

Press information

Hohenstein Institute

Competence in textiles - worldwide

05-Feb-2015 | 422-EN

BÖNNIGHEIM (ri) The Hohenstein Institute offers testing, certification and research on all aspects of textiles – from a single competent source. More than 4,500 customers worldwide benefit from the textile know-how of around 500 employees at the headquarters in Bönnigheim/Swabia and a worldwide network of over 40 contact offices. These provide the broad range of services of the research and service centre locally in all important textile production and purchasing regions. The Hohenstein Institute was founded in 1946 and is now under third-generation management of Prof. Dr Stefan Mecheels.

Competence in textile testing from a single source

In over 60 years the employees of the Hohenstein Institute have acquired a globally unmatched store of knowledge of all types and applications of textiles. In recent years the Hohenstein Institute has further expanded the already broad range of tests and certifications. The basis for this is wide-ranging expert knowledge concerning all processing stages along the textile added value chain. The tests and services offered by the Hohenstein Institute are therefore not only comprehensive but more importantly tailored fully to the customers' individual requirements. Among other things, the services offered by the accredited test laboratories help to

- ensure marketability of textiles in the EU and internationally
- identify errors in the production process early on and avoid complaints
- define customer-specific minimum quality requirements
- develop, evaluate and certify innovative and functional textiles
- provide marketing tools which offer customers neutral proof for advertising certain product characteristics

Across specialist boundaries

The interdisciplinary cooperation between textile engineers, chemists, medical scientists, biologists and physicists at the Hohenstein Institute is truly unique. It allows the Hohenstein experts to offer comprehensive and customised full service from a single source to customers from the entire textile chain and the connected

Editor:

Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG

Hohenstein Textile Testing Institute GmbH & Co. KG

Hohenstein Institut für Textilinnovation gGmbH

Hohenstein Academy e.V.

Marketing & Business Development
Schloss Hohenstein
74357 Bönnigheim
GERMANY
Phone: +49 7143 271-720
E-Mail: press@hohenstein.com
Internet: www.hohenstein.com

Your contact for this text:

Britta Gortan
Phone: +49 7143 271-720
E-Mail: b.gortan@hohenstein.de

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industries. This extends from advice on research and test projects to training and further education activities.

The most important areas of work include:

- fit and processing tests
- comparative product tests
- chemical and textile technology tests
- physiological evaluation and optimisation of wearing comfort
- development and checking of functionalised textiles
- efficiency certificates and safety testing
- testing and certification of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- inspection service

Independence is the key

Uncompromising independence and neutrality form the basis for the globally recognised testing at the Hohenstein Institute. The far-reaching and complex fields of work and activities rule out the possibility of any commercial influence.

A successfully implemented quality management system is further guarantee for highest quality of testing on which customers can rely.

Accreditations / approvals

(excerpt – full overview at www.hohenstein.de/accreditation)

- Recognised test centre in line with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2000
- Recognised certification centre in line with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065
- European notified test and certification centre no. 0555 for personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Member of the International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile Ecology (OEKO-TEX®)
- Member of OEKO-TEX® International (OEKO-TEX® STEP)
- Member institute of the International Testing Association for Applied UV Protection (UV Standard 801)
- Internationally recognised test centre for down and feathers, recognised by EDFA (Association of the European Down and Feather Association) and the International Down and Feather Bureau (IDFB)

- Accreditation as experts for examination of official reference samples according to par. 240 LMB
- Accredited by the American Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) as an independent test laboratory with CPSC ID no. 1058

Innovative ideas for successful products

The company philosophy of the Hohenstein Institute since its foundation in 1946 is the unity of research, teaching and application. The practically oriented research and development of innovative products and processes accordingly represents one of the core tasks of the independent institutes. Small and medium-sized companies particularly benefit from practical solutions developed by specialist teams from different scientific disciplines. Publically funded research projects or research projects commissioned by customers provide new scientific findings which are then combined with possibilities from the industry to achieve successful products or applications. Current research highlights 'Made by Hohenstein' are presented at www.hohenstein.de/de/research/research.html.

Knowledge transfer beyond the ivory tower

Hohenstein experts regularly pass on the knowledge they have acquired in lectures, conferences, workshops, publications and numerous training and further education events. Because for Hohenstein research is not an end in itself but serves primarily to expand the store of knowledge which in turn serves as a basis for our customers' own economic prosperity.

Competence in textiles – worldwide

The Hohenstein Institute runs foreign offices in all global regions relevant to textile production. Internationally operating customers can use these to access in particular the varied testing and certification services offered. The laboratory tests are carried out exclusively at accredited test laboratories with modern equipment at the headquarters in Germany (Bönnigheim), Hungary and Hong Kong.

The seal of quality

Test reports and certificates from the Hohenstein Institute are internationally recognised and therefore a popular and proven basis for decisions for product development, purchasing and marketing in the B2B sector. Millions of products worldwide bear a label to indicate that they meet the high quality requirements of the Hohenstein Institute.

factor of textiles which can be shown directly on the product.



Among other functions, the Hohenstein Institute is a founding member of the International Association for Research and Testing in the Field of Textile Ecology (OEKO-TEX®). The OEKO-TEX® Standard 100 was introduced in 1992 and today it is the most successful label for textiles tested for harmful substances worldwide. © OEKO-TEX®

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The Hohenstein Institute in Bönningheim (Germany) is an internationally active research and service centre for the entire textile chain and related industries.

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More than 4,500 customers worldwide benefit from the textile know-how of around 500 employees at the headquarters in Bönningheim/Swabia and further 300 employees in our worldwide network of over 40 contact offices.

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The Hohenstein Institute employs textile engineers, physicists, chemists, biologist and medical scientists in an interdisciplinary cooperation to provide customers with comprehensive services from a single source.

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Numerous test methods developed by the Hohenstein Institute such as the Hohenstein skin model and the thermal articulated mannequin 'Charlie', which help to objectively determine the physiological wearing comfort of clothing, are now internationally established.

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All types of products are tested and certified in the laboratories of the Hohenstein Institute according to customer requirements on the basis of national and

international standards as well as in-house test procedures.

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The Hohenstein experts support retailers, manufacturers and intermediaries with their specialist know-how wherever fibre-based materials are used, e.g. in the automotive sector.

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Particularly with regard to the so-called life sciences the interdisciplinary competence of the Hohenstein Institute represents a great advantage for customers and research partners.

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Product performance is examined and evaluated with regard to a variety of quality criteria in the fully equipped modern laboratories.

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Comparative product testing examines e.g. the performance of washing powders and washing machines.

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In addition to textile technology and chemical testing the Hohenstein Institute also offers microbiological tests as well as efficiency and safety certificates.

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The Hohenstein Institute has regularly been carrying out serial measurements on the German population since the 1950s. Checking fit and workmanship complements the service portfolio.

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Around 4,500 customers worldwide trust in the judgement of the Hohenstein Institute e.g. for chemical and textile technology testing.

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Work at the three laboratory sites of the Hohenstein Institute at the headquarters in Germany (Bönnigheim), Hungary and Hong Kong is carried out according to the same

strict guidelines and using the same type of equipment.

On countless products the Hohenstein quality label represents quality with regard to wearing comfort, fit, workmanship and numerous other product characteristics.©

