

Standard Criteria and Labelling

GOTS Regional Round Table

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Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)



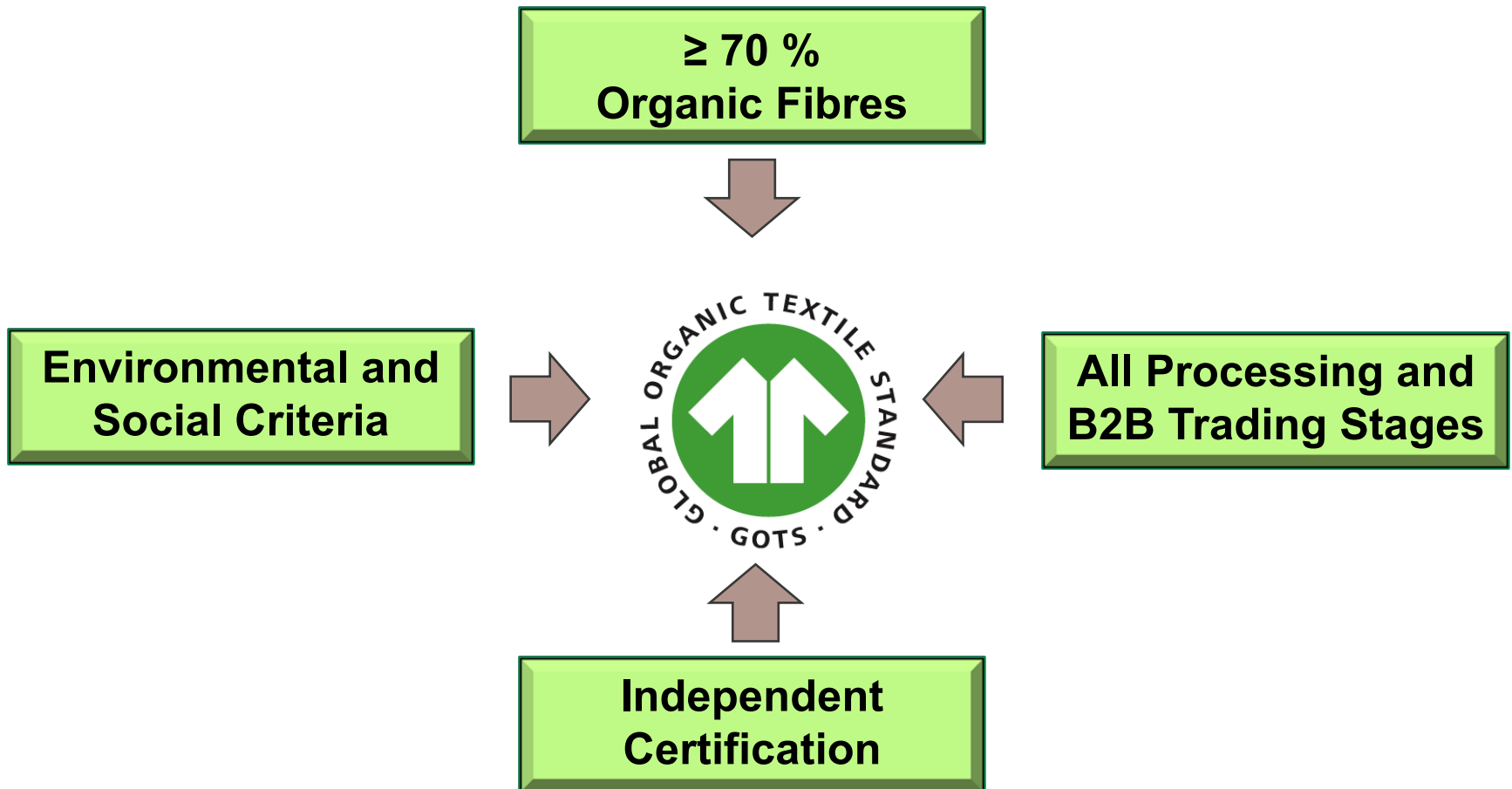
- **Processing Standard for textiles made from certified organic fibres.**
- **Environmental & Health Criteria**
- **Chemical Criteria**
- **Social Criteria**

