



# International Advisory Board

## OEKO-TEX®

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**OEKO-TEX®**  
**International Association for Research and Testing in**  
**the Field of Textile and Leather Ecology**  
Internationale Gemeinschaft für Forschung und Prüfung  
auf dem Gebiet der Textil- und Lederökologie

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provides the OEKO-TEX® International Advisory Board (IAB) with the following Organizational Regulations:

# I. Scope, Definitions and Purpose

## Article 1: Scope

These Organizational Regulations establish the OEKO-TEX® International Advisory Board. The IAB is not an independent organization but integrated into the OEKO-TEX® organizational structure (see Annex I). The Steering Committee creates the link between OEKO-TEX® and the IAB. To guarantee the IABs independence, the IAB decides autonomously.

## Article 2: Definitions:

OEKO-TEX® IAB	Body of representatives of stakeholders for the professional monitoring of the further development of Common Standards.
OEKO-TEX® WORKING GROUP	Bodies composed of experts from the OEKO-TEX® Institutes, with the task of scientifically preparing and supporting analyses, studies and trials.
OEKO-TEX® STEERING COMMITTEE	Body for the technical examination and evaluation of proposals made by the Technical Meetings, consisting of representatives of the Institute, of the other OEKO-TEX® Institutes and of the OEKO-TEX® Association.
OEKO-TEX® GENERAL MANAGEMENT	The body consists of a representative of each of the OEKO-TEX® Institutes, with the task of defining and expressing final positions and recommendations and to decide on the further development of the Common Standards as well as to define and decide the strategic orientation with regard to marketing and the development of the product portfolio.
OEKO-TEX® COMMON STANDARDS	The results of the joint research and development of the OEKO-TEX® Institutes. The Common Standards are publicly available on the Internet at <a href="http://www.oeko-tex.com">www.oeko-tex.com</a> .

## Article 3: Purpose

The IAB is established to bring a diversified stakeholder expertise and perspective to the OEKO-TEX® Association. It informs the Steering Committee about priorities and strategies that are relevant to the goals of OEKO-TEX® and help to produce safer products and more sustainable and socially responsible companies. It advises and decides on proposals that have been developed by the OEKO-TEX® Working Groups and submitted by the Steering Committee. In this sense, it plays an important role in the further development of the OEKO-TEX® Standards and has an impact on OEKO-TEX®'s strategy and operational business.

## II. Composition

### Article 4: Representatives

The IAB is made up of 6 representatives of OEKO-TEX® stakeholders and 3 representatives of the OEKO-TEX® Association. Each stakeholder has one natural person as a representative.

### Article 5: Invitation

The OEKO-TEX® Secretariat invites potential members for the new 2-year composition of the IAB in September of each 2-year cycle.

### Article 6: Appointment

Representatives of the OEKO-TEX® Stakeholders are appointed by the OEKO-TEX® Secretariat for a term of office of two years. Reappointment is possible.

### Article 7: Balance

In terms of composition, a reasonable balance is sought, taking into account the most important stakeholder groups, especially those directly affected by the standards.

Stakeholders of the OEKO-TEX® Association include companies, associations, civil society and politics. A focus is also to be placed on disadvantaged stakeholders. Since the OEKO-TEX® Standards deal primarily with chemicals, this should also be reflected in the percentage composition of the IAB.

## III. Rights and Duties

### Article 8: Acceptance of Code of Conducts

Members of the IAB undertake to comply with the OEKO-TEX® Code of Conduct and the IAB Code of Conduct (see Annex II). New IAB Members are provided with all relevant documents.

### Article 9: Rights

The rights of IAB members entail the right to attend the annual meeting, the right to be heard and the right to vote on points of discussion.

### Article 10: Duties

The members of the IAB must perform their duties with all due care and in good faith.

## IV. Meeting

### Article 11: Invitation

The OEKO-TEX® Secretariat is responsible for the written or electronic invitation and the organisation of the meetings.

