



CSR REPORT 2023

optiswiss

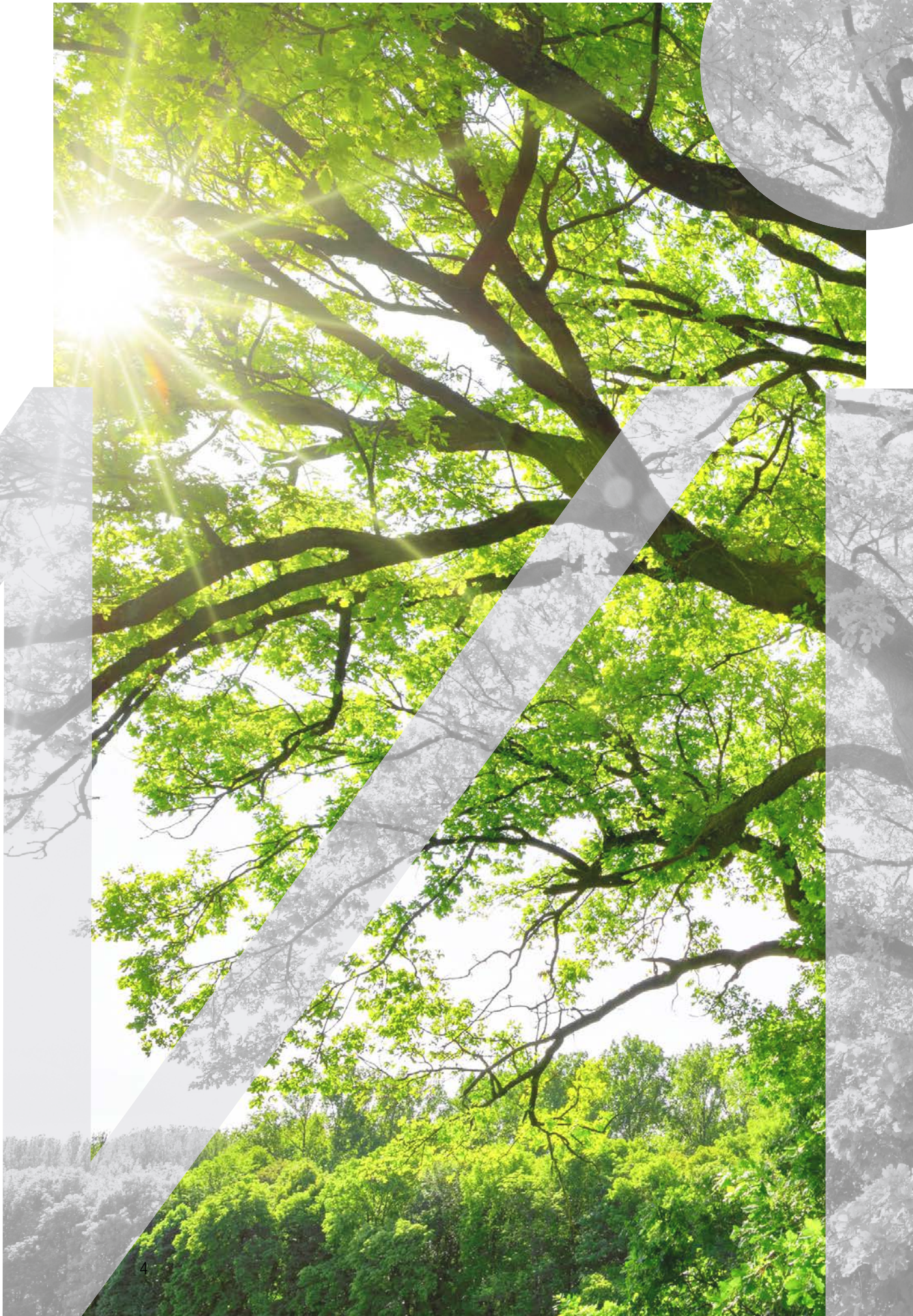
A landscape photograph featuring a rocky foreground and a mountain range in the background. A circular inset on the right side provides a magnified view of a mountain peak, showing its rugged texture and the warm, golden light of a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is bathed in a soft, warm glow.

