

eco-tex
Service Package

Contact :

Eco-tex Institute

Gleueler strasse 373 a, 50935 Koeln, Germany
Tel. ++49 - 221 - 9436720, Fax ++49-221-9436723
e-mail: info@eco-tex.com, Website: www.eco-tex.com

Introduction

eco-tex has empirical experience in the textile and apparel industry with a high amount of specialist knowledge. Our approach for solutions of the compliance requirements on quality, environment, social responsibility and health & safety is based on a pragmatic, practical and value added management system & methodology, incorporating the compliance requirements of country of production, country of import, as well as customer specific requirements. We have applied our expertise for the last several years in number of garment and textile production companies worldwide, including SMEs in developing countries. We have been quite successful in guiding the apparel and textile manufacturers in implementing the compliance and code of conduct requirements in practically feasible ways and on sustainable patterns.

One of milestone achievements of eco-tex is in 2002 about 65% (more than 40 million pieces over 400 million Swiss francs) of the complete textile assortment of suppliers of Swiss retailer Migros, were complied and optimized with the extremely strict environmental and social requirements. eco-tex has assured of strict ecological criteria on more than 20.000 products in 2001 by monitoring & assisting 2500 manufacturers globally in textiles & apparel and other industries through all production steps. eco-tex maintains a database concerning status and supply chain of each product of more than 3000 manufacturers.

eco-tex management methodologies are based on a management system of three main pillars **People, Paper, Practice** (PPP). **People** means defining responsibilities, **Paper** means documentation and **Practice** means implementing measures and communication. Once this management base is set up in the organization then quality, technical, environmental and social requirements can be managed and integrated with qualitative improvements.

This management system is easy to understand and practical for textile and apparel companies and also suitable for SMEs and micro-enterprises. This system is the bottom line of the organizational management for meeting business and compliance requirements. On top of this system, producers can implement and add further standards, tools and systems to comply with current and future requirements. Various management systems and management tools based on the principle of PPP are given below.

eco-tex activities

- Development of Management Systems
- Compliance Auditing
- Compliance Monitoring
- Consultancy
- Training, Education & Coaching
- Compliance Certification
- Sustainability Projects
 - in the areas of Quality, Ecology, Social Responsibility, Health & Safety.
- Global networking on compliance capacity building and awareness creation

eco-tex Services & Management System Methodologies

i) Eco-Monitoring System

This system assures compliance with defined environmental criteria and requirements in all relevant production steps within complete supply chain by auditing, documentation and evaluation of all materials and processes in use. The eco-monitoring system is based on a Begin-of-Pipe System, which evaluates and verifies the fulfillment of the requirements in all relevant steps of supply chain correcting and improving the errors at its point of origin. The definition of supply chain is a backward chain of production beginning from fiber cultivation to spinning, fabric, processing, CMT, packaging, storage, transport up-to the Point of Sale. In terms of environmental requirements, this system covers all processes and input products allowing an immediate weak-point analysis and offering the necessary assistance whenever corrective actions are needed to reach a Cleaner Production (CP).

Practically fulfilling and verifying the environmental requirements (of national and international legislation & customer specific requirements) in a complete production chain helps the apparel manufacturers to massively reduce inspection and testing at the end stage of the finished product. This system gives both producers and buyers added value, green production, cost saving and environmental improvement on sustainable basis.

ii) Social Monitoring System

This system assures compliance with social, health & safety requirements by pre-assessment, auditing, evaluation and installation of improvement and optimisation plans on a sustainable basis. The system provides a complete guidance in the form of suggestions to fulfil the requirements and defines the corrective action plans in the areas of non-conformities. The audit is aimed to check the implementation of measures, corrective actions and optimisations. Optimization plans for corrective actions and improvements with time frames are monitored on continuous basis. Rating of performance is provided. An independent and neutral complaint and grievance facility for the workers is included in the monitoring system.

iii) Quality Monitoring System

This system assures compliance with quality requirements of individual buyers and producers. The quality criteria are defined according to the requirements of different product groups. Like Eco-Monitoring system, this system is based on the principle of Begin-of-pipe system which allows the producers to screen out all core components, materials and processes in use in backward supply chain and it allows to verify the implementation of measures right in the beginning in all materials and components to fulfil the defined quality requirements as per customer's demand. This system provides a practical and pragmatic management approach in optimization of quality processes as well as systematic documentation of whole process. This begin-of-pipe approach with a management platform leads compliance to quality requirements and quality standard on a sustainable basis.

While managing and maintaining the quality requirements in various components and materials used in production chain at early stage leads the producers in making quality testing of only relevant criteria and avoids unnecessary and irrelevant quality testing. This system also helps the producers in integrating ecological criteria and requirements in the same processes.

Managing the quality requirements in all steps of the production chain and reducing the testing only to relevant quality criteria results in reduction of the cost and time loss. Checking and fulfilling the quality criteria at early stage of production with complete documentation results in reduction of inspections at final product and thus cost saving. This brings the quality inspection cost for the business parties from 100 & 10 dollars down to 1 dollar.

iv) CSM 2000- An Integrated Performance Management System

CSM 2000 is an integrated performance management system (Compliance & Supply Chain Management System) covering requirements of quality, environment, social responsibility and occupational health & safety (OHS) into one single system. This system gives apparel/textile manufacturers and suppliers a practical tool to prove and communicate compliance with all defined requirements within quality assurance, environmental performance, social accountability and OHS in the entire supply chain. This system gives apparel buyers on the international level the overall security that all requirements on quality, environment, social responsibility and ethical values are well understood and met by their suppliers.

The integrated system approach minimizes efforts and costs compared with multiple standard and certification schemes. Implementation of CSM 2000 provides a continuous sustainable self assessment in the production chain. The system approach combined with national legislation and regulations and its own minimum requirements assures equal compliance to different buyers.

Benefits from eco-tex Methodologies

- Cost savings to producers and buyers through good compliance management practice
- Reduction of tests and inspections
- Highest possible security to buyers
- Minimization of risks on corporate image loss
- Sustainability in compliance performance
- Transparency in processes and supply chain
- Shareholder's confidence
- Preparation for upcoming future legal, market and customer requirements
- Transparent performance verifiable to stakeholders
- Affordable cost structures for small and medium industries