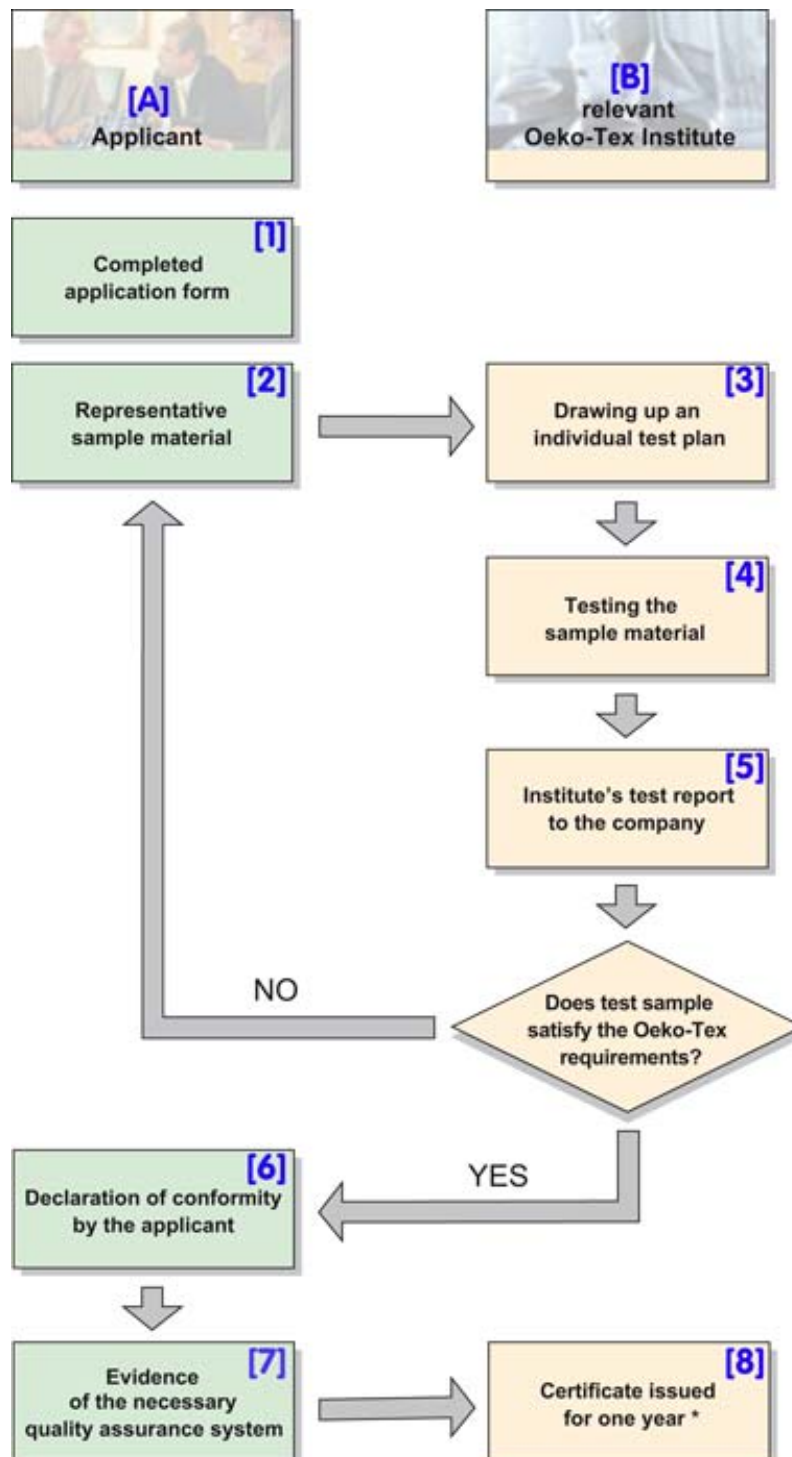


## Initial certification

The certification of textile products (including accessories) according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 follows a set procedure to which all authorised Oeko-Tex test institutes are bound.



\* In Germany and France, certificates are awarded by the Oeko-Tex Association's authorised certification centres.

**[A]**

Manufacturers who are interested in having their products certified, must first submit a written application to one of the authorised Oeko-Tex test institutes.

**[B]**

The tests for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100 are carried out by one of the 14 authorised test institutes in Europe and Japan.

**[1]**

A completed application includes the following information:

- Description of the products to be tested
- Details of the stages of processing carried out to manufacture the textile
- List of all dyestuffs and auxiliaries used
- Safety data sheets for finishing agents
- Copies of certificates for already certified source materials
- Inclusion in the international Oeko-Tex reference list or the shopping guide on the Internet (yes/no)
- Renewal contract includes a declaration of commitment, in which the company confirms the accuracy of the data provided and agrees to inform the relevant test institute immediately of any changes to the product

The application is submitted to the test institute together with representative test samples of the textile product (or accessory).

**[2]**

Notes on selection

The test samples must be representative of the entire article group, as the wording of the article grouping to be certified is based on this.

An incomplete selection of samples may result in restrictions to the certified article group.

Packing instructions

The packing of test samples must satisfy specific quality requirements in order to protect the samples and to guarantee accurate, reproducible and meaningful test results:

- Test samples should be packed individually in tear-resistant polyethylene film or polyethylene bags to avoid contamination during transport.
- The samples should be wrapped twice and sealed with adhesive tape.

Packing decoration materials

- Test samples should be airtight and individually packed in clear plastic bags (essential for emission testing).
- The description of the test samples must be enclosed as per the appendix to the application for certification.

Packing test samples solely in cardboard boxes and/or paper is strictly to be avoided!

**[3]**

Following the systematic recording of the product and production data, the relevant test institute then draws up an individual test plan for the article (groups) to be tested.

**[4]**

The textile is then tested according to the parameters of the Oeko-Tex criteria catalogue following a specific worst-case methodology. Articles with the most coating add-on, the darkest colouring or the highest quantity of finishing agents are therefore tested.

**[5]**

The applicant is informed of the test results in the form of a test report which initially relates exclusively to the sample tested. It does not yet grant authorisation to mark the product with the Oeko-Tex label, however.

**[6]**

In order to be allowed to mark his products with the Oeko-Tex label, the applicant must guarantee in a declaration of conformity that the products manufactured and/or sold shall correspond to the tested samples with respect to their human ecological quality throughout the entire period of validity of the certificate.

**[7]**

Accordingly, the relevant test institute must also be provided with credible evidence of all quality assurance measures taken within the company.

**[8]**

Following submission of the declaration of conformity, the applicant receives a valid Oeko-Tex certificate from the authorised test institute for the successfully tested products. This authorises him to mark his products in the shops with the label "Confidence in textiles – tested for harmful substances according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100" for the period of one year.

In Germany and France, certificates are awarded by the Oeko-Tex Association's authorised certification centres.