



SUSTAINABILITY
& ENVIRONMENT

GUNOLD®



SUSTAINABILITY

Environment, sustainability, social standards are big, important issues. Many people are concerned about climate change, global warming, CO₂ emissions, human rights, etc.

Textiles play a big role in this context.



They use up many resources for their production: fibers, energy, water, dyes, chemicals and labor, etc.

What steps need to be taken, to make textile products more sustainable?

& ENVIRONMENT

Textile labels offer the opportunity to have products, processes and working methods certified for sustainability. In recent years, many labels have appeared on the market with different contents and objectives. To name just a few of the most important organizations that are focused on around the topics of sustainability, social standards, health, animal welfare, etc.:

Der Grüne Knopf¹ Blauer Engel Naturland
Bluesign OekoTex
Ecolabel World Fair Trade Association
Fair Trade Fair Wear Cradle to Cradle (C2C)
Natur Textil IVN Fair Labor Association
GOTS

¹ Government label; required for tenders for government contracts.

The certification processes of each individual textile label require a great deal of time, research and documentation, and the licensing fees are expensive. For cost reasons, it is hardly possible to go through all certifications.

For years, we have been pursuing a strategy of following our own path in addition to official testing and only offer products that are of high quality and environmentally friendly.

Our motto is: sustainable, environmentally conscious management that places the company, its products and employees at the center of our actions.



What we have already done so far

GUNOLD & Raw materials

Our products are used to decorate textiles. Embroidery is one of the oldest traditions of decorating textiles. With almost 100 years of company history and in fourth generation, we are committed to this tradition and guarantee that by using the best raw materials, our threads, nonwovens and fabrics meet modern environmental criteria. Environment and product have gone hand in hand for decades at GUNOLD. Consequently, we have invested in production facilities, water- and energy-saving, but also the latest dyes and chemical substrates are used which are indispensable for the production of modern threads, nonwovens and fabrics. Thus, most of our products are manufactured in the EU, pay attention to the indication of origin.



One of our most sustainable products is the special thread **SULKY®**. It consists of 100% viscose, which is obtained from ecologically renewable forests. The ENKA® company based in Obernburg, Germany, produces filament yarns from viscose. The Cradle to Cradle Product Innovation Institute has awarded ENKA® Viscose the Gold Material Health Certificate. Our partner company, Beerli AG in Switzerland, dyes the thread at its plant in Austria. Afterwards, it is wound at our facility for the final make-up. **SULKY®** viscose is vegan and biodegradable, including the dyes used.

- ◆ **made from a natural product – biodegradable –**
- ◆ **vegan – short transport distances**
- ◆ **low CO2 impact**



Our cotton thread **COTTY** is also a natural product, which is grown and twisted in Egypt. The raw material supplier of the cotton is a member of the SEKEM organization in Egypt. SEKEM stands for sustainable management - avoidance of pesticide use, water- and energy-saving cultivation, soil-conserving cultivation of the fields and compliance with social standards. It is a proven fact that even today the highest quality cotton comes from Egypt. **COTTY** is dyed in Italy and wound in Stockstadt, Germany, for the final make-up.

POLY made of **polyester** is not a natural product, as it is obtained from mineral oil, but the thread can still be considered a sustainable thread. The polyester fiber is manufactured in Germany, dyed at Beerli AG's Austrian factory and then wound onto the final make-up in Stockstadt, Germany.



All the above-mentioned threads are twisted and dyed in modern and water-saving twisting and dyeing facilities. The wastewater is so little contaminated by the dyeing chemicals that it is discharged directly into the local wastewater treatment plant at the plant in Austria.

GUNOLD & REACH

The EU regulation REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, Chemical Restriction) has been in force since 2007. This regulation is legally binding, i.e. all companies based in the EU must ensure that none of the substances banned by REACH or substances above certain limits are used in their production. This is where the far-reaching philosophy of environmental and health protection comes into play. As a result, EU products are already a big step ahead of products from other regions of the world.



We not only comply with legal requirements, but we often do better than that.

GUNOLD & Oeko-Tex Standard:

As early as the 1990s, we had our products certified according to the Oeko-Tex Standard. Most of our products carry the Oeko-Tex Standard label, predominantly product class I (suitable for baby and infant articles). Oeko-Tex Standard is a label that is valid in large parts of the world and is known and understood by both industry and consumers.



GUNOLD & GOTS:

GOTS certification - the label certifies natural products - is lengthy and expensive, requiring annual audits and proof that sustainability improvements are being made. Our products are not GOTS certified, but can still be used for embroidery and decorative stitching on textiles that are to be GOTS certified.