### Article 12: Chair

The IAB elects a chairman for its 2-year composition. The chairman presides the meetings. Before each meeting a minute-taker is elected who is proposed by the meeting chairman.

### Article 13: Video Conference

If a member is unable to attend the meeting, participation by video conference is also permitted.

### Article 14: Frequency

The IAB meets once a year.

### Article 15: Chatham House Rule

The Chatham House Rule applies in all respects. This is intended to ensure that an open and free dialogue can take place.

## V. Decision Making

### Article 16: Decisions

Decisions are made by a relative majority of the members present. Abstentions are not counted as no votes.

### Article 17: Quorum

The IAB is not quorate if less than three-quarters of the members are present either in person or by video conference.

## VI. Function and Tasks

### Article 18: Function

The core function of the IAB is to provide advice on the further development of standards. It issues general and abstract inputs and recommendations concerning concrete strategic decisions based on the Working Group Proposal. The Steering Committee ensures that these recommendations are considered in the internal processes of the OEKO-TEX® Association. It is recommended, that the resolutions of the IAB are implemented.

### Article 19: Tasks

There are two main tasks of the IAB:

- a) The IAB shall evaluate the Working Group Proposal submitted by the Steering Committee. A decision is made as to whether these should be recommended or rejected from a stakeholder perspective.
- b) The IAB is encouraged to provide the OEKO-TEX® Association with a fresh perspective of its respective stakeholder spheres.

### Article 20: Thematic Areas

Topics vary depending on the standard. The general focus will be on sustainability, social responsibility and, notably, chemicals. Interdisciplinary and divergent thinking is encouraged with the goal to open up all relevant stakeholder spheres to the OEKO-TEX® Association. Thematic areas, therefore, go beyond the general focus and should provide the OEKO-TEX® Association with an outside-perspective.

### Article 21: Process

The IAB hands over its recommendations to the Steering Committee who in turn forwards them to the General Management and the Working Groups. On this basis, the Working Groups Proposal is to be prepared again in the next annual cycle.

## VII: Compensation

### Article 22: Board and Lodging

The engagement in the IAB is considered an honorary position and it is not remunerated. Board and lodging are provided by the OEKO-TEX® Secretariat.

