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STANDARDS & GUIDANCE BRIEF · INTERNATIONAL · VOLUNTARY INDUSTRY STANDARDS

OEKO-TEX · ZDHC

OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100 and the ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List

DOCUMENT	QES-WP-155, Rev B	DATE	November 7, 2026
ISSUED BY	OEKO-TEX Association; ZDHC Foundation	PREPARED BY	Conner Davidson
EDITION	Updated regularly; cite the version in force when the product was tested	STATUS CHECKED	October 24, 2026
INDUSTRIES	Textiles & Materials	ONLINE	qesisbest.com/standard-oeko-tex-zdhc.html

CURRENT EDITION Contractual rather than statutory, and in practice often audited harder than either.

What It Covers

Limits on harmful substances in finished textile products (STANDARD 100), and on chemicals used in manufacturing, with wastewater requirements (ZDHC).

Who It Applies To

Brands and suppliers whose buyers require certification or ZDHC conformance in their restricted substances list.

Key Requirements

- Product testing against limit values set by product class (STANDARD 100).
- Chemical inventories screened against the MRSL, with conformance levels for each chemical (ZDHC).
- Wastewater testing to the ZDHC guidelines.
- Supplier declarations and certificates kept current with each annual update.

What an Auditor Asks to See

- Certificates matched to the products and components actually shipped.
- The chemical inventory and its MRSL screening.

Where Systems Fall Short

- A certificate for the fabric, but not for the trims and threads.

How QES helps. Restricted substance programs that tie each certificate to the material on the bill of materials. See the gap assessment: qesisbest.com/services.html#gap-assessment · +1 (401) 246-3204 · mweeden@qesisbest.com

Sources, checked October 24, 2026. OEKO-TEX — STANDARD 100 — www.oeko-tex.com; ZDHC — Manufacturing Restricted Substances List — www.roadmaptozero.com.

A summary for orientation, prepared by Quality Excellence Services. It does not reproduce or replace the standard or regulation: read the official text, which governs. Not legal advice.