Sustainability at E. Schellenberg Textildruck AG

Sustainability by conviction

Producing sustainably and working with carefully selected, like-minded partners and suppliers is a central part of our philosophy. For us, operating sustainably is crucial on the path towards a future that is fair to all generations. We take responsibility for our actions today. In this way, we ensure that future generations can also share in economic growth and prosperity.

ESG – Environmental, Social & Governance

That is why we view sustainability as a holistic concept. For us, sustainability is a combination of social responsibility, environmentally conscious behaviour and corporate responsibility. To this end, we set ourselves targets, develop measures and work consistently and continuously to optimise our sustainability performance.

Social responsibility refers to how a company treats its employees and acts responsibly towards business partners in the supply chain. This involves, for example, respecting human rights, ensuring fair working conditions and wages, complying with the ILO's core labour standards [https://www.ilo.org/de/normenkontrolle], and fostering a respectful working environment free from discrimination and bullying.

Measures and achievements

- Level 3 in the 'Social Responsibility' module of OEKO-TEX STeP
- Level 3 in the 'Health and Safety' module of OEKO-TEX STeP
- Successful integration of people covered by the Swiss Disability Insurance (IV) into our workforce.

The Swiss Disability Insurance (IV) is a compulsory social insurance scheme which provides financial security in the event of health-related incapacity to work, through integration measures or pension payments. The aim is to facilitate professional and social integration, enabling insured persons to lead an independent life...

Environmentally responsible behaviour means reducing the environmental impact of business activities within one's own organisation and across supply chains as part of a continuous improvement process. Environmental issues include, for example, chemicals management, greenhouse gas emissions and climate, soil and water protection, resource management (water, electricity, energy, means of production), biodiversity and waste management.

Measures and achievements

- Level 3 in all environmentally relevant OEKO-TEX STeP modules: 'Chemicals Management', 'Environmental Performance' and 'Environmental Management'
- ISO 14001-certified environmental management system
- Local district heating network and waste heat recovery for heating the premises and around 100 households in the immediate vicinity.

- Wastewater treatment at the company's own treatment plant. Collection and use of rainwater for rinsing screen printing stencils. Tank capacity: 70,000 litres

Governance describes the way the company is managed. The term encompasses, amongst other things, the company's strategic direction, internal and external communication, and the corporate and leadership culture. As a family-run business, we place great emphasis on long-term thinking and forward-looking planning. This approach is also reflected in our relationships with customers and suppliers, our workforce structure, and the durability and quality of our products. Transparency is essential to us in this regard, as it is the only way we can maintain a long-term partnership with our customers on an equal footing and strengthen trust in our products and supply chains.

Measures and achievements

- Full transparency regarding production conditions and supply chains
- The continuous improvement process enables us to systematically expand our sustainability activities.
- Participation in (pilot) projects, industry initiatives, associations and organisations in order to exchange experiences, benefit from knowledge transfer and keep up with the latest developments.

Our certificates – rigorous, credible and comparable

Given the high priority we place on sustainability within our company, it is very important to us that our commitment is credible, recognised and comparable. We therefore undergo audits and certification by leading standards-setting bodies.

As part of the process, we collect various data, complete extensive questionnaires and submit numerous supporting documents, so that an on-site inspection can ultimately be carried out at our premises and a certificate issued.

Our certificates for sustainable operations

OEKO-TEX STeP

OEKO-TEX STeP (STeP – Sustainable Textile and Leather Production) is an international certification scheme for sustainable textile and leather processing businesses. STeP assesses the sustainability of production across six rigorous modules. The assessment of the company's sustainability performance is carried out using a comprehensive questionnaire and is verified through external audits. The modules cover requirements in the following areas: chemicals management, environmental performance, environmental management, social responsibility, quality management, and health and safety.

Focus: Sustainable textile production

Objectives: Optimising sustainability performance; continuous improvement process

Inspection: Audit for recertification after 3 years, compliance audit after 1.5 years

Assessment E. Schellenberg Textildruck AG: Level 3 / 91.5%

https://www.oeko-tex.com/de/unsere-standards/oeko-tex-step/

Schellenberg Textiles

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

GOTS stands for sustainable textile production using organic fibres (at least 95% certified organic). Under GOTS, the use of synthetic fibres is permitted only to a limited extent. A company's sustainability is assessed in terms of both social and environmental criteria. The issuance of transaction certificates also enhances the transparency and traceability of products throughout their specific supply chains.

Focus: Use of organically produced fibres

Objectives: Sustainable production and products, transparency and traceability in supply chains

Inspection: annual audit

https://naturtextil.de/gots/

Naturtextil – IVN Zertifiziert Best

To be eligible to apply for BEST certification, GOTS certification is a prerequisite. The GOTS requirements exceed those of European Union legislation. GOTS is a standard designed to work at an industrial level and makes a few compromises on sustainability in the interests of feasibility. BEST is more stringent, particularly with regard to the proportion of natural fibres. It is currently the standard with the most stringent requirements in terms of textile sustainability and represents the highest level that can be achieved at present.

Focus: Use of 100% natural fibres

Objectives: Maximum sustainability in textiles

Inspection: annual audit

https://naturtextil.de/ivn-best/

ISO 9001

ISO 9001 is the world's leading standard for quality management systems (QMS). A QMS compliant with ISO 9001 helps an organisation to define and optimise its processes, establish a continuous improvement process and, as a result, maintain a consistently high level of product quality, thereby enabling a lasting increase in customer satisfaction.