**DETAILS.
AS FAR AS THE
EYE CAN SEE.**

CSR Report 2023

Optiswiss

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OVERVIEW

Optiswiss has been committed to energy efficiency and CO₂ reduction for many years, both in the company and its manufacturing processes. Over the past few years, the energy consumption per 1000 prescription lenses produced (custom prescription manufacturing RX) has been continuously reduced. In close collaboration with Industrielle Werke Basel (IWB) and the Energie Agentur Wirtschaft (EnAW), the certificate accepted by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy is reviewed and confirmed annually.

Significant milestones in the social responsibility of Optiswiss include: new heat recovery processes and infrastructure facilities. These ensure greater efficiency and require significantly less energy per 1000 lenses produced than before. We also use 100% renewable energy from Swiss sources provided by IWB. All lenses are produced with energy from sustainable electricity generation, which represents a major step for us towards the continuous improvement of the CO₂ balance in lens manufacturing.

Already implemented and ongoing projects demonstrate that reducing the energy consumption per 1000 lenses produced is achievable. Further projects and ideas will continue to contribute to continuously optimizing the balance and stabilizing it at a high ecological and economic level.

We strive for a sustainable, long-term corporate policy in which sustainability holds a firm and valuable position. Optiswiss aims to fulfill the CSR standards of ISO 26000 to further strengthen the sustainability concept.

Optiswiss increasingly considers the social environment of its employees, suppliers, and partners. The company is committed to social justice, balance, and the development of its employees.

Our Swiss innovation is tangibly sustainable and offers visible added value down to the finest detail. It goes without saying that all Optiswiss lenses are CE-compliant and manufactured according to the latest requirements under the Medical Device Regulation (MDR).

ENERGIE AGENTUR WIRTSCHAFT (ENAW)

Optiswiss has been collaborating with Industrielle Werke Basel (IWB) and the Energie Agentur Wirtschaft (EnAW) for over 10 years to implement more sustainable and economically efficient energy practices. Our goals for improved energy efficiency are regularly assessed and monitored.

For over 20 years, EnAW has been working with businesses to promote economic climate protection. They offer customized solutions for continuously optimizing energy and resource efficiency. With over 100 EnAW consultants who are well-versed in various industries and sectors, they ensure cross-industry expertise. They competently accompany businesses on the path to reducing CO₂ emissions, lowering costs, and enhancing energy and resource efficiency.

Source: www.enaw.ch

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Optiswiss aims to continuously optimise, reduce and sustainably design its energy requirements in the production of spectacle lenses at its Basel site. The energy consumption in kWh (kilowatt hours) is documented through IWB (Industrielle Werke Basel) and can be compared with the goals and data of EnAW (Energie Agentur Wirtschaft) against other industrial facilities. To make the success and economic viability within Optiswiss comparable over the years, energy consumption in kWh per 1000 produced prescription lenses is calculated, and the change is represented in percentage.

Over a 10-year period, Optiswiss has achieved an improvement of **-31.7%**. One of the largest influences on this optimization has been the implementation of a sophisticated heat recovery system, which resulted in a significant reduction of **-98.7%** in fossil fuel consumption. This investment was crucial for improving Optiswiss's CO₂ footprint. Over a 5-year period, we have achieved a reduction of **-18.8%** in kWh consumption. This improvement was made possible through targeted energy management, regular monitoring, and optimization of equipment (e.g., compressed air systems). Additionally, facility construction was improved, and a sensible and optimized light source density was established.

In the past 5 years, Optiswiss has exceeded the energy savings targets set by EnAW for comparable industrial facilities by an average of **43%**.

Source: Energy report EnAW

WATER CONSUMPTION

Reliable water supply and a secure water cycle for cleaning and cooling are essential for lens production. Wherever technically feasible, Optiswiss utilizes closed-loop and recyclable water systems. Consumed water undergoes rigorous filtration, separation, and meticulous monitoring before being returned to Basel's municipal water cycle.

