

OUR CONTRIBUTION  
TO SUSTAINABILITY

*création* **baumann**

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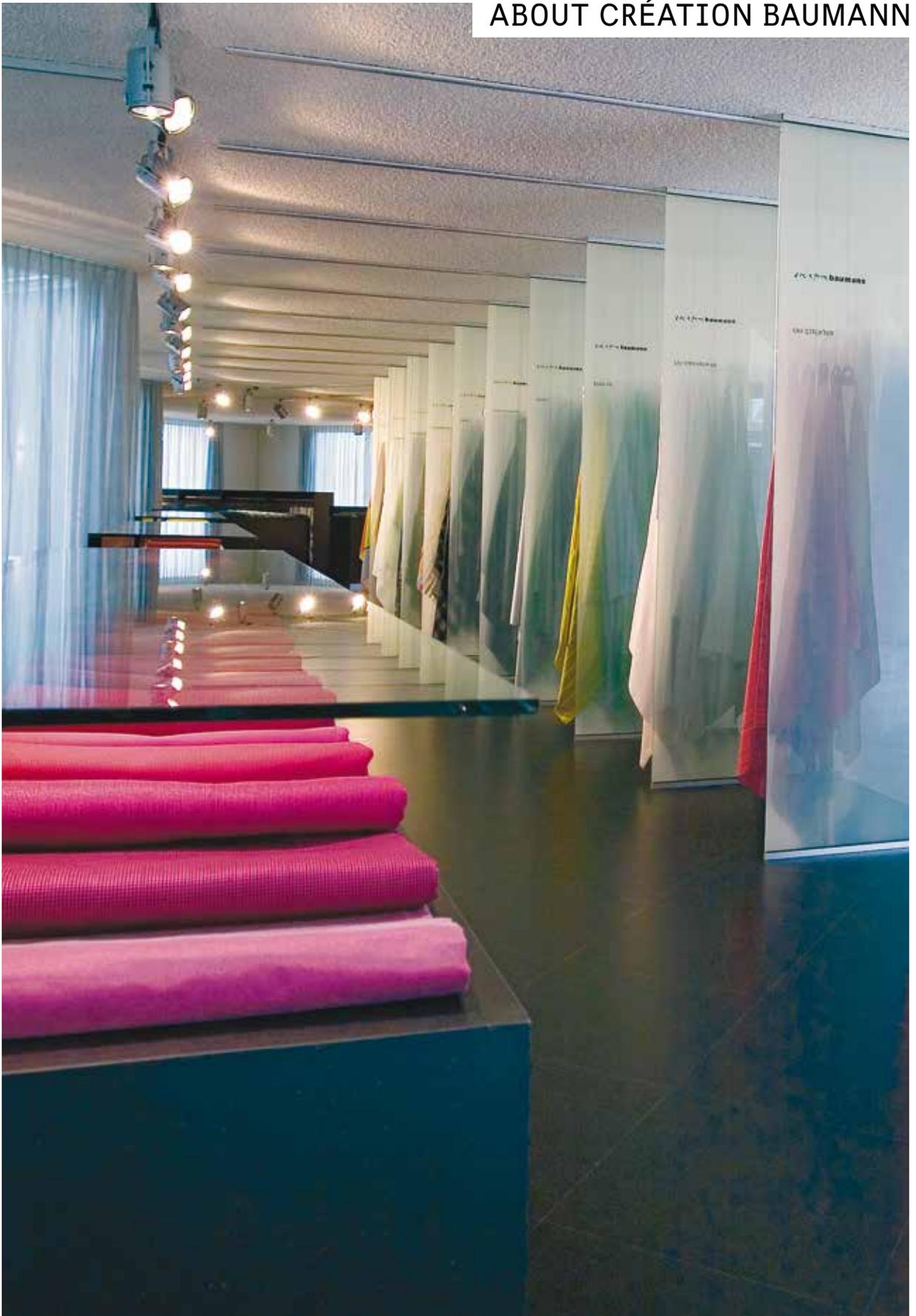
## FOREWORD

Sustainability is a universal topic – according to our corporate strategy, our aims are to meet the highest aesthetical and functional requirements without neglecting the protection of the environment.

