

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

RAW MATERIALS

- **Rapidly renewable content** - rapidly renewable materials differ from renewable materials such as timber because the resource is renewed within a shorter period of time. They are biodegradable, often low in volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions, and generally produced from agricultural crops. Sunlight is generally the primary energy input (via photosynthesis); therefore these products are less energy-intensive to produce.
- **Sustainable rapidly renewable content** - sustainable fibres are grown, within a short period of time, without or with minimal use of pesticides. Fibres such as LIFE Textiles eco wool™ must exhibit nil or negligible pesticide residue levels when tested prior to cleaning.
- **Certified organic content** - certified organic farming uses methods that are chosen to ensure minimal damage to humans and the environment that have been independently verified. No artificial fertilisers, pesticides, hormones, growth stimulants, antibiotics, genetic modification, added waxes or finishes or other chemicals are used.
- **Recycled content** - can include post consumer or post industrial. *Post-consumer* is preferable to *post-industrial* recycled content, because post-consumer recycled materials are more likely to be diverted from landfill. *Post-industrial* recycling refers to the use of industrial by-products, as distinguished from material that has been in consumer use.
- **Oeko-Tex certified** – a third party certification that the fibre or yarn has been tested for harmful substances according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100. There are four different product classes I. Babies, II. In direct contact with skin, III. With no direct contact with skin and IV. Decoration material. For further information refer to www.oeko-tex.com.

PRODUCTION

- **Manufactured to LIFE (Low Impact For the Environment) Textiles specification** : designed to minimise environmental impact throughout the entire product life cycle including raw material selection, manufacturing, product use and disposal.
- **Solution dyed process** - Term used when colour is added to the fibre while it is in molten form, before extrusion through the spinneret to form a synthetic fibre. Solution dyeing is considered to be environmentally beneficial compared to other dyeing methods as the process does not consume or generate as much water or wastewater.
- **Energy : implementation of energy conservation measures** - Manufacturers can reduce their impact on the environment through conservation measures and the efficiency of equipment. Conservation measures include energy awareness and management programs, recovery and reuse of heat energy, maintenance of equipment and use of skylights.
- **Energy : renewable energy supply** - renewable energy is a cleaner energy source than coal and gas. Renewable energy sources include solar, wind and hydropower.
- **Water : implementation of water conservation measures** - Manufacturers can reduce the impact on the environment through conservation measures and the efficiency of equipment. Conservation measures include water awareness and management programs, recovery and reuse of water and maintenance of equipment.
- **Water : non potable water supply** - Non-potable water is water that is not treated to drinking water standards and is not meant for human consumption. Non potable water includes bore and rain water.
- **Metal free dyes** - Heavy metals are to be avoided as they are toxic to humans and the environment.

HUMAN HEALTH

- **Tested for low emission levels** - Low emitters of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can be identified if the product has been tested in a dynamic environmental chamber to meet scientifically established standards.
- **Wool and cotton absorb prevalent indoor air contaminants therefore benefiting indoor air quality** – Various studies have shown that wool and cotton absorb indoor air impurities such as formaldehyde, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide without re-emitting.

DISPOSAL

- **Reusable** – Uncontaminated textiles are reusable.
- **Recyclable** – Uncontaminated textile are recyclable. NB. Only wool rich commercial textiles are accepted for recycling in Australia
- **Biodegradable** – The ability of a substance to decompose or breakdown through the action of microorganisms (eg. bacteria) or physical processes (eg. sunlight). Natural textiles including wool, cotton, flax, linen and silk are inherently biodegradable.

OTHER

- **Manufacturer has certified Environmental Management System ISO 14001** – An environmental management system provides a systematic and structured approach to managing environmental policy. The implementation of an environmental management system provides the framework to achieve the environmental policy.
- **Manufacturer operates an Environmental Management System** – This indicates that the manufacturer has implemented environmental management programs but is not certified by a third party
- **Manufacturer is implementing an Environmental Management System ISO 14001** – The manufacturer is in the process of implementing an Environmental Management System ISO 14001
- **Manufacturer has certified Quality Management System ISO 9001** – The manufacturer operates a quality management system ISO 9001. The focus on quality should mean less waste. Waste can be in the form of processes, what is not done right the first time, an incorrect invoice, a defective product, a misdirected shipment etc. This is where a commitment to quality can positively impact the environment.
- **Manufacturer has Environmental Policy** – An environmental policy is a statement of a manufacturer's intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance.
- **Eco Label** - A third party seal or logo indicating that a textile has met a set of environmental or social standards.
- **Manufacturer is member of Australian Greenhouse Challenge** - The Greenhouse Challenge is a joint voluntary initiative between the national Government and industry to abate greenhouse gas emissions.