Over a 10-year period, the required water amount has been reduced by **-32.9%**. Over a 5-year period, a reduction in water consumption by **-29.6%** has been achieved. The implementation of a modern centrifuge and centralized, closed-loop supply for grinding and polishing machines has significantly enhanced internal water management practices.

Source: IWB Dates

An aerial photograph of a circular pond with dark blue water, surrounded by a lush green forest. The text "ENGAGEMENT. DOWN TO THE FINEST DETAIL." is centered over the pond. A white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

ENGAGEMENT.
DOWN TO THE FINEST DETAIL.

PURCHASING

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES FOR LENS DELIVERIES

The typical transportation method for semi-finished and finished lens products is sea freight. 87.5% of all materials originate from Asia. Optiswiss has established ample warehouse space and made financial pre-investments, enabling flexible inventory management. This warehouse capacity allows Optiswiss to manage nearly its entire inventory via sea freight, facilitating larger batch orders that significantly improve the CO₂ footprint per 1000 lenses.

12.5% of goods are sourced from European countries. Optiswiss promotes the possibility of sourcing goods within Europe in order to reduce transport distances and minimise environmental impact.

Over a 5-year period, air freight shipments from our main eyeglass suppliers have consistently remained low. The weight share of air freight shipments was a **maximum of 5%** (2021) and a **minimum of 1%** (2022). The majority of deliveries have been conducted via **environmentally friendly sea freight**. Comparable data for a 10-year period is not available.

Source: MAV Dates



Reduction of the CO₂ footprint in brief:

- CO₂ emissions related to the sea transport of semi-finished products and warehouse lenses have been reduced by more than 50% (from 2021 to the end of 2023).
- The savings per 1000 distributed lenses were estimated at 6.7 kg of CO₂ (from 2021 to the end of 2023).

TECHNOLOGY

GREEN POWER

Optiswiss has decided to transition to Green Power for electricity supply in the coming years. Therefore, starting from January 1st, 2024, we exclusively source **energy from sustainable electricity generation**. A corresponding contract has been signed with IWB.

PROCESSES FOR REGULAR INSPECTIONS

For special equipment such as compressed air generation, processes for regular inspection have been revised and optimized. Infrastructure is modernized or repaired as needed (e.g., eliminating leaks). This has extended the compressor startup time, i.e., the time between startup and reaching minimum pressure, by 32.5%, resulting in lower energy consumption.

HEATING PROGRAMS

Heating programs have been individually adjusted and optimized based on room function and usage to ensure optimal temperatures at the right times within our facilities.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Systems for equipment that is rarely or never needed are decoupled. Old systems have been replaced with new, more efficient systems when necessary (e.g., centrifuges).

MAINTENANCE PLANS

The maintenance of equipment, coupled with continuous testing, has been critically reviewed and revised. The adjusted maintenance activities are documented in plans. For example, very energy-intensive tests for coating systems were adapted from a 2- to an 8-week cycle – without any loss of quality in terms of stability and production results.

REDUCTION IN LIGHTING

The lighting situation, including quantity and luminous intensity, is regularly reassessed. New energy-efficient lighting solutions are systematically implemented.

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE KNOW-HOW

Ensuring a smoothly operating infrastructure with high efficiency is crucial for our lens production. Therefore, the technical maintenance team has been reinforced with specialists in compressed air and HVAC (heating/ventilation/air conditioning) systems.

PROCESS OPTIMIZATION AT ALL LEVELS

All Optiswiss employees are encouraged to critically examine processes and workflows within the company and propose optimizations, regardless of the impact on effort, costs, and benefits. Following this philosophy, for instance, the use of specific auxiliary materials in production was reduced by 40% through the adoption of reusable cloths.



SALES MANAGEMENT

ROUTE PLANNING

Optiswiss's Sales Management employs software for route planning across all countries, aiming to minimize time on the road and optimize vehicle energy use.

VISITS TO OPTICIANS AND TRADE SHOWS

Whenever possible, Sales Managers are provided with hybrid vehicles (Toyota) for visits to specialty stores. For trade show visits, carpooling is encouraged, and public transportation is utilized where feasible.