Focus: Quality Management System

Objectives: Process reliability, continuous improvement, efficiency, customer satisfaction

Inspection: annual audit

https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:9001:ed-5:v1:en

ISO 14001

ISO 14001 is an internationally recognised standard for environmental management systems (EMS). The standard helps organisations to establish, implement and continuously improve an EMS. An environmental management system involves, amongst other things, analysing the environmental impacts of operational activities and carrying out a risk assessment. Its objectives include minimising negative environmental impacts, using resources efficiently and improving environmental performance.

Focus: Environmental Management System

Objectives: Risk assessment, organisational development, improvement of environmental performance

Inspection: annual audit

https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/en/#iso:std:iso:14001:ed-4:v1:en

Our certificates for sustainable products

Cradle to Cradle

Circularity is achieved by designing products in such a way that their materials can circulate within the biosphere or the technosphere and repeatedly be reused as nutrients for something new. When selecting materials, material safety is crucial: products should consist solely of suitable components that have no harmful effects whatsoever on people or the environment in the product's specific usage scenario. Fair working conditions must be the norm in production. Furthermore, all products should be manufactured exclusively using renewable energy from facilities that can be recycled.

Focus: Material safety; no harmful effects on people or the environment

Objective: To use materials that help close biological or technological cycles

Inspection: Audit for recertification after 3 years

Assessment: Cradle to Cradle Gold

https://c2ccertified.org/the-standard

OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100

The OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 is a globally standardised, independent testing and certification system for raw, intermediate and finished textile products. It guarantees that certified textiles (including buttons and zips) are safe for human health, as they have been tested for harmful substances such as pesticides, heavy metals and formaldehyde.

Focus: Testing for residues of harmful substances in textile products

Objective: safety for human health

Inspection: annual laboratory testing of products for recertification; on-site audit every 3 years

https://www.oeko-tex.com/de/unsere-standards/oeko-tex-standard-100/

Global Recycled Standard (GRS)

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) is a comprehensive product standard for verifying and tracing recycled raw materials throughout the supply chain. It also includes processing criteria designed to prevent the use of potentially hazardous chemicals, and verifies compliance with social and environmental production standards at manufacturing sites.

Focus: Use of recycled raw materials

Objectives: Verification of recycled raw materials, consumer protection, reduction of harmful effects on people and the environment

Inspection: annual audit

https://textileexchange.org/recycled-claim-global-recycled-standard/

Further information on the individual certifications, as well as assessments and comparisons of the requirements, can be found on the Siegelklarheit website.

Our memberships for a commitment to sustainability

Sustainable Textiles Switzerland (STS)

STS: a multi-stakeholder initiative to promote sustainability in the Swiss textile and clothing sector. It advocates for environmental and social standards throughout the entire value chain, with a focus on climate protection, fair working conditions, the circular economy and transparency.

An annual assessment of progress and review of the achievement of (interim) targets takes place.

Objective 1: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
By 2030, greenhouse gas emissions from the Swiss textile and clothing sector will be reduced by 50 per cent, with a view to achieving a net-zero target by 2050.

Objective 2: Promoting fair wages and decent work for all
By 2030, 100 per cent of the Swiss textile and clothing sector will have implemented their due diligence obligations across the entire supply chain, with a focus on working hours, forced labour, child labour, sexual harassment and wages.

Objective 3: Promoting innovative business models to move towards a circular economy
By 2030, at least 30 per cent of the Swiss textile and clothing sector's turnover will be generated by products designed in accordance with the principles of the circular economy.

Objective 4: Transparency to ensure that sustainable purchasing decisions can be made
By 2030, 80 per cent of the Swiss textile and clothing sector will disclose information on social and environmental sustainability.

https://www.sts2030.ch

Schellenberg Textiles

Vereinigung MaxTex

In 2014, the global network MaxTex was founded as an association of textile manufacturers, garment makers, raw material producers, service providers, scientific institutions and young entrepreneurs. Since then, its shared aim has been to promote and ensure sustainable practices throughout the entire textile value chain.

Focus: Corporate responsibility in social, environmental and economic terms

Objective: 100 per cent circular economy in the long term

https://maxtex.eu

Swiss Textiles - Textilverband Schweiz

Swiss Textiles comprises around 260 internationally oriented SMEs. The association is committed to ensuring that the Swiss textile industry remains competitive on the international stage. In addition to representing its members' interests in the political arena, Swiss Textiles provides its members with a comprehensive range of services, including information, advice, networking, and training and further education.

Focus: sustainability, economic policy, compliance and innovation

Objective: To strengthen the competitiveness of the textile cluster in Switzerland

Involvement: Our CEO, Urs Schellenberg, is an active member of the Swiss Textiles Board.

https://swisstextiles.ch

Fabric Loop

Switzerland needs a functioning circular system for textiles. At present, too few used textiles are being channelled into reuse and high-quality recycling (e.g. fibre-to-fibre). Fabric Loop – a private-sector, non-profit industry organisation – is working in coordination with European initiatives to develop a Swiss solution for the nationwide organisation and financing of reuse, repair and recycling.

Focus: Establishing a functioning circular system for textiles

Objective 1: Sorting
By 2035, 100 per cent of used textiles in Switzerland are to be sorted.

Objective 2: Recycling
By 2023, transparent evidence of reuse and recycling is to be provided for 60 per cent of used textiles, of which 30 per cent are to fall into the reuse category, 20 per cent into fibre-to-fibre recycling and 10 per cent into open-loop recycling.

Objective 3: No landfills
By 2035, 0% of used textiles will end up in landfill.

Ziel 4: Reporting
Annual report on financial and material flows in Switzerland until 2035.

https://www.fabric-loop.ch