Sustainability is a holistic approach. It involves handling natural resources with care, assuming the corresponding responsibility for our fellow man and in turn ensuring the economic prosperity of our enterprise. This calls for our strategies to be forward thinking.

Sustainability must be defined and implemented as a central theme. Successful design and functionality go hand in hand with sustainable and successful business management.

# ABOUT CRÉATION BAUMANN



#### IMPROVING UPON QUALITY OF LIFE

Création Baumann manufactures long-lasting products, i.e. functional, aesthetical, high quality fabrics, systems, and adhesive textiles for use in interior decoration. We offer our customers extraordinary service, thereby paying due attention to the long-term impact of our business decisions.

The company can look back upon a long and successful history, largely defined by our long-term strategy, entrepreneurial responsibility, and a strict quality orientation.

#### MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Création Baumann was founded on October 1, 1886, under the name “Baumann & Brand”, a company that, at that time, manufactured and sold linen and half-linen products. The sons of founder Friedrich Baumann, Willy and Fritz Baumann, took over company management in 1930.

In 1970, the brand “Création Baumann” was introduced on the international market. Six years later, when Jörg Baumann took over its management, the company employed a staff of 200. The company was entrusted to the fourth generation of the family in 1996, when Philippe Baumann entered and then went on to assume the position of CEO in the year 2000.

#### CODE OF PRACTICE

The company attaches importance to the fact that staff, customers, and all other stakeholders be well informed of brand values and company goals. Corporate management defines the values according to which business activities are aligned – from the procurement of raw materials, to design, production, and the marketing of the fabrics. Création Baumann describes itself as:

- CONTEMPORARY AND TREND-INSPIRED
- CLASSY AND REFINED
- INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE
- DEPENDABLE AND SWISS

## OUR CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainability is a term that describes a development which aims at satisfying the requirements of the current generation and takes into account the requirements of future generations. Sustainability observes the rules of economic feasibility and endeavours to use natural resources conscientiously as well as striving to ensure social justice.

#### **ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

Throughout the company's over 130 years of history, Création Baumann has always been run by its proprietors. Consequently, far-sighted and sustainable thinking and acting have always been a matter of course for the corporation. Business policy is determined on the basis of long-term goals. Risk, profit, and financial management are targeted towards an economically sustainable development of the company – and successfully so, as the company's history goes to prove.

Economic responsibility is and remains the top priority of the company's sustainability policy, with social as well as ecological goals also forming part of the company's mission statement.

#### **SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

For Création Baumann, social sustainability means assuming the responsibility to protect the interests of the company's most important stakeholders, its staff, and its local environment.

Création Baumann invests in the professional and personal development of its employees, the decisive factor for the success of the company's business activities.



#### **ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY**

Environmental protection has a long tradition at Création Baumann: the company already began to construct a neutralization plant for its dyeing mill in 1973, thus assuming a pioneering role in the Swiss textile industry. Up until today, Création Baumann has always been able to meet the legally stipulated wastewater values thanks to this neutralization plant and without the necessity of applying any additional chemical procedures.

The company's environmental policy serves as the basis for the definition of Création Baumann's ecological goals: economic efficiency and environmental protection are to be aligned to one another; with management, staff, and production all adhering to the same ecological basic values.

This holistic approach towards ensuring sustainability is clearly reflected by the general, standardized certifications of the Langenthal production site. Création Baumann's environmental management system according to ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 was certified very early on. The fact that our products bear absolutely no health risks is certified by the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 with which the large majority of our products have been distinguished.

#### **FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY**

Future sustainability is synonymous with continuous improvement. In order to be well prepared to meet all future requirements, we regularly check the introduction of standards that are meaningful to the company in all respects.

