

Modern Fabric Technology Makes it Possible: Elastic Cotton Clothing Made of 100% Cotton

Bremen, July 2nd , 2019. For many years now, polyester and cotton blends have been used to make clothing. In addition, elastane, also known as spandex or Lycra, is used as it emphasises the fit and provides comfort.



Cotton card led to spinning machine

This could change in the future, as the US research firm Cotton Incorporated, Cary, North Carolina, has now presented the market with 100% cotton elastic clothing fabrics. The newly developed product is being marketed under the Natural Stretch™ brand without the use of elastane. According to information provided by the supplier, the fabric offers the elasticity and comfort that consumers are used to from wearing long-standing products.

It is known in the industry that normal cotton fabrics already have a given elasticity of three to six percent. The material developed by Cotton Incorporated creates the increased stretch effect through a special mechanical manufacturing process. The material offers highly comfortable stretch properties in combination with the naturalness and softness of cotton. The material does not lose its elasticity when worn. The fabrics can be processed into shirts and blouses, as well as denim jeans, other trousers and skirts. According to Cotton Incorporated, there are currently licensees for the manufacture and sale of Natural Stretch™ fabrics in Peru, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia.

However, an additional innovation could provide a boost for change: The Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Canberra, Australia, is currently working on growing cotton seed or cotton plants whose fibres provide many of the attributes of manmade fibres such as elasticity, crease resistance, and water resistance, without restricting the natural properties of cotton.

Whether these innovations will prevail depends on the readiness of the clothing industry to deal with them and undoubtedly on changes in the fashion attitudes of consumers. Based on its observations, the Bremen Cotton Exchange assumes that issues related to sustainable production will play an increasingly important role in clothing purchasing in the future. Compared to manmade fibres such as polyester, cotton has the advantage that it is natural, renewable and biodegradable.



Bales open

Further information and contact:

Elke Hortmeyer, Director Communications and International Relations

Phone: +49 421 3397016, E-Mail: hortmeyer@baumwollboerse.de



About the Bremen Cotton Exchange

Based on its experience gained in over 140 years of dialogue with the market, the Bremen Cotton Exchange is regarded as a recognised authority and a strong partner in the industry. Today, this not only applies to the cotton trade, spinners / weavers and service providers for the cotton industry, but also to the downstream textile and clothing industry.

The Cotton Exchange is an international arbitration body. Judgments made by the Arbitration Court of the Cotton Exchange are in accordance with the New York Convention of 1958. They are internationally recognised and therefore quickly enforceable.

As a joint venture with the International Cotton Association Ltd. (Liverpool), we have been running the International Cotton Association Quality and Research Centre Bremen GmbH since 2011. This has made us the international centre for cotton testing and research, quality training and certification. Bremen is home to a state-of-the-art laboratory equipped with the latest equipment.

Every two years, the cotton world gathers in Bremen: Together with its testing laboratory, the Fibre Institute Bremen (FIBRE), the Bremen Cotton Exchange hosts the International Cotton Conference, which has become the world's leading conference in the field of cotton testing. Around 600 guests from all over the world regularly travel to the Hanseatic city to attend the high-ranking sessions at the Bremen City Hall and take the opportunity to make personal business contacts.