MARKETING

PRINTED MATERIALS

Reducing printed advertising materials is a central focus for the Marketing team at Optiswiss. For example, significantly fewer paper mails are produced, and digital versions are used instead. Brochures are increasingly being made available online, offering the advantage of rapid updates.

Visiting cards now include a QR code that customers and partners can scan directly, eliminating the automatic need to exchange physical cards. This reduces consumption and promotes reuse.

To protect popular microfiber cloths during transport, the conventional plastic packaging has been replaced with recyclable paper packaging.

TRADE SHOW BOOTH

The Optiswiss trade show booth utilizes a modular concept, allowing flexibility in size and appearance tailored to specific needs. All modular components are designed for individual reuse and are made from recycled and sustainable materials wherever possible.

DIGITAL – AS MUCH AS NECESSARY, AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE

Optiswiss emphasizes digital communication channels and advertising while ensuring not to overwhelm customers and partners with excessive advertising and informational emails. Personal interaction with our customers and partners remains equally important to us.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES, PROJECTS, AND IDEAS



E-BILL

Mostly implemented: Invoices are sent to recipients in a modern and environmentally friendly manner via electronic data processing.

LENS AUTHENTICITY CARD ON DEMAND

Currently, lens authenticity cards are still printed automatically for every order. We are exploring the possibility of opticians proactively choosing the lens authenticity card. In the event that the optician does not require the lens authenticity card, Optiswiss will refrain from printing an individual spectacle pass.

REMOTE EDGING

The number of lenses delivered already pre-cut to a specific shape will be increased. This approach will enhance the utilization of our milling machines, contributing to ecological efficiency gains.

ISO 26000

Optiswiss aims to operate according to ISO 26000 guidelines in the future and fully establish ISO 26000 requirements.

CSR OUTLOOK

Optiswiss aims to meet CSR guidelines by 2025 and pursue recognized CSR labels in the industry. Many requirements have already been firmly established, and additional guidelines are under development. Optiswiss sees this as a significant opportunity to strengthen sustainability principles for stability, security, and economic viability.

CSR-PERSPECTIVE

We aspire to a long-term corporate policy aligned with sustainable development. Therefore, Optiswiss strives to adhere to CSR guidelines according to ISO 26000 to solidify sustainability concepts. The AFNOR certificate also confirms that "Optiswiss AG is in the evaluation process according to the Label Engagé RSE framework" (CSR-Engaged Label), with the first audit scheduled for June 2024. Further points are also under development.

WASTE SEPARATION

All Optiswiss employees are required to prevent waste as far as possible and to dispose of any waste produced in the correct manner, both in operational processes and in their personal handling of a wide variety of materials. Large containers are available in the warehouse, and smaller labelled boxes are placed in break rooms.

- Cardboard and paper are exclusively sent for recycling.
- Metals are collected separately by type and sent for recycling.
- PET bottles are collected separately and regularly picked up by specialized companies at Optiswiss for recycling.
- Production waste from ophthalmic lens manufacturing is filtered, dried and collected separately in a container and fed into heat production as a valuable raw material.



EMPLOYEE STRUCTURE

Employees at Optiswiss are international. We maintain a respectful and professional tone, focusing on constructive criticism, adaptation, and development.

- People from 29 nations work in our company, most of whom are from France (83).
- Most employees fall within the age range of 43–53 years (77), followed by those aged 32–42 years.

Age	Number
21–31	41
32–42	63
43–53	77
54–64	55
65+	2

- As of today, 238 people work for Optiswiss AG. Among them, there are 130 women and 108 men. 173 people commute to work by car, while 65 use public transportation or primarily work from home. Currently, this represents a public transportation usage rate of 27.3%.

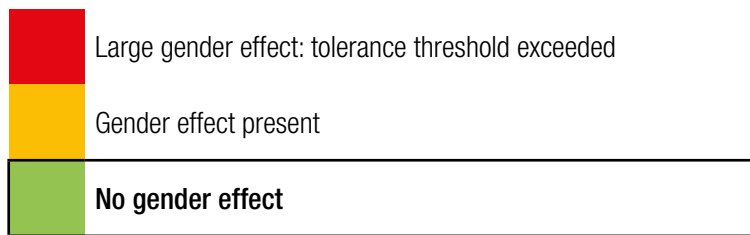
Employee	Number
Total of	238
Women	130
Men	108



PAY EQUITY ANALYSIS

Optiswiss uses "logib" (standard analysis tool) to conduct pay equity analyses. The last survey was conducted in May 2021, when there were 204 employees counted.

