

Responsibility in Practice – Environmental Statement Schoeller Textil AG

The focus of all our thinking and actions is man. We aim to support him in his work, in his leisure and during his sporting activities with sophisticated, intelligent and ecologically safe textiles. At every product development step, the questions we ask ourselves relate not only to functional enhancement but also, and of equal importance, to ecological compatibility. Innovation in product design and innovation in matters of sustainability – as a Swiss company, we have been living these two aspects for many years, and doing so every day.

◆ **Schoeller is bluesign® approved**

Schoeller Textil AG has been manufacturing in accordance with the stipulations of the bluesign® standards (www.bluesign.com) since as far back as 2001 and developed the standard alongside such other companies as Huntsman (formerly Ciba) and Nike. bluesign® stands for ecologically-compatible textiles, environment-friendly production and the economical use of resources. The production standard is based on five pillars: consumer protection, waste water, exhaust air, occupational safety and resource productivity. Schoeller was involved in the establishment of this standard to a major extent and was the first textile manufacturer world-wide to obtain certification. In January 2008, Schoeller Textil AG was able to accept the bluesign® Award as the first system partner.

◆ **Schoeller creates facts**

As far back as 1994 we launched our first 100% recyclable stretch fabric. Since more than 10 years we have used no PFOS-containing products in our manufacturing. Due to the installation of a special waste water reactor, we were able to halve the load of contaminants ten years ago. Modern dyeing machines and a solvent washing machine permitted a further 65% water reduction from 2001 on. By converting to natural gas and recovering energy from exhaust air and waste water, we have considerably reduced the CO₂-emissions since 2002 and achieved further energy savings. Within the framework of an expansion project and the installation of modern tentering frames, an exhaust air purification plant and air weaving looms between 2005 and 2007, we have succeeded in increasing production capacity and saving energy.

◆ **Schoeller products are sustainable**

Two aspects have to be considered: The influence of production on the environment or the ecological footprint which a product leaves on the earth is one side of the coin. We have been able to influence this: Our textiles are of a high quality and "live longer" than cheaply-produced goods. They can therefore remain in use for a long time. Due to the water repelling and dirt repelling finish, they are slow to soil. They need less frequent washing and can be washed at lower temperatures. This too cuts down on the water, chemicals and energy used. On the other side of the coin is the question of what the consumer actually does with the product. How long is it worn. How often is it washed? These are things which we cannot influence. We can only ensure that, in terms of the product, the conditions are right.

◆ **Schoeller takes a long-term and networked view**

In for a penny, in for a pound, as the saying goes. We are not one of those companies hopping aboard the bandwagon of the "eco trend" and leaving it again at the next opportunity. In Europe, a trend of this kind was evident about ten years ago. It did not last. Today, a larger wave seems to be building up. And that is a good thing. Anyone thinking in terms of "renewable raw materials" or "recycling" today needs to act consistently at both the beginning and end of the product lifecycle. This requires, among other things, the appropriate infrastructure, major organizational input and precise eco audits. People who not only talk about ecology but also actively work on improvements. Only then will we be able to make lasting changes. For years, Schoeller has been proactively making its own contribution. And we will carry on doing so in the future. We continue to put responsibility into practice.