



April 7, 2004

Gildan Activewear Obtains Prestigious International Environmental Certification



Montreal, April 7, 2004 - Gildan Activewear Inc. (NYSE: GIL; TSX: GIL.A) today announced that it has become the first manufacturer catering to the wholesale imprinted activewear industry to obtain the Oeko-tex Standard 100 certification, the most internationally recognized eco-label designation in the textile supply chain. This certification further solidifies Gildan's position as a leader in environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

The Oeko-tex Standard 100 represents the first uniform safety standard of its type within the textile industry to ensure that the production process and the textiles themselves pose no risk to human health. It was launched in April 1992 by the International Textile Research Centre at the Hohenstein Institute, Bönningheim, Germany, and the Vienna-based Austrian Textile Research Institute (ÖTI). Its goal is to offer consumers maximum confidence in terms of health and environmental implications when buying textiles.

"This certification should further assure consumers that Gildan is totally committed to environmentally responsible manufacturing processes. The Oeko-tex Standard 100 is consistent with our own rigorous Environmental Code of Practice, and we are proud to manufacture products processed with environmental awareness," declared Glenn Chamandy, President and Co-Chief Executive Officer.

Profile

Gildan Activewear is a public, vertically-integrated manufacturer and marketer of premium quality branded basic activewear for sale principally in the wholesale imprinted activewear segment of the Canadian, U.S., European and other international apparel markets. The Corporation manufactures and sells premium quality 100% cotton and 50% cotton/50% polyester T-shirts, placket collar sport shirts and sweatshirts in a variety of weights, sizes, colours and styles. The Corporation sells its products as blanks, which are ultimately decorated with designs and logos for sale to consumers. Gildan employs more than 9,300 employees. More information on the Corporation may be found at www.gildan.com.

Contact:

Media Relations
Stéphane Lemay
Vice-President, Public and Legal Affairs
Tel. (514) 734-8394
Cell. (514) 570-5884
slemay@gildan.com

BACKGROUNDER

Oeko-Tex Standard 100

As the most famous eco-label recognized world-wide, the application of Oeko-Tex Standard 100 ensures that textiles in the supply chain will pose no risk to the human body through skin contact, ingestion or by inhalation.

The test program of the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 takes into consideration the wide range of textile products available and their diverse fields of application. It comprises over 100 individual tests. The first set of criteria deals with substances that present a health hazard and are expressly identified as such by legislators in one or more countries. The second group of test parameters deals with substances which pose a risk to human health, such as allergenic disperse dyestuffs or formaldehyde. The third group consists of all other parameters, which have been included in the criteria in order to safeguard human health. For instance, tests are carried out to check that the pH value is within the skin-friendly range.

A rigorous process lies behind achieving the standard. Four stages must be respected in order to obtain the Oeko-Tex certification.

1. Written application

Manufacturers interested in having their products tested for harmful substances must first submit a written application. They must confirm the accuracy of the details given including a description of the goods to be tested and the processing stages carried out in the production. Dyestuffs and auxiliaries must be listed as well as safety data sheets for the finishing chemicals used.

2. Testing

The test laboratory draws up an individual test plan and uses it to check the textile on the basis of the worst case scenario. Oeko-Tex certification takes place at each stage in the textile production chain.

3. Conformity

In order to be able to label products with the Oeko-Tex label, the applicant must complete a declaration of conformity guaranteeing that the products manufactured will comply by being consistent at all times with the samples tested. The applicant accepts responsibility for the quality of the product and demonstrates this by providing the test institute with evidence of the company's quality control system.

4. Control

The International Oeko-Tex Association carries out random checks at the manufacturers. These random checks on products are carried out twice a year without prior warning. These control tests are an integral part of the terms of Oeko-Tex Standard 100.