PRODUCT QUALITY



Thanks to the intelligent design of its products as well as adherence to stringent standards and innovative production procedures, Création Baumann can continuously contribute to the improvement of its ecological balance sheet.

#### **PRODUCT LONGEVITY**

The strict requirements towards processing, material quality, and timeless design ensure the quality and longevity of Création Baumann products, thus contributing decisively to the company being able to achieve its sustainability goals. Most Création Baumann curtains, for instance, can be washed several times, without any quality losses. In combination with their timeless design, these products can therefore be used for long periods of time.

#### **CIRCUMSPECT CHOICE OF RAW MATERIALS**

Création Baumann always pays great attention to the right choice of raw materials in order to ensure the favourable ecological impact of products throughout their entire life cycle.

Ecologically critical processing can be avoided thanks to the use of appropriate fibres that meet specific product requirements, e.g. flame retardant properties.

Création Baumann increasingly uses the polyester fibre Trevira CS in lieu of traditional natural fibres, with approx. 60% of turnover currently realized with the sales of Trevira CS. This fibre has major ecological advantages in comparison to cotton fibres. Thanks to its properties, it absorbs less water, thus reducing considerably water consumption during production as well as during subsequent washing. Moreover, Trevira CS can be used three times longer than natural fibres.

Since 1995, Création Baumann has refrained completely from using PVC yarns.

The entire value creation chain is to reflect Création Baumann's standards governing quality, compatibility for customers and the environment as well as technological norms.

- **LONGEVITY OF OUR PRODUCTS**
- **TIMELESS DESIGN**
- **CIRCUMSPECT CHOICE OF RAW MATERIALS**



Being able to provide innovative and creative solutions as well as a vast range of different high-end fabrics contributing to the improvement of the quality of living and life of our customers are top priorities for Création Baumann.

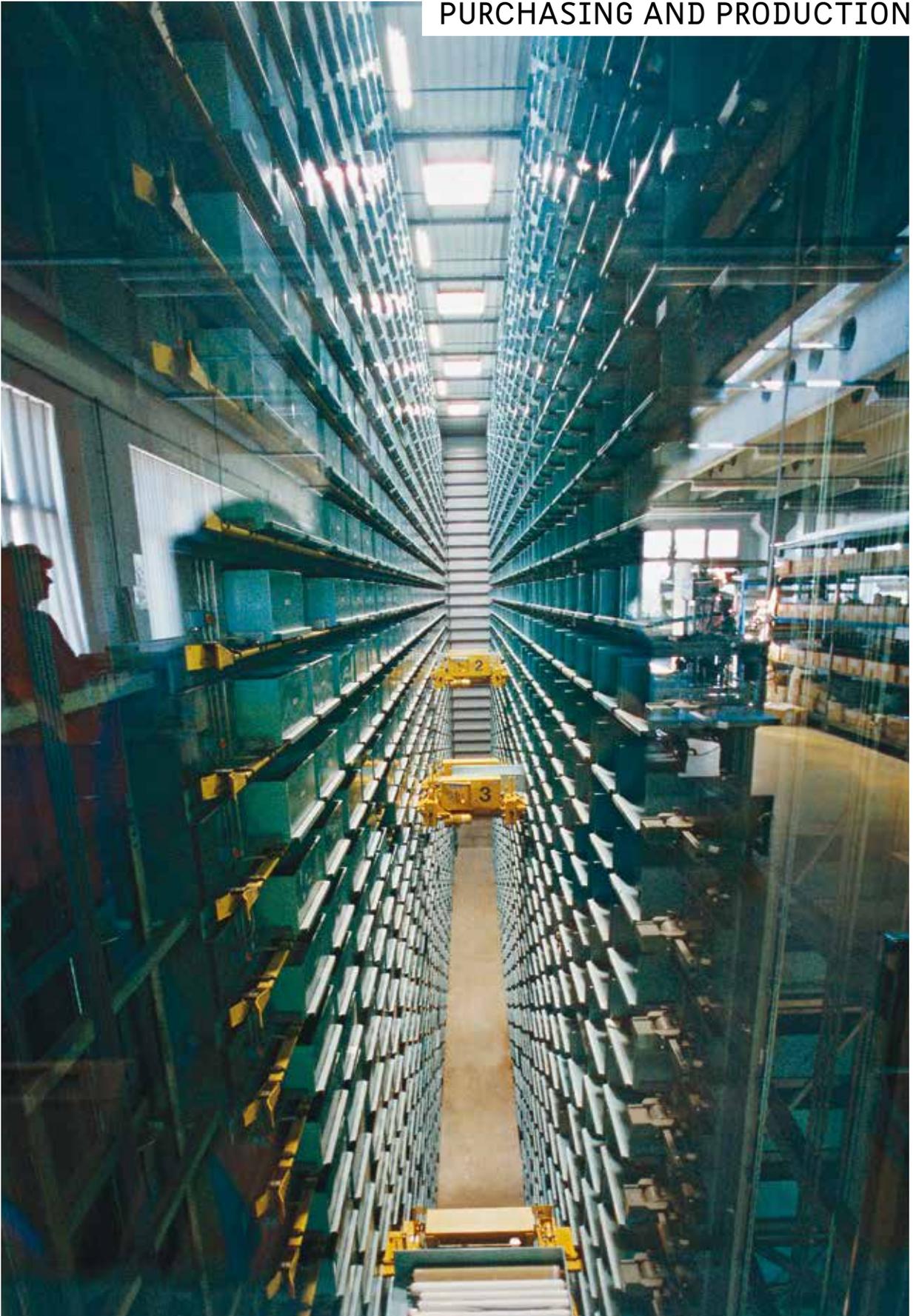
In addition to our extensive collection of interior decoration fabrics, customized, and self-adhesive textiles, Création Baumann also offers to customers special solutions meeting their specific requirements. Création Baumann has moreover developed special fabric collections for healthcare, hospitality, and office environments as well as a collection of fabrics for the fields of education and culture. Furthermore, our range of products comprises articles offering special benefits or functions such as sound absorption, glare protection and privacy assurance, flame resistance, and dimming.

