CO2 footprint

STeP by Oeko-Tex®

Environmental management and protection:

- Demonstration of an adequate environmental management system for targeted coordination and systematic implementation of all environmental protection measures Impegno verso gli obiettivi ambientali
- Periodic development of environmental reports
- Appointment of a representative for the environment
- Periodic training on the implementation of environmental objectives and measures
- Implementation of existing environmental management systems (ex. ISO 14001)

Corporate social responsibility:

- Ensuring socially acceptable working conditions in accordance with the United Nations (UN) and International Labor Organization (ILO) conventions
- Performance evaluation for employees
- Application of existing social standards (ex. SA 8000)
- Training for employees on the social aspects of an operation
- Internal communication and distribution of responsibilities
- Commitment to the payment of fair wages
- Mandatory implementation of an effective social policy
- Freedom of association and collective bargaining agreements

STeP by Oeko-Tex®

Quality management:

- Implementation of a suitable Quality Management System, e.g. in line with ISO 9001
- Guaranteed traceability, responsibility and appropriate documentation regarding the flow of goods and manufactured products
- Advanced management aspects such as risk management or corporate governance

Health & Safety:

- Proof of taking appropriate measures to ensure health and safety at work
- Guaranteed safety of buildings and production facilities
- Risk prevention
- Adoption of an online safety management system, for example with the OHSAS 18001 standard)

MySTeP by Oeko-Tex®

MySTeP by OEKO-TEX® is a database for brands, retailers and manufacturers that allows to manage and strengthen own community of textile suppliers.

MySTeP provides detailed information such as:

- A customized supply chain mapping system for brands, retailers and manufacturers in the textile supply chain
- The OEKO-TEX® certification management system (STANDARD 100 e STeP by OEKO-TEX®)
- A complete database that allows benchmarking and statistical analysis of the supply chain

Thanks to MySTeP it is possible:

- have a supply chain mapping system
- manage OEKO-TEX® certifications
- have a targeted analysis based on the score of the companies through the Key performance indicators (KPI)
- develop benchmarking and statistical analysis of the supply chain
- select new suppliers using sustainability data important for their business
- identify and eliminate possible risks in the existing supply chain

Thank you

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