Important in this context: The finished garment will be GOTS certified but not every single component within this textile. If the main part of the textile is GOTS certified, an embroidery or decorative seam may consist of a non-certified material. Nevertheless, the finished textile can be certified according to GOTS.

In this case, it makes no sense to certify the smallest components of a textile according to GOTS. Embroidery and decorative seams are small details, embellishments but never the main element.

What we have already done so far

GUNOLD & Vegan

When one speaks of vegan, one does not automatically mean environmentally friendly, resource-saving and sustainable. Vegan refers to products that do not contain animal products. The idea of animal welfare is in the foreground here. Plastic is mostly vegan, rarely sustainable. Many of our products can be used for vegan textiles:



- ◆ **Threads:** all top and bobbin threads
- ◆ **Backings:** Stiffy 1620, 1640, 1650, 1860, 1980, 1995, 2040, 2055, 1950, 1970, 1620B, 1640B, 1860B, 1950B, Filmoplast, Solvy Fabric, Texti 1751, 1875
- ◆ **Foils:** Solvy, Solvy Film 20, Solvy Film 80, Thermofilm, Gudy Stic, Heat Stic, BSN H/I, Thermofix, Stick Protect
- ◆ **Fabrics:** Twilly, Canvay, Step, Puffy PE 10/20, Felty

GUNOLD & Toy Directive

EN 71-3

The Toy Directive covers the entire toy market. Metals and plastics play the main role here - not just textiles. Regarding our **non-textile products**, our suppliers confirm the fulfillment of the requirements concerning the migration of heavy metals, which are specified in the EN 71-3 standard, namely for our products **SOLVY** and **KK 100**.

For our **textile range**, many products are certified according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 product class 1 and can therefore be used in products for babies and toddlers.



All other requirements that go beyond the textile regulations and concern toy-specific requirements are to be tested individually, on the finished product/toy as a whole.



GUNOLD & products beyond the product portfolio



When people think of sustainability, they usually think of the products they sell. However, many other products are used in the company:

- ◆ **Paper:** We are replacing our product flyers and color cards with paper bearing the „Blue Angel“ label. This label means more than just recycled paper. The entire printing process, including the printing ink, is ecologically sustainable, the ink is biodegradable.
- ◆ **Packaging:** Whenever possible, we dispense with plastic packaging or use film made from approx. 60 % recycled plastic. Our cardboard packaging is predominantly made from recycled paper.
- ◆ **Thread cores:** In the future, cores made of 100% recycled polyester will be used. The light gray color of the tubes is caused by the recycled material. We will start with mini king cones for the upper thread COTTY 30.
- ◆ **Promotional Goods:** When choosing promotional items to give to customers at trade shows, seminars, customer visits, offers, etc., we have always paid attention to items of value that can be useful to our customers and not plastic items that might immediately end up in plastic trash. From a sustainability point of view, today we are seeking to produce items using our own materials, e.g. keychains made of Twilly: double layer glued with Thermofix, laser-cut and embroidered with SULKY® 40. We replace ballpoint pens either with PET recycled pens, with refill ball points, or pencils made of wood.
- ◆ **Plastic bags with Gunold Print:** We still have plenty of plastic bags with the Gunold imprint. It is not an ideal choice because we are asked at trade fairs: „Come on? You still have plastic bags? But destroying them also makes no sense from a sustainability point of view. Our plastic bags are very durable, so we can suggest to criticizing customers: „Please continue to use the Gunold bag over and over again. Because you too can thus make a lasting contribution to favorably influencing the environmental and climate balance.
- ◆ **Shipping:** The vast majority of our products are produced in the EU. Transport routes to our company are short and take place almost exclusively by truck and rail, thus saving CO2 emissions. The few goods that we purchase from the Far East are usually delivered by sea freight, not by air freight. This takes longer, but also saves CO2.



We deliver to our customers within Europe from our central warehouse in Stockstadt by truck and rail, usually via GLS. A certificate from GLS for 2020 confirms that we have „actively participated in the GLS Climate Protection program and have thus handled parcel shipping via GLS in a climate-neutral manner“. We already received the same certificate in 2019.

GUNOLD & Sustainability at a Glance



Headquarters of the company
in the center of Germany
and Europe



Economical water consumption
in production as well as
stringent wastewater treatment



Biodegradable viscose/
rayon from renewable
raw materials



Energy efficient machines,
reduced carbon emissions



Almost all products
are vegan



Investments in the latest
production equipment



Most products are
Oeko-Tex Standard 100
certified



Compliance with ethical
guidelines based on German
and European standards



All products comply with
the strict European
REACH standard



We are committed to short
transport routes by rail
and the truck

GUNOLD®