- **Entire Supply Chain Covered**
- **ISO Type I Standard**
- **Independent 3rd party Certification**
- **Verifiable, Identifiable and Traceable.**

GOTS was formed through a Harmonisation process



Basic Features of GOTS



GOTS official documents (relevant)



- **Standard (ver 5.0)**
- **Implementation Manual (ver 5.0)**
- **Licencing and Labelling Guide**
- **Labelling release form**

Sections in the Standard



1	Principles, Aim, Scope
2	Criteria for Fibres, Chemicals, Processing, Additional Materials, Environment Management & Products
3	Social Criteria
4	Quality Assurance
Annex A	Personal Care Products
Annex B	Definitions
Annex C	Abbreviations

Entry Level Criteria for Organic Fibres



Approved organic standards are:

- **Regulation (EC) 834/2007**
- **USDA National Organic Program (NOP)**
- **National Programme for Organic Production (India)**
- **China Organic Standard GB/T19630**
- **Any standard*** approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards

** For the relevant scope of production (crop / animal production)*

Basic Key Criteria for Additional Fibre Use



(Balance 30% or 5% content)

- **Non-GMO Natural Fibres (except angora)**
- **Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers**
(25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)
- **Maximum 30% of recycled synthetic fibres**

2.3 Requirements for Chemical Inputs



- **Section 2.3.1 : Prohibited and restricted inputs**
- **Section 2.3.2 : Requirements related to hazards and toxicity**

Requirements are not to be seen as comprehensive or inclusive.

Section 2.3 : General Requirements for Chemical Inputs



2.3.1 Prohibited and restricted inputs

- Solvents
- Flame Retardants
- Chlorobenzenes
- Chlorophenols
- Complexing agents, Surfactants
- Endocrine disruptors
- Formaldehyde
- GMO based inputs
- Heavy Metal Free
- MAK III, categories 1,2,3,4
- Functional Nano-particles

2.3.1 Prohibited and restricted inputs (contd.)



- **Organotin Compounds**
 - **Plasticizers**
 - **PFCs**
 - **Quaternary Ammonium Compounds**
 - **SCCPs**
-
- **Any internationally or regionally (legally) restricted or prohibited substance or preparation.**
 - **Reference to REACH**

2.3.2 Requirements : hazards & toxicity



Prohibited are inputs

- **With specified hazard or risk classification**
- **Bio accumulative and not rapidly degradable**
- **Toxicity, Biodegradability & Eliminability restrictions.**

Section 2.4 : Requirements in Processing



- **Separation & identification of GOTS and other material within premises and transport**
- **Use of only GOTS approved chemicals**
- **Use of synthetic sizes restricted.**
- **Pre-treatment : No ammonia, no chlorine bleach. Allowed - GMO free enzymes.**
- **Colourant selection criteria. No Phthalates, no chlorinated plastics (PVC), no natural dyes derived from red list of IUCN.**
- **Only mechanical or thermal finishing. No antimicrobial finishes, coatings, filling, stiffening, weighting.**
- **No sand-blasting.**

Section 2.4.9 Additional materials & accessories



Virgin Polyester is not permitted as a blend fibre for GOTS certified products.