Thanks to the responsible handling of chemicals and dyeing substances, Création Baumann can guarantee that all products are absolutely safe to use. Consumers often find it hard to determine the health safety of textile products, which is why Création Baumann decided to have certain products certified according to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 as early as in 1997. The Oeko-Tex Standard 100 is an internationally registered trademark confirming that the products thus certified contain no harmful substances and therefore do not pose any health hazards. The trademark may only be used when authorized by an official Oeko-Tex Institute. Checking and certification procedures applying to textiles have been harmonized worldwide and are subject to compliance with stringent, scientifically defined limit values. Today, more than half of the products of Création Baumann are certified.

Création Baumann fabrics are ideal for persons suffering from allergies and therefore particularly suited for use in the health care field. The fabrics can be washed several times, allowing for hygiene to be assured more easily than with other textiles.

- FABRICS FOR A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE
- FABRICS FOR THE HEALTHCARE FIELD
- GLARE PROTECTION, PRIVACY ASSURANCE,  
: AND PLEASANT LIGHTING CONDITIONS
- OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100

# PURCHASING AND PRODUCTION



Sustainable business management is not only a priority at the production facilities in Langenthal: especially with regard to the procurement of yarns for our in-house production, we attach particular importance to being able to purchase from manufacturers located in our proximity.

#### **PURCHASING**

96% of our fabrics are either produced in-house or purchased from Swiss or European suppliers. Création Baumann fosters long-term, sound relationships with textile suppliers. Possible new suppliers are evaluated according to strict criteria, visited at their production facilities, and submitted to very thorough quality checks.

99% of the yarns and threads used are procured in Europe; the rest from Asia. By far more than half of our European suppliers hold environmental certificates.

It is one of Création Baumann's main goals to reduce continuously the impact of our production on the environment and to thereby contribute to environmental and health protection.

