Oeko-Tex announced new STeP certification for sustainable textile production

Issue date:27/11/2012

Source: ATA Editorial Team

Environmentally friendly and socially acceptable production conditions will continue to be one of the greatest challenges of the textile industry – that was the bottom line of this year's meeting of the Oeko-Tex general managers which took place from November 12-14 in New York.

In reaction to growing public awareness in this field, global brands and their supply companies in the production countries are increasingly using independent certifications as public and trustworthy documentation of their commitment to human-ecological product safety and sustainability.

According to Oeko-Tex managers, one manifestation of this trend is the positive global development of certificates issued according to Oeko-Tex Standard 100, for which the record number of 11,806 certificates was recorded for the last 12 months alone.

At the same time the association announced the introduction of the “Sustainable Textile Production” (STeP) certification for next year, a revised version of the current Oeko-Tex Standard 1000. It offers all production companies along the textile value chain the option to have the sustainability of their production conditions evaluated and audited by the independent Oeko-Tex institutes on the basis of a scoring system.

‘With its modular concept,’ says Oeko-Tex General Secretary Dr Jean-Pierre Haug, ‘the new certification tool highlights all central business areas such as quality management, use of chemicals, environmental protection, environmental management, social responsibility as well as health and safety. The specific tailoring to the situation in the textile and clothing industry provides interested companies with targeted support for continuous improvement of their production conditions."

The STeP certification will first be presented to the public in March next year at the Prime Source Forum in Hong Kong.

BUSINESS RECORDER
Founded by M. A. Zuberi

Fuel adjustment formula: 43 paisa per unit hike in Discos' tariff likely

November 28, 2012

MUSHTAQ GHUMMAN

National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) is expected to allow a 43 paisa per unit increase in electricity tariff of power Distribution Companies (Discos) under monthly fuel adjustment formula on November 29. The regulator will determine monthly fuel adjustment at a time when the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has already scrapped earlier increases on this account and directed Discos to pay back the amount collected so far from consumers.

National Transmission and Dispatch Company (NTDC) had filed a petition with Nepra on the basis of data of October 2012 and sought increase of about 44 paisa per unit due to variations in fuel prices to Rs 7.0348 per unit against reference charges of Rs 9.9909 per unit. Nepra had fixed November 22, 2012 for hearing of NTDC's petition but it was rescheduled for November 29, 2012.

According to NTDC, hydel generation rates are Rs 0.0834 per unit, coal Rs 3.7389 per unit, HSD Rs 22.3432 per unit, RFO Rs 16.6721 per unit, gas, Rs 5.2508 per unit, nuclear Rs 1.1387 per unit, electricity imported from Iran Rs 9.5800 per unit, mixed Rs 10.3418 per unit and wind Rs 0.0044 per unit. The price of total generated energy is Rs 6.7798 per unit. However with supplemental charges of Rs 0.0824 per unit, sale to IPPs at Rs 17.6686 per unit and transmission losses of Rs 0.1813 per unit total cost comes to Rs 7.0348.

Informed sources told *Business Recorder* that load shedding has again been resumed after Muharram holidays and now duration of load shedding in urban areas is about 4 hours whereas rural areas are facing up to 6 hours. NTDC is experiencing shortfall of about 2500 MW. A couple of days ago, Nepra increased electricity tariff for the Karachi Electric Supply Company (KESC) by 18 paisa per unit for the month of June 2012 under the monthly fuel adjustment formula.

http://www.brecorder.com/top-stories/0:/1262003:fuel-adjustment-formula-43-paisa-per-unit-hike-in-discos-tariff-likely/?date=2012-11-28

The Daily Star

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Nine companies get green light to borrow $292.3m from overseas

Star Business Report

Bangladesh Bank gave the green light to nine private sector projects to take loans worth $292.3 million from foreign sources, the regulator said in a statement yesterday.

The loans include $190 million for Summit Meghnaghat Power Company, $42 million for Robi Axiata, $39 million for Augere Wireless Broadband and $7 million for Nipro JMI Company.

The rest of the projects are $6 million for Vintage Studio, $2 million for American and Efrid (BD) Ltd, $3 million for Amtranet, $2.2 million for Trims International (BD) Ltd and $1.1 million for Barkat Accessories.

The highest interest rate of the projects is three-month LIBOR, plus 4.5 percent a year.

“This type of foreign financing will be helpful in keeping the foreign exchange rate stable and will impact positively on the balance of payments of the country,” the central bank said.

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=259135