## VIII: Dismissal

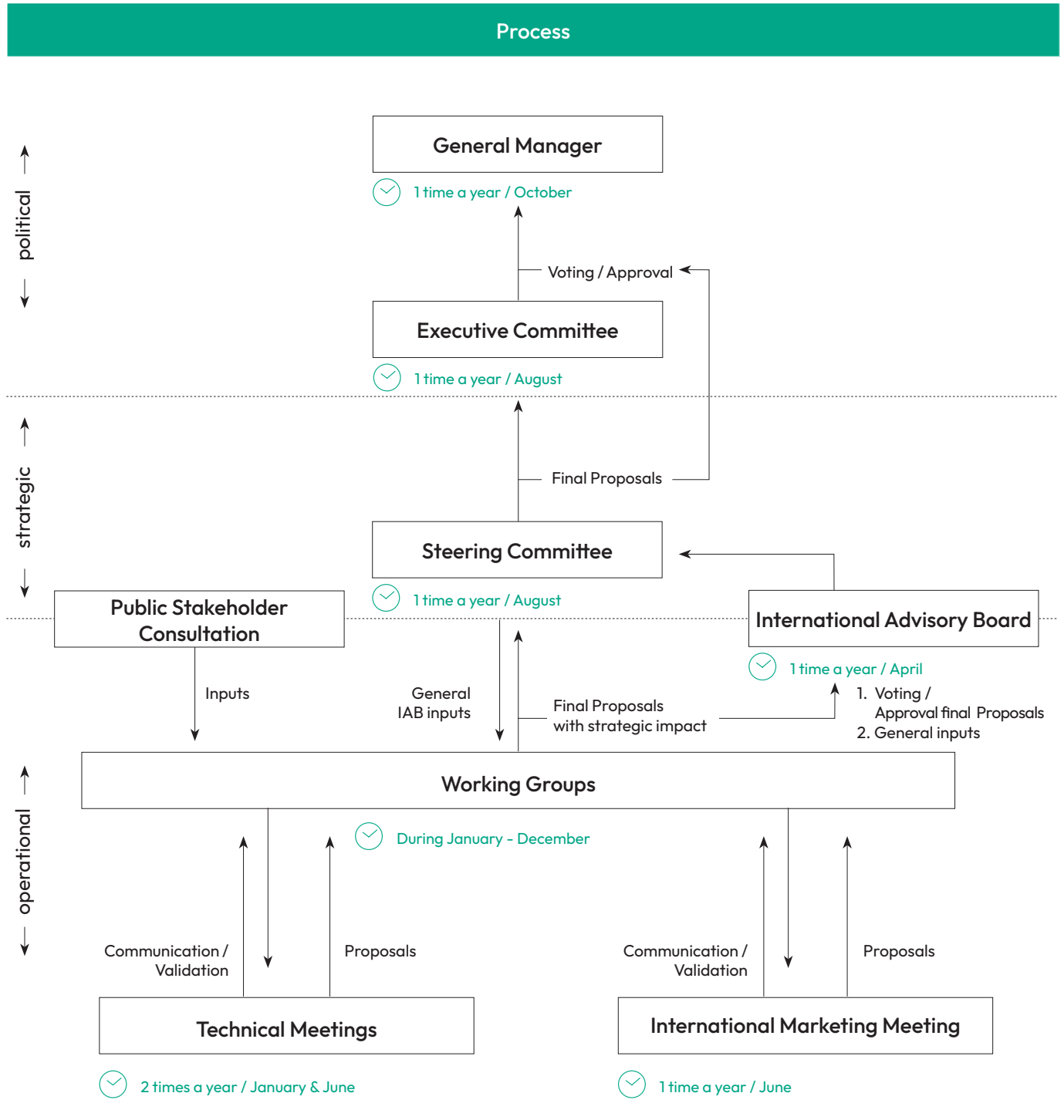
### Article 23: Regular

The mandate ends regularly after the 2-year period for which the member of the IAB has been appointed.

### Article 24: Extraordinary

If a member of the IAB transgresses a rule set in these Organizational Regulations, it can be dismissed extraordinarily and immediately by the OEKO-TEX® Executive Committee. This is to be done on the basis of a hearing where at least two other stakeholder members of the IAB are present.

## Annex I: Overview of the OEKO-TEX® Organizational Structure





## Annex II: IAB Code of Conduct

Members of the IAB undertake to comply with both the OEKO-TEX® Code of Conduct and the IAB Code of Conduct:

### IAB Code of Conduct

#### **SELF-CONCEPTION:**

The International Advisory Board is aware of its important role in the standard development of the OEKO-TEX® portfolio. It is committed both to responsibility for the common good and the environment and to the principles of the social market economy with functioning competition. The IAB's activities are thus geared towards promoting sustainable and socially responsible businesses.

#### **MISSION:**

The IAB supports OEKO-TEX® Association in its mission to enable consumers and companies to protect our planet by making responsible decisions. The IAB enforces all principles and values described in this Code of Conduct.

#### **RESPONSIBILITY:**

The IAB declares its strict adherence to the respect of human rights, core labour standards and environmental protection.

#### **INTEGRITY:**

IAB Members conduct themselves in a respectful, fair, incorruptible and honest way and in full compliance with all legal requirements.

#### **INCOMPATIBILITY:**

IAB Members have the obligation to make sure that none of their activities or activities of their subsidiaries or parent companies run counter to the OEKO-TEX® Association.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

With the creation of the IAB, the OEKO-TEX® Association allows a multi-stakeholder perspective to directly influence the standard setting process. Since this can require access to confidential information, an NDA is to be signed by all IAB Members. Transparency will be created by the OEKO-TEX® Association - not the IAB Members themselves.