

# FAQ: Application



**LEATHER  
STANDARD**

## Certificate Cost

The average cost of a certificate in the U.S. is \$6,500.

### Fixed costs:

- \$1,150/year: OEKO-TEX® licensing fee
- \$1,500 in first year then every third year: quality assurance meeting

### Variable costs:

Testing and administrative costs depend on which tests are required. Quote is issued after all samples and paperwork have been received.

## Confidentiality

Testing and certification data is always confidential. The applicant has control over the amount of information that is publicly shared through the [Buying Guide on the OEKO-TEX® website](#).

## Laboratory Location

OEKO-TEX® testing is performed at the Hohenstein headquarters lab in Germany. The U.S. office facilitates the [application process](#) and billing. Our U.S. team receives and prepares the [testing samples](#) then ships them to the lab in Germany.

## Annual Updates

OEKO-TEX® [updates](#) the [STANDARD](#) annually based on current scientific research and global regulations. Updated standards are published in early January and are used for testing and certification effective April 1.

## Annual Renewal

Annual renewal is required. The expiration date is printed in every certificate. Renewal application should be submitted **up to 90 days before** the expiration date.

## Multiple Production Sites

Each factory location needs its own certification.  
Deviations can be discussed with the institute.

## Brands & Retailers with Third-party Manufacturers

### 3 options for products manufactured by third parties:

- Supplier Certification - Brand/retailer asks suppliers to become certified and labels the product(s) with the manufacturer's certificate number.
- Marketing Certificate - Brand/retailer owns a certificate in their own name that covers the certificates from suppliers, used for marketing and to control disclosure of supply chains. Any products that are pre-certified by OEKO-TEX® do not incur additional testing fees - only audits, license and admin fees.
- Certification - Brand/retailer initiates, manages and pays for its own certification process. Certificate owner maintains upstream quality control and mitigates costs by using pre-certified components.

## Certification Timeline

Normally 4 to 6 weeks from receipt of samples and completed paperwork.  
Variations may occur depending on workload of the lab and any pending answers to lab questions.  
The on-site quality assurance meeting, which is required every 3rd year, typically occurs within 6 months of certification, but is not required prior to issuing the certificate.

## Application & Supporting Documents

- Complete, original, signed Application
- Declaration of Conformity (Note: Please include company name with address on p. 5)
- \* These documents are updated annually, so please always use the current documents

Supporting documents: (download this spreadsheet to track information)

- Description of the product(s)
- Description of company's operational quality assurance/management program, (e.g., ISO, internal protocols)
- Details of the processing steps for producing the product(s)
- List of all colorants & auxiliary agents used, including dyeing/printing/washing recipes
- Safety data sheets for all chemicals used (colorants, auxiliary agents, etc.)
- Names of the suppliers of every component of the product (material, inserts, accessories, etc.)
- OEKO-TEX® certificates for all pre-certified input materials (to mitigate testing costs)

## Component & Product Samples

Testing sample requirements depend on how many of the product's components have been pre-certified with valid OEKO-TEX® certificates. Please follow our [sample guidelines](#) carefully.

Completed applications, supporting documents and samples should be shipped to the attention of Abby Mead in our U.S. office.

## Color Variations & Seasonal Updates

All dyestuffs included in the color palette must be covered in our testing protocol and listed in the application. Use [these instructions to prepare samples](#) for testing and ensure that each dyestuff or ink is covered.

To reduce lab costs:

- Include a spreadsheet summary of all colors & the generic dyestuff recipes
- Use chemicals that are [OEKO-TEX® ECO PASSPORT](#) certified

If there is a change in supplier(s) during the year, please inform us immediately. The certificate can be extended by submitting new samples.

## Marketing & Labeling

Please see our [Labeling Guide](#) and contact [USA@hohenstein.com](mailto:USA@hohenstein.com) for approvals or idea collaboration.

## Billing

- Costing is defined after review of the documents and samples and definition of testing plan
- The invoice is sent to the applicant's accounting contact
- Testing can start once funds are received

## Contact

### **Hohenstein Institute America, Inc.**

304 Sroufe Street  
Ligonier, IN 46767

800.731.9468  
[USA@Hohenstein.com](mailto:USA@Hohenstein.com)

[Hohenstein.US](http://Hohenstein.US)