



UniformReuse.co.uk Case Study



Key facts:

- Klopman International is Europe's leading manufacturer of cotton and polyester/cotton fabrics for use in work, protective and casual wear apparel.
- Klopman was the first polyester/cotton manufacturer to be awarded the EU Ecolabel in 2003.
- In 1992, Klopman became one of the first European textile manufacturers to become Öeko-Tex Standard 100 accredited.
- A new range of fabrics produced using Fair Trade certified cotton have recently been introduced by Klopman.

Background

Established in 1968, Klopman International is Europe's leading manufacturer of cotton and polyester/cotton fabrics for use in work, protective and casual wear apparel. An environmentally and socially aware company, Klopman is committed to reducing its environmental and social impacts not only in its products but across its entire business operations.

In fact, Klopman has implemented a number of resource-saving measures at its manufacturing plant in Frosinone, Italy, which has resulted in reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 3,500 tonnes per year. This includes investing in a system which recaptures steam generated in the manufacturing process and using this to generate 55% of the company's electricity on site.



"Reducing our impact on the environment is an integral part of our culture and operating practices. We believe that sound environmental management makes for good business and we have been determined to develop our business with minimal impact on the environment"

Judith Emslie, Marketing Manager at Klopman International

The products

Klopman International fabrics are renowned for their high performance, quality and durability. The company has an excellent reputation within the corporate clothing and work-wear industry and garments made from Klopman fabrics are found in every sphere of the world at work as well as on the high street. They include clothes manufactured and supplied by companies such as Cotton Roots, Alsico, Faithful, Dimensions and many others.

However, although they maintain this leading position, Klopman were keen to differentiate their products in an increasingly competitive marketplace and demonstrate their environmental and social commitments, particularly when faced with growing customer awareness of sustainability issues. Their solution was to gain accreditation from the Öeko-tex, EU Ecolabel and Fair Trade schemes for their top performing products.

Outcomes

By gaining accreditation from internationally recognised accreditation schemes - EU Ecolabel, Öeko-tex and Fair Trade - Klopman are able to provide additional confidence and reassurance that their fabrics are manufactured in an environmentally and socially responsible way.

"We can differentiate our products and be confident that we are proposing high value fabric solutions to our customers. We also find it is a good way to demonstrate the company's commitment to responsible business practice"

Judith Emslie, Marketing Manager.



Uniformreuse is run by the CRR





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Accreditation scheme overview:



Öeko-tex Standard 100

The Öeko-tex Standard 100 was developed in 1992 to limit or exclude the use of certain hazardous substances in textile products. Assessment and certification for the Öeko-tex Standard 100 is undertaken by independent textile research and test institutes in 40 countries worldwide.

In order to obtain the Öeko-tex Standard 100 companies must provide evidence that certain harmful substances are excluded or fall below a certain level. This includes pesticides, formaldehyde, phenols and metals such as cadmium and nickel.

Responsibility for the standard is shared between 17 test institutes which are collectively known as the International Öeko-tex Association.

The Öeko-Tex certificate is issued for a period of one year and can be extended subject to further successful testing.

Klopman was one of the first European textile manufacturers to become eligible to display the standard for polyester and polyester/cotton blends and it is currently accredited to 100% of their production.



EU Ecolabel

The EU Ecolabel takes into account all aspects of a product's lifecycle, from cradle to grave (production to disposal). Accreditation is only awarded to products and services that have been "officially distinguished as being the most environmentally friendly in their range."

The award of the EU Ecolabel means that specifiers and consumers have the confidence and reassurance of knowing that accredited products are manufactured in an environmentally responsible way.

Products and processes are thoroughly and independently tested according to ecological criteria which take into account all aspects of a product's life, from production right through to end-of-life disposal.

Klopman became the first European polycotton fabric manufacturer to be awarded the European Ecolabel in 2003 and it has been applied to a number of their products including image workwear fabrics, advanced protective wear fabrics and casual wear fabrics.



Fairtrade

The Fairtrade Foundation was established in the UK in 1992. Fairtrade is a strategy to alleviate poverty and aid sustainable development. It aims to create opportunities for producers and workers who have been economically disadvantaged or marginalized by the conventional trading system.

For a product to be able to display the Fairtrade Mark it must meet international Fairtrade standards which are set by the international certification body Fairtrade Labelling Organisations International (FLO).

As well as certifying producers, all of the traders in the supply chain must register with FLO and submit reports on their purchases and sales. Internationally-based importers and exporters report directly to FLO, whose trade auditors also conduct on-site inspections.

Meanwhile UK based importers and manufacturers submit quarterly reports to the Fairtrade Foundation and on-site inspections are carried out annually by an independent professional auditing company. Klopman recently introduced a new range of fabrics produced with Fair Trade certified cotton.

Additional Information

Klopman International	www.klopman.com
Eu Ecolabel	ec.europa.eu
Öeko-tex 100	www.oeko-tex.com
Fair Trade	www.fairtrade.org.uk

For contact information please search the Directory on www.uniformreuse.co.uk/directory

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