- **Non GMO cotton** (including conventional cotton) **except conventional cotton**
- **All animal fibres** (wool, silk, mohair, cashmere, alpaca, llama, vicuña, guanaco, rabbit, camel, yak, goat, etc.)
- **Regenerated fibres** allowed only non-GMO, sourced from certified raw materials following sustainability principles.
 - **Viscose / modal** : max 30%*
 - **Lyocell & protein fibres** : max 30%
- **Recycled synthetic fibres** (polyester, polyamide, polypropylene & polyurethane only) : max 30%
- **Virgin synthetic fibres** (polyamide / polypropylene / polyurethane fibres only) allowed up to 10%*

** Allowed max 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear.*

Section 2.4.10 & 11, 12, 13 Management matters



- **Certified Entity (Production site) must have an environmental policy**
- **Waste water must be treated before discharge.**
- **COD (discharge water) must not exceed 20g/kg of processed textile.**
 - Using waste water guidelines such as from ZDHC has been encouraged (ref : manual)
- **Care must be taken in storage / packing and transport.**
- **Record keeping and internal QA systems are mandatory.**

Environment Criteria- Textile Companies



- **Energy & Water Consumption** **Data must be available**
- **Waste & Discharges**
- **Sludge Disposal**
- **Staff Training**
- **Max COD content of discharged water: 20 g/kg of textile output**
- **pH of discharged water 6 to 9**
- **Max Temperature of discharged water 35°C**
- **GOTS Monitor (Water/Energy) may be used.**



Storage, Packing, Transport & Record Keeping



- **Contamination with non organic products is prohibited**
- **PVC in packing materials is prohibited**
- **Paper/cardboard in packing has to be FSC Certified or recycled**
- **Records relevant to the inspection must be kept for at least 5 years**
- **Pesticide/ Biocide use in storeroom/ transportation has to be only in accordance with International/ National Organic Production Standard**

Transaction Certificates



- **Transaction Certificates (TCs) are obligatory for each change of ownership**
- **Multiple shipments can be covered in a single TC for same buyer and same supplier for a period up to 3 months and up to 100 shipments.**
- **Wholly owned subsidiaries of a retailer are exempt from TCs for change of ownership within the subsidiaries.**
- **TCs not necessary between certified entity and subcontractor, but should be issued on request.**

2.4.14 : Technical Quality Parameters



- **Quality parameters for all GOTS goods.**
 - **Colourfastness**
 - **Dimensional Stability**



2.4.15 & 16 : Residue Limits



- **The GOTS RSL for GOTS goods**
- **The GOTS RSL for additional fibres and accessories**



3.0 Social Criteria



- **Extensive rules to cover Social Criteria in GOTS certified entities.**
- **More elaborate criteria in version 5.0.**
- **Ethical Business Behaviour is now a requirement.**
- **Use of Social criteria tools such as the *SAI Social Fingerprint®* is encouraged**



Social Criteria



- 3.1 All manufacturing processes covered. Mention of Farm Level compliance.**
- 3.2 Employment is freely chosen.**
- 3.3 Freedom of association and right to collective bargaining**
- 3.4 Child Labour**
- 3.5 No discrimination**
- 3.6 Safe & Hygienic working conditions**
- 3.7 Fair remuneration**

Social Criteria- Audit Considerations



Certification programs of which the results should be considered and recognized in the course of GOTS inspection:

- **Fair Wear Foundation (FWF)**
- **Social Accountability 8000 (SA 8000)**
- **Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)**
- **Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)**

4. Quality Assurance System



- **Audits / inspections at all stages**
- **Testing of technical quality parameters and residues**
 - **Established procedures**
 - **Risk Assessment.**
 - **Not doing anything is NOT an option.**

Who needs to be certified?

- **Processing and Manufacturing**



- **Processors and manufacturers: certification according to GOTS based on annual on-site inspection is obligatory**
- **All stages starting from ginning (cotton)¹⁾, spinning, knitting, weaving, wet processing (pre-treatment, dyeing, printing finishing), manufacturing, packing and labelling must be certified.**

1) stages considered as first processing step that must be GOTS for other natural fibres listed in the Manual, chapter 4.1

Who needs to be certified?

