



TÜV Rheinland Becomes an Approved Laboratory for Fibre Release by The Microfibre Consortium

In June 2020, TÜV Rheinland Textile Testing Laboratories in Shenzhen and Shanghai were approved by The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) to conduct tests for quantifying fibre release from fabrics during domestic laundering. The TMC is an organisation leading in global reduction of microfibres released into our waterways and natural ecosystems. The laboratories can now conduct this testing service for the TMC members. This is a great step forward in the fight to reduce fibre fragmentation throughout the garment supply chain.

Recent studies have revealed that the fibres in our clothes could be poisoning our waterways and food chain on a massive scale. Microfibres – tiny threads shed from fabric – have been found in abundance on shorelines where waste water is released. WRAP, a non profit organisation founded in 2000 promoting methods for sustainable use of resources released “Report of Textile derived microfibre release” in December 2019. The evidence showed that 170,000 tonnes of textile-derived microfibres may be lost during textile

processing and production. Another 1,300 tonnes was shed during domestic machine washing and tumble drying, and over 350,000 tonnes resulted as residual waste. While the volume of fibre released during laundry contributes to a relatively low level of fibre loss, the likelihood of this fibre source entering marine ecosystems is significantly higher than other sources.

The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) facilitates the development of practical solutions for the reduction of fibre fragmentation and pollution for the textile industry and supports their members with textile manufacturing needs all the way through the complete product lifecycle. Members range from clothing brands, retailers and manufacturers to research institutions and policy makers, all working toward globally aligned environmentally sustainable solutions. As an approved laboratory, TÜV Rheinland, provides microfibre shedding testing to support in the fashion, sport, outdoor and home textile categories in their reduction of microfibre shedding.

ABOUT THE MICROFIBRE CONSORTIUM (TMC)

Founded in November 2018, The Microfibre Consortium now has 40 members from across the outdoor sector, sports, high street, luxury fashion and home textiles, with a combined turnover of over €250 billion. TMC also has a rapidly growing network of research institutions and affiliates from around the world, supporting the consortium’s mission for increased global topic alignment collaboration and research to understand and reduce microfibre pollution.

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