#### **PRODUCTION**

In order to ensure efficient energy consumption at our production facilities, wastewater is heated and then used to preheat process water. Our comprehensive heating system is fuelled by petroleum as well as by natural gas in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

#### **CHEMICALS AND DYEING SUBSTANCES**

In addition to safety precaution measures introduced for our staff, Création Baumann also exclusively uses dyes and chemicals that are free of APEO and AOX. In addition to this, the dyeing substances and chemicals used must also fulfil very strict criteria. Instead of chlorine, only hydrogen peroxide is used for bleaching.



## **DRYING**

Thanks to the use of modulating burners, in comparison to conventional burners, Création Baumann can save up to 60% of the power consumption necessary to dry dyed fabrics. What is referred to as a whirling washer is used to purify the exhaust air produced during the drying process. This installation allows Création Baumann to stay well below the limit values defined in the Swiss Ordinance on Air Pollution.

## **DIGITAL PRINTING**

In order to guarantee that the fabrics also be printed in as environmentally sound a manner as possible, Création Baumann applies digital printing technology that is by far more ecological than conventional screen printing methods.

- NO TOXIC SUBSTANCES: AOX, APEO AND CHLORINE-FREE; NO CHLORINE-CONTAINING PVC SOFTENERS, NO NON-DEGRADABLE CHEMICALS USED
- VERY LITTLE FORMIC ACID
- ONLY DYES CONTAINING VERY LITTLE OR NO HEAVY METALS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Within the scope of its membership in the Economic Energy Agency (EnAW), Création Baumann has engaged to reduce actively the carbon dioxide emissions generated in its production – a goal clearly achieved these past few years. As with every other form of industrial production, the manufacturing of decoration fabrics also leads to the production of waste, wastewater, and exhaust fumes. Nevertheless, the environmental burden is to be limited to an absolute minimum and improvements are to be brought about constantly by implementing new technologies and appropriate measures, within the limits of what is economically feasible.

#### **WASTE**

Création Baumann reduces waste quantities by ensuring recycling. We train our staff to separate waste to be recycled. In production, we endeavour to reuse materials, for instance the carton tubes on which we reel our fabrics.

Also in packaging, Création Baumann is always looking for the most environmentally friendly solutions.

#### **WASTEWATER**

Since 1974, Création Baumann has operated a neutralization plant for the further processing of the alkaline wastewater produced during the dyeing process. Thanks to this plant, no additional chemicals are needed to meet the legally stipulated wastewater limit values. Moreover, wastewater samples are taken on a daily basis.

#### **EXHAUST AIR**

Thanks to the whirling washer described earlier, exhaust fumes are purified of all harmful substances.

- CLEAN WASTEWATER
- CLEAN EXHAUST AIR
- RECYCLING IN PRODUCTION AND OF PACKAGING MATERIALS

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STANDARDS



Création Baumann has introduced industry-relevant standards on corporate as well as on product level.

In the year 2000, our production site in Langenthal was ISO 14001 certified. The ISO 14001 standard is based on guidelines published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), according to which organizations can improve and systematize their environmental management systems. The requirements are of generic nature and can therefore be implemented in line with a company's specific standing. A central requirement towards companies wishing to be certified is that they define a holistic and strategic framework for the continuous improvement of environmentally sound processes, which in turn calls for the corresponding definition of an environmental policy as well as the statistical recording of key figures. In order to obtain the ISO 14001 certification, the company's environmental management system must be audited by an independent certification body.

Création Baumann wishes to ensure improvement continuously and therefore has itself ISO 9001 certified. The ISO 9001 standard certifies the establishment of an integral quality management system allowing for further improvements with regard to quality and sustainability – across the entire value creation chain of a company.

Création Baumann strictly avoids any harmful residues in its products. Thanks to the Oeko-Tex Standard 100 certification, customers are immediately informed of this and can thus rest assured that they have acquired a product of high quality that bears no risks to their health.

