

ENGEL SPORTS products have been honoured with the federal award ecodesign



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For the comprehensive approach of the new brand **ENGEL SPORTS**, the ENGEL GmbH has been decorated the federal award ecodesign by the jury of the International Design Center Berlin in cooperation with the federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety in the category "product". Sustainable consumption, which is the key for changes in consumer behaviour, is thus encouraged by this approach as it is both lived consistently and put into practice by the producer.

On November 23rd, 2015, the environment minister, Dr. Barbara Hendricks and the president of the Federal Environment Agency, Maria Krautzberger, presented the trophy of the federal award ecodesign at the Ministry for the Environment in Berlin.

Since 1982 already, the ENGEL GmbH has produced underwear according to ecological guidelines. In 1996 ENGEL has been awarded the certificate of the highest standard of quality, "Natural Textile IVN certified BEST", and since 2007 the company has been certified according to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).

These two standards stipulate strict criteria for the entire textile production chain both from an ecological point of view and in respect to social responsibility.

The stylish lightweights of athletic wear by the brand **ENGEL SPORTS** are a sustainable overall plan, especially for the field of sports undergoing a consequent realisation regarding function, sustainability and design during the entire value-added process. Social standards are strictly kept and animal protection has been paid attention to in this conception. Long routes of transport and a subsequent burdening of the environment are avoided by a regional production. ENGEL thus assumes a social responsibility strengthening economic power by creating employment in a structurally weak region like the Swabian Alb.

Innovative processing methods make it possible to manufacture a light 150 g/m² quality and the slightly heavier and warmer 200 g/m² quality. By using material from merino fibres just having the strength of 17.5 µ in combination with fine silk, the brand **ENGEL SPORTS** has produced athletic wear of a soft and absolutely itch-free material with a maximum wearing comfort designed for the field of sports and outdoor activities.

The material solely used is environmentally sound and regrowing merino wool from certified organic livestock. This particular wool is from Argentina where laws and inspection systems for organic farming have already been developed orientating themselves towards the requirements of the target markets in Europe.

The combination of merino wool and silk provides the best breathability and has a temperature-balancing effect. An addition of 2% spandex supports the natural elasticity of the wool fibre and grants high shape retention to the wear. Material properties and cutting shapes ideally adjust to the body. The natural characteristics of the wool-silk mix make it difficult for bacteria to colonize which thus strongly reduces an odour generation by sweat. Therefore, these garments do not have to be washed frequently and any occurring impacts on the environment are reduced. Besides, UV radiation is absorbed in a natural way.

A newly developed environment-sparing procedure enables the wool to be machine washable both without chlorine and without the use of chemicals thus protecting the natural characteristics of wool by a sustainable finishing.

Materials which are dangerous for the environment or for one's health have been refrained from.

The design of the models reflects the sustainable basic idea of the brand **ENGEL SPORTS**' overall conception; this idea is also put into practice by using FSC-certified and environmentally friendly packing materials.

The origination process of the **ENGEL SPORTS** products advancing the course of man, animal and environment has been underlined by the fact that every single product has been awarded the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS).

ENGEL SPORTS is unique and there are no comparable products in the segment of sportswear.

"Arranging economic activity under ecological aspects and being committed to the civil society in a manner that synergies can be used in a positive way must be the central principle of all companies successfully operating on the market" emphasises Gabriele Kolompar. "To develop this innovative product line and to position it on a new market with success has already been a big challenge for the company in the past 3 years. But to strictly observe the three-pillar principle of ecology, social responsibility and economy has even proved to be the bigger one."

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