



FARE - Guenther Fassbender GmbH | Stursberg II 12 | 42899 Remscheid

Ihr Zeichen | Your reference

Ihr Schreiben vom | Your letter dated

Unser Zeichen | Our reference

Datum | Date

ABE

20. Januar 2021

## The ÖkoBrella Family - Focus on naturalness and sustainability

- 5029 Mini umbrella ÖkoBrella
- 5095 Mini umbrella ÖkoBrella
- 5429 Mini umbrella ÖkoBrella with automatic open/close function
- 1122 Regular umbrella ÖkoBrella with automatic function
- 1134 AC regular umbrella ÖkoBrella
- 7379 Midsize bamboo umbrella ÖkoBrella with automatic function
- 9159 Mini umbrella ÖkoBrella Shopping

Dear Sir or Madam,

Many thanks for your e-mail/enquiry.

We are pleased to give you further information as follows.

Due to their complexity and globalisation, the commodity/raw materials/supplier parts/resource flows in our supply chain cannot be 100% influenced by us. In order to preserve the transparency of our supply chain with regard to social standards and to achieve improvements, in 2013 we became a member of the amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative).

amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative) is an enterprise-driven business initiative committed to improving working conditions in factories around the world.

The initiative supports us in our efforts to improve working conditions and fundamental human and employee rights in manufacturing countries and to demonstrate our efforts to do so.

However, in order to document our responsible corporate ethics, we have gone one step further by having the factories we work with in the Far East audited in accordance with the guidelines and rules of the amfori BSCI (Business Social Compliance Initiative). Of course, these include the factories in which our above articles are produced. These have been successfully audited and have a valid amfori BSCI audit result. Unfortunately, due to competition law, we cannot forward you the individual audit reports, but confirm their validity on the basis of the evidence available to us.

Our long-term supplier and business relationships have contributed to the construction of modern manufacturing facilities where our products are manufactured today. This shows that our suppliers are reliable and sustainable partners.

A careful supplier selection is very important to us.

In the following, we would like to give you an insight into the production process of our ÖkoBrella umbrellas and start with yarn production.

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For our above umbrellas, we use yarn that is made of recycled plastics; so-called post-consumer material. This refers to materials that come from plastic products of households, institutional facilities or industrial plants and can no longer be used for their intended purpose. This includes material that comes from returns from the distribution chain.

The plastics are washed, sorted, pressed and processed into granules. The resulting secondary raw material is ground and heated up. The molten plastic is pressed into threads in a melt-spun process, and is then woven into a polyester fabric.

The yarn producer has been inspected and assessment according to the Global Recycle Standard (GRS) Version 4.0. The yarn meets the requirements of this standard.

The Global Recycle Standard (GRS) is an international, voluntary product standard that sets requirements for independent certification of recycled materials, the product chain, social and environmental practices, and chemical restrictions. This product standard reviews the recycled content of the finished or intermediate product and ensures that the chemical, environmental and social regulations in production are met. The Global Recycle Standard (GRS) was originally developed in 2008 by Control Union Certifications. Responsibility was transferred to the Textile Exchange on 1st January 2011.<sup>1</sup>

The spinning mill we work with weaves the yarn to make our umbrella covers. The chemical safety of the polyester mesh is confirmed by an OEKO-TEX test and subsequent certification with test symbol award according to the standard 100 by the company Hohenstein HTTI.

This sustainable manufacturing process reduces the ecological footprint by:

- reducing environmental pollution,
- saving fossil fuels,
- and reducing CO2 emissions.

The handle of our 5429, 7379 umbrella models are made of bamboo. We deliberately chose to use bamboo because a renewable resource is important to us.

Bamboo is a grass that grows very fast and hardly needs fertilizers, pesticides or artificial irrigation methods in cultivation. This makes it the ideal raw material because the immediate impact on the environment is low.<sup>2</sup>

For our articles 5029, 1122, 1134 the handle is based on eucalyptus wood. Eucalyptus belongs to the myrtle family. For us, it is crucial that eucalyptus is a very rapidly growing renewable resource and is not subject to species protection. The protection of biodiversity comes first in our purchasing decisions regarding the type of wood.

The handle of our article 5095 consists of about 20% recycled plastics. In the injection moulding production, plastic parts, for example, which arise as a reject when a handle is removed from the mould, are melted down at the next production slot and used for the production of other plastic components, such as handles.

<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://certifications.controlunion.com/de/certification-programs/certification-programs/grs-global-recycle-standard>

<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.btn-europe.de/pdf/dokumente/rohstoffe-der-zukunft.pdf>





However, this is not fully possible without constraints, since both the stability of the handle is very important, and the chemical safety must be guaranteed at all times. The handle represents the connection between the person and umbrella and must neither break nor release pollutants.

We also focus on longevity in the selection of umbrella frames. The frames of our ÖkoBrellas 5029, 5095, 5429, 7379, 9159 are equipped with a high-quality windproof system for maximum frame flexibility in stronger gusts of wind and our articles 1122 and 1134 have windproof features for greater frame flexibility. Our careful use of materials and our processing methods are crucial for stability and quality. In doing so, we are meeting the need for the development of durable products that prove their worth in everyday use and protect you from rain in the long term.

Not only in terms of cover and handle - our ecological concept of the ÖkoBrella family also applies to packaging: the transparent umbrella sleeve for protection during transport is made of compostable film. The above-mentioned umbrellas are provided with a hangtag made of recycled paper and jute cord, so the idea of the "green" umbrella is fully implemented.

Our compostable plastic film, made of PBAT and PLA based on corn starch, has been certified as industrially compostable by DIN CERTCO. The basis of the test is the following certification program: Products made of compostable materials (DIN tested) (last update: 2017-10) DIN EN 13432:2000-12.

DIN CERTCO certifies biodegradable products and verifies and documents the compostability of products in industrial composting plants.<sup>3</sup>

The hangtag on our umbrellas is made from recycled paper. After use, it can be added to the recycling cycle, creating a new raw material for the paper industry.

Waste paper recycling has a long tradition in Germany and is today more efficient than ever before.<sup>4</sup>

We have already implemented many sustainability measures and yet there is still a lot to do. We are happy to face this challenge and keep you informed about new developments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

**FARE - Guenther Fassbender GmbH**

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<sup>3</sup> Source:

[https://www.dincertco.de/de/dincertco/produkte\\_leistungen/zertifizierung\\_produkte/umwelt\\_1/industriell\\_kompostierbare\\_produkte/industriell\\_kompostierbare\\_produkte.html](https://www.dincertco.de/de/dincertco/produkte_leistungen/zertifizierung_produkte/umwelt_1/industriell_kompostierbare_produkte/industriell_kompostierbare_produkte.html)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Source: <https://www.gruener-punkt.de/de/altpapier-entsorgen-papierrecycling.html>