Taking into account differences in qualification characteristics and job-related factors, no gender effects were found that are outside tolerance levels (compared to similar production facilities).



Contextual Information on the Analysis

All calculations were conducted using the standard analysis model provided by the federal government. The basis for the analysis is the total standardized full-time earnings for 204 employees, comprising 115 (56.4%) women and 89 (43.6%) men in the reference month of May 2021.

It can be noted that there have been no changes made to Optiswiss' wage policy since then. The increase in male and female employees has also been roughly equal.

FURTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

As part of the annual employee discussions, Optiswiss offers every employee the opportunity to propose further training measures. If the employees have a meaningful and beneficial value for the company and for the employees' work, a corresponding implementation will be examined.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Optiswiss organizes a summer event for all employees featuring a culinary and cultural program, fostering interaction among colleagues. Annual small gifts for Easter, St. Nicholas Day, and Christmas are tokens of appreciation from Optiswiss to bring joy to all employees. Additionally, Optiswiss arranges a Christmas brunch and a skiing day.

All Optiswiss employees have the opportunity to purchase 5 pairs of glasses per year at generous special conditions, which they can use for themselves, family members, or friends. Furthermore, a voucher for a free pair of glasses including lenses is included in the Christmas gift.

The Basel Carnival is a UNESCO cultural heritage event. To enable employees to participate, Optiswiss offers an additional paid holiday. Employees who do not participate in the carnival can use this day at any other time.

To ensure employees have optimal liquidity, Optiswiss typically pays salaries by the 24th of each month, but in December, they are paid by December 15th.

Optiswiss wants to strengthen the feeling of togetherness in production and provides employees with standardised Optiswiss shirts.

Through the "Inputs/Praise/Criticism" suggestion box, every employee has the opportunity to communicate concerns or feedback to the management, either anonymously or with their name.

MEETING SPACES

Optiswiss provides its employees with a large and small break room. Lunch can be prepared in the large room using crockery provided by Optiswiss in the microwave ovens or hotplates provided. Snack vending machines are also available, which are managed by the company Rose.

Employees can access fresh water with or without carbonation, as well as hot water for tea, from dispensers provided by BWT, free of charge.

Seasonally, fresh fruit is available free of charge in the large break room.



INTERNAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Optiswiss places a high emphasis on safety, particularly within production and throughout the entire building. In every department and shift, there are employees trained as first aiders or fire wardens. Escape routes are clearly marked, and in case of emergency, a fire alarm system (smoke detectors in every room) with sirens would alert everyone promptly. Every new employee receives safety training to understand emergency procedures. In the event of evacuation, a designated assembly point known to all employees has been established. Naturally, Optiswiss has a comprehensive fire safety and security concept in place.

Employees handling chemicals undergo specialized training (external courses) and are provided with appropriate protective clothing. Each employee is entitled to personal protective equipment (PPE) according to their role.

A safety kit with an integrated defibrillator is available at the main entrance of the Optiswiss building. It automatically connects to the emergency services in Basel when opened. Additionally, a first aid room equipped with a stretcher is set up. Each department has a first aid kit provided by SUVA (Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund).

OCCUPATIONAL PENSION (BVG)

Optiswiss offers a 60/40 contribution split instead of the standard 50/50 for occupational pension (BVG). This means the employer covers 60% of the contributions, providing employees with sustainable financial relief.

CERTIFICATES

Current certificates held by Optiswiss include:

- Energy Certificate 2022 EnAW
- ISO 9001: 2015 (DQS)
- PET Recycling Switzerland
- Compliance with the official industry solution "Safety and Health Protection s+s" (EKAS No. 1), introduced by EKAS (Swiss Federal Coordination Commission for Occupational Safety).

Certificates being pursued:

- CSR-Engaged Label
- ISO 26000



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