

Eco-Tex ENHANCING ECO-FRIENDLINESS, GLOBALLY!

-By Rashna Patel

The Beginning

With a single-minded objective, the leading textiles companies worldwide founded the Eco-Tex Consortium. This objective was mainly to analyse and retrace all the stages of textile and garment production from the final garment to the fibre. This also included offering assistance to the members of the Consortium.

Consolidating its position in 1996, the Eco-Tex Institute for Applied Ecology was founded as an independent and market oriented consulting organization. Eco-Tex Institute took over all the previous activities and experience of the consortium and employed a talented and efficient working team and expertise in specialized areas of technical engineering, management consulting and communication. The organisation took over to extending towards their clients empirical approach and experience pertaining to observation, control and improvement of the quality criteria and harmless substances in textile and garment production as well as environmental friendliness, safety and social responsibility in production. Solving strategic early-stage explanation and root cause search was also one of their complex functions.

Present Functions

Today, the organisation enjoys a position of global player in the market. For production-oriented organisations, they evolved a weak point analysis evaluation system worldwide for all the stages of production and production processes. In process oriented production a special system was developed which enabled them to trace back the entire

stages involved in the production and supply chain in order to fulfill the customers' defined criteria and requirement. " We assist people to reach the



demand made by their customers. We see to it that the customers criteria is kept and that ensures that all our clients are happy", said Mr. Willie Beuth, Eco-Tex, while talking to Clothesline.

Eco-Tex Concept

The globalisation of the production and the supply chain often causes a loss of relevant information on origins and methods used in the production of textiles and garments. Price competition in all production stages lead to uncertainty for the partners involved, so that important information and data are also frequently regarded as trade secrets. As independent management consultants between the stages of a production and a commercial process, Eco-tex works and co-operates with the individual suppliers, buyers and salesmen. For each specific requirement the client is provided with a measurable result, while maintaining absolute confidentiality.

Monitoring

Monitoring involves strategic early stage explanation of possible risks and weak points in the production and the supply chain.

In textile chain this means the pursuit of the origin of a piece of garment at all stages of manufacturing of the finished product right back to the fibre.

Based of the accumulated experience of years, Eco-tex method of monitoring involves direct contact with all the production stages.

Auditing

Eco-audit are based on the criteria defined by retailers, importers and manufacturers within the areas of quality and environment, together with health and safety and social aspect.

Their range of service includes assistance in setting up the catalogue of

criteria and requirements. The audit questionnaire and documentation form the basis for their "weak point analysis".

At Eco-tex not only the problems are scrutinized and detected, but also necessary corrective measure are provided by visiting the production site and thoroughly checking the implementation of any approved modifications.

Production

The basic target of any organisation is the long-term and market oriented adjustment of the production and a secured position in a competitive market. Arriving at all the relevant information relating to various stages of production can prove problematic. However, such information is indispensable.

Eco-tex provides this information which ensures that the organisation is in a position to manufacture, legally assured, quality products which can be supplied trouble-free and in-time.

Competition

Planning an active role in avoiding risks in the production process and avoiding discontentment amongst customers opens up substantial competitive advantages to an organisation.

Eco-tex optimizes the information flow as well as the logistics of the organisation procurement through defined criteria within the domains of quality, environment, social aspects and safety in the work place.

Co-ordination

Through the means of external monitoring, Eco-tex solves the co-ordination problems pertaining to suppliers criteria defined by an organisation.

If the production corresponds to the defined criteria the product can even be marked with organisation own label.

Advantages from the Auditing & Monitoring System:

- Well-planned organization of company targets by transparent sourcing logistics.
- Evaluation of Non Product Outputs (NPOs) with small margin clearance.

- Customer orientation by flexible and fast adoption of new needs and requirements.

- Creation of confidence, and thus, a customer link-age by permanently guaranteeing customer requirements.

- Resource saving (i.e., workforce, time, materials, energy and money) by strategic early recognition of risks in all production stages.

- Resources savings by means of co-ordination and control of your sourcing information

- Legal assurance

- Risk minimization

Social - Ecological

For organisations determined to improve the social and health situation in the producing countries, Eco-tex provides pragmatic and controlled procedures, offering procedures and traders

the possibility of excluding child labour in the production chain.

Future

Having a background in market developments, Eco-tex has extended their expertise to Compliance & Supply Chain Management System (CSM2000) alongwith TUV. With this development, Eco-tex has arrived at a turning point towards a stronger future. The modular structure of the system enables this organisation to transfer their concept and know-how to further industrial areas.

These include the customer-dependent, individuality tailored standards between purchaser and supplier, and guarantees the complete coverage of all defined criteria within the domains of quality, environment, health & safety, as well as social responsibility. **CTA**



CSM 2000 Integrated Performance Management TUV Apparel Check

This new system was prompted by dual purpose. Firstly, to give buying organisations an overall security that all system and own requirements on quality, environment, social responsibility and ethnical values are well understood and met by their suppliers.

Secondly, to give manufacturers and suppliers globally a practicable system to prove and communicate compliance with well defined requirements.

The system includes the following areas: Quality, Environment, Health & Safety, Social Accountability and Trade Regulations.

The procedures involves the following steps:

The manufacturer provides a company profile and defines his supply chain for all components.

The manufacturer provides a status analysis of the company.

The requirements are defined on a matrix including the supply chain.

The company will be audited and evaluated by local RWTUV auditors.

The company will be certified for one year.

The Monitoring includes unannounced random company spot checks.

Random checks on products including testing on relevant criteria by accredited test institutes worldwide are provided.

The quality seal on the certificate issued by RWTUV could be used on letter heads, brochures or other company presentations. An optional labelling license could be obtained by the approved organisation