- **Trading and Retailing**



- **Traders (incl. import, export and wholesale entities): certification is obligatory, if:**
 - they become proprietor of GOTS Goods (= buy and sell them, B2B) with an annual turnover of at least €5000*
 - they are engaged with (re-)packing or (re-)labelling of GOTS Goods*
- **Retailers: certification is required only if:**
 - *they have – beside their retail activity – a B2B trade activity*
 - *they are engaged with (re-)packing or (re-)labelling of GOTS Goods*

Licensing System and Product Labelling



Licensing system



- **The GOTS logo may be used as on-product and consumer label to market GOTS certified textiles**
- **Intermediate Textiles (like yarns, fabrics etc.) may also carry the GOTS logo**
- **Additives suppliers can mention about GOTS approval status in text.**
- **Suppliers of GOTS Additives may use the logo after payment of additional 'Additives License Fee' and design approval from their certifier, while the letter of approval is valid.**

GOTS Licensing and Labelling Guide



- **New issue released on 8th May 2017**
- **Sets requirements for the correct on-product and off-product logo application and GOTS references**
- **Provides explicit clarification under which conditions GOTS labelling and referencing is not permitted (to eliminate misinterpretation and misuse)**
- **Allows the possibility of Combined Product labelling.**
- **It is a requirement that labels must be approved by Certifiers using an appropriate label release form**

Labelling – Visible commitment to the end consumer



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GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE STANDARD
CERTIFICATION
LICENSING & LABELLING
PUBLIC DATABASE
How to use it
Search for producers and products
INFORMATION CENTRE
ABOUT US

SEARCH

This search form is suitable to search through all data sets contained in the GOTS public database. In order to narrow down the search results, search terms can be entered in several or all search fields at the same time. To understand the functionality of the data base it is proposed to first read through the section "How to use it".

Free text

Product categories

Field of operation

Country

Search

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Label Grades



**Using 95 – 100%
organic fibers:**



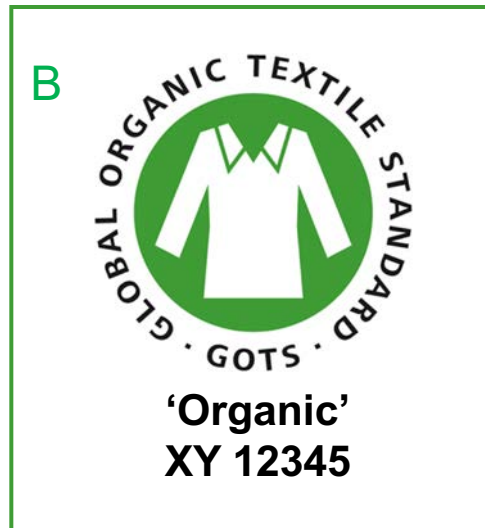
**Using 70 – 94%
organic fibers:**



Samples for correct and complete labelling



Product name can be added to label grade 'organic'



Shortest labelling option possible; ref. to certifier can be part of the license number



Black/white version; Label grade 'made with organic' correct (70-94% organic fibre)

Samples for incorrect and incomplete labelling



„100% organic“ is not an allowed label grade;
Reference to certifier missing



Garment should be white or natural grieege;
License number missing



Old GOTS logo!;
Label grade is “made with (70%) organic...”

Right or Wrong ?



Example of a Combined Product Label



COMBINED PRODUCT

[name of component]
certified to GOTS



'Organic'

Certified by [certifier's ref.]
[licence number]



Representative photograph only.

Licensing and Labelling Guide : Logo use option for suppliers of additives



- **Producers or suppliers of GOTS Additives may choose to use the GOTS logo for informative and/or advertising purposes **under certain conditions.****
- **Use of the GOTS Logo is allowed on lists of approved GOTS Additives with a reference to the approving Certifier on payment of an additives licence fee**

Protection



- **Trademark – GOTS Logo**
- **Complaint Procedure – forms available online**
 - **36 official complaints in 2017 (most related to trademark violations / misrepresentation)**
- **Legal action**
 - **Printers in Germany**
 - **US companies legal action**
 - Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH v. Keetsa, Inc.
 - Civil action vs Mattress Companies
- **GOTS certification bans**
 - **Extreme cases with Entities that wilfully do not follow GOTS requirements**
- **Protection Officer**