- ISO 14001 AND ISO 9001 CERTIFIED
- OEKO-TEX STANDARD 100
- CO2 & KWH REDUCED

# TRADITION AND INNOVATION



Création Baumann has always embodied innovation power and extreme professional know-how that are constantly put to use to ensure product innovation and improved production conditions. In addition to serving as the basis for sustainable company management, this also forms a solid foundation for continuous innovation based on our knowledge and experience.

A brilliant example of this is our revolutionary line of self-adhesive fabrics, “Gecko”, that combines the traditional art of weaving with the innovative power of self-adhesive textiles. Moreover, Gecko is a particularly sustainable solution, because it can be used over and over again thanks to its self-adhesive silicon coating.

Création Baumann intentionally invests in such innovative solutions, even though they may require much time to penetrate a market. The long-term success justifies this strategy.

Notwithstanding, at Création Baumann, innovation is not limited to products alone: not only the neutralization plant for its dyeing mill raised standards in the field of waste-water processing early on: investments in an electrostatic filter, in our whirling washer, and in digital printing technologies are all excellent examples of ecological, state-of-the-art solutions distinguishing Création Baumann from other manufacturers. In certain fields, Création Baumann exceeds the legal minimum requirements by far.

- **PRODUCT INNOVATION “GECKO”**
- **ECOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS**

## A SOCIAL-MINDED EMPLOYER



With its staff of 220 employees in Langenthal, Création Baumann belongs to the region's most important and attractive employers, thus contributing to the economical development and success of the Langenthal site. The company endeavours to provide training, apprenticeships, and jobs to the youth as well as sponsoring local cultural and sports events in order to express the closeness of its ties with its region of origin.

#### **STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND PROFIT SHARING**

Given the fact that social issues are of great significance to ensuring sustainability, Création Baumann has opted for a long-term economic and ecological orientation. The company attaches great importance to the further development of its employees and therefore supports their further vocational training systematically.

Committed staff is the critical factor for the long-term entrepreneurial success of Création Baumann. This is why the success of Création Baumann should also benefit them.

#### **WORK AND FAMILY LIFE**

Because working parents often find it hard to reconcile family life and work obligations, Création Baumann attempts to define solutions together with staff, allowing for employees to enjoy gratifying careers and nevertheless spend sufficient time with their families. Therefore, Création Baumann offers its employees exceptional social benefits to ensure their long-term well-being and consequently, that of the company as well.

#### **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY**

Création Baumann attaches utmost importance to guaranteeing occupational safety and health protection within the company by reducing risks and dangers at the workplace, ensuring staff training with regard to safety at work, and making available to employees comprehensive protective equipment. Legal requirements are not only met – employees are provided with the best possible equipment to ensure their health and safety. The use of new technologies reduces possible dangers at the place of work. Thanks to the use of Trevira CS, for instance, fabrics no longer need to be submitted to additional chemical processing to ensure their flame resistance.

- EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FURTHER VOCATIONAL TRAINING
- PROFIT SHARING
- SUPPORTING EMPLOYEES WITH REGARD TO ENSURING  
: A GOOD WORK & LIFE BALANCE
- OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY GOING BEYOND THE LEGAL  
: REQUIREMENTS

# “FOR A FOURTH GENERATION PROPRIETOR-RUN COMPANY, SUSTAINABILITY IS A MATTER OF COURSE”

PHILIPPE BAUMANN, OWNER



climate neutral print  
by Druckerei Feldegg, Switzerland



This brochure is climate-neutral and was printed on FSC-certified paper. The fresh fibres contained in the paper are of socially and environmentally sound origin and those emissions produced during printing will be neutralized by well-targeted savings in other fields.

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Création Baumann is renowned for high quality textiles for interior design. Thanks to our in-house design studio and our own production facilities, unconventional creations are possible. Our offer comprises customized solutions and interior shading systems as well as light control, dimming, and sound absorption solutions. Création Baumann is also synonymous with the extravagant: 600 different designs in 6,000 different colours.

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