Annexure to GOTS Standard



Personal Care Products can be certified

- **Topical products**

- Cotton wool
- Female hygiene products : Sanitary Napkins
- Bandages / dressings / plasters

- **Invasive products**

- Tampons
- Dental rolls
- Surgical swabs

Check list for retailers to ensure they receive GOTS certified and labelled textiles



- Ask the direct **supplier** (manufacturer or B2B trader/ wholesaler) for its **valid GOTS Scope Certificate** before ordering
- Explicitly **order** GOTS certified and labelled textiles from this supplier
- Ask for **Transaction Certificates** for the whole quantity of GOTS goods purchased (on the TCs the supplier must be noted as seller and the retailer himself as buyer)
- Check that the **GOTS labelling is complete** (contains logo, label grade, certifier ref. and license number). Ask for label release if required.



GOTS: Recognition



✓ USDA

- **_policy memorandum_ (May 20, 2011) explicitly recognizes GOTS and its label grade 'organic': "Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S." Note that this does not entitle use of the USDA seal.**

✓ IFOAM

- **endorses GOTS as the minimum reference for organic textile processing. The endorsement letter (April 23, 2014) includes the recommendation to governments not to start development of redundant standards and regulations but to make references to GOTS as processing standard for textiles labelled 'organic.'**

✓ Greenpeace International

- **Textile Procurement Policy (October, 2012) states that all cotton-based textiles used by volunteers, activists, or staff must be certified to GOTS or the equivalent.**

GOTS & the UN SDGs



- In relation to textile industry, **more than 11 SDGs** are covered in GOTS
- GOTS provides **robust framework** to evaluate company's sustainability claims
- Well-placed to become an **evaluation tool** for SDG implementation by the supply chain
- Being a Multi stakeholder, dynamic sustainability standard, GOTS can serve as a **measure of progress** against the SDGs for textile companies



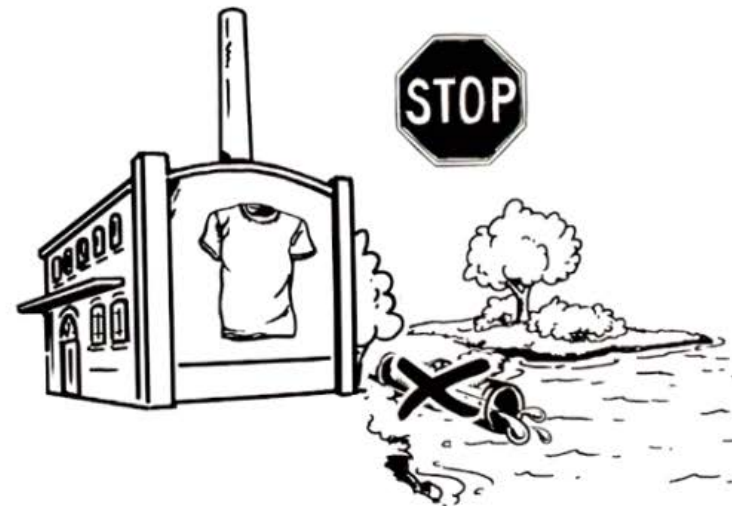
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



Challenges for GOTS



- **GMO Contamination**
- **Shortage of Non GMO Seeds in some growing countries.**
- **Limited awareness about labour rights and social compliances in production countries.**



The GMO Challenge



- **GOTS is a Processing Standard and not a Farm Standard**
- **GMO testing is not secure at this moment within the GOTS supply chain.**
- **GOTS is working towards mitigating this situation by initiating a ISO-IWA (International Workshop Agreement) through the NEN for a test guideline.**
- **Includes laboratory evaluations.**

The Standard can only grow with you.



- **Contribute to the Standard.**
 - **Be part of the revision process through stakeholders.**
 - **Report violations if and when observed.**
 - **Contact our representatives with questions.**

**Thank you for your
support!**



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**Questions?
During the Q&A session.**

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