



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD  
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



**COMPARE!**  
**FROM FIELD**  
**TO FASHION**

95% of cotton seed market is controlled by GM giants

Farmers are locked into costly contracts and have little control

Cotton is usually grown as a monocrop, destroying soil quality



Farmers are free to save seeds and choose what they grow

Soil is nurtured, making it viable for the long term

Organic cotton is grown alongside food which feeds the farmers



16.1% of the world's insecticides, and 5.7% of total pesticides, are used in cotton production, poisoning people and the environment

77 million agricultural workers suffer poisoning from pesticides each year

83% of manufactured nitrogen fertilisers used on crops end up in the environment

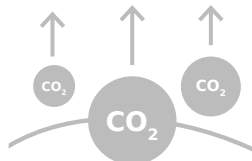


Hazardous pesticides are banned in organic cotton production, making it safer for growers

**ON THE FARM**



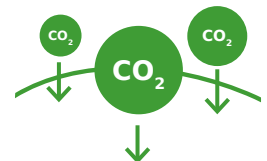
High energy and water use



Higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub> are released into the atmosphere



Less energy and water use



Farming methods lock CO<sub>2</sub> into the soil. Growing organic cotton produces up to 94% less greenhouse gas emissions

There are no mandatory checks at conventional factories which produce clothes for high-street brands



All factories are regularly inspected and certified to strict social criteria, meaning no forced labour and no child labour



The use of toxic dyes and processing substances is widespread, including chemicals banned in the EU

Greenpeace found local water ways polluted by hazardous and persistent hormone-disrupting chemicals

One-fifth of water is used to dilute pollution

**AT THE FACTORY**

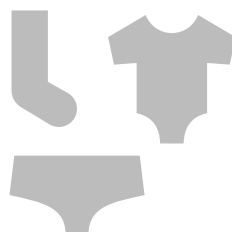


With certification to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) the use of hazardous chemicals is prohibited, and all waste water is treated, protecting workers and their water supplies. All chemicals must meet strict toxicity- and biodegradability rules

Tests on clothes revealed traces of toxic dyes, which could be absorbed through the skin

These may cause allergies, rashes and respiratory problems

Babies are most vulnerable as they are still growing



**ON YOUR SKIN**

Certification covers all stages - from field to fashion

Allergenic, carcinogenic or toxic chemical residues are not allowed in GOTS certified clothes

Trust only GOTS Goods with Logo + License No. + Labelgrade - verifiable by the GOTS database





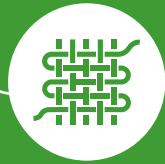
# GOTS COMPARE! FROM FIELD TO FASHION



FIRST PROCESSING  
STAGES



SPINNING



WEAVING AND KNITTING



WET-PROCESSING



MANUFACTURING



TRADING

→ **What is GOTS?** The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is recognised as the world's leading processing standard for textiles (clothing, home textiles, and personal care products) made from certified organically produced raw materials. It includes strict environmental and social criteria for operations along the entire textile supply chain. GOTS is recognised in all markets around the globe and the numbers are growing; in 2019 more than 7.700 facilities were certified to GOTS.

→ **What's the problem with textile processing?** Textile processing results in the often inadequately treated discharge of toxic chemicals into the air and water, as well as hazardous workplace situations. We all 'live downstream' and share the same water and air, and workers making products for us deserve our respect. GOTS prohibits the use of the kinds of chemicals commonly used in textile processing that can cause cancer, birth defects and other serious illnesses. Chemicals, like persistent hormone-disrupting substances, also destroy eco-systems and biodiversity on an international scale. GOTS requires that all dyes and auxiliaries are assessed to its strict criteria and approved prior to their usage.

→ **Why is certification to GOTS a good idea?** While it is an important step in the right direction, the use of organic materials alone is not enough. When using organically produced materials, farm workers and the environment are protected. When manufactured without using hazardous chemicals, factory workers and the environment are protected. When there are no harmful residues in the end product, consumers are protected.

→ **What are organic raw materials?** Organic is a system of production with national standards for environmental protection and animal welfare. Organic raw materials include organic cotton, silk, flax (linen), and wool.

→ **Can only organic raw materials be used in GOTS-certified products?** As a textile processing standard, GOTS does not set its own criteria for organic farming but rather requires that the materials used must be of certified organic origin according to a recognised farming standard. Only textile products made from at least 70% (label grade 'made with organic') or 95% (label grade 'organic') certified organic raw materials can become GOTS-certified.

→ **If I see the GOTS logo, what does it mean?** To be sure a product really is GOTS-certified you should be able to see a reference to the GOTS label grade ('organic' or 'made with organic'), the reference to the independent certification body, and the licence number of the certified entity. Consumers can trace the certified company by entering the licence number (or company name) provided on the GOTS labelling in the 'free text field' of our certified suppliers database. Look for the label - don't accept self-claims.

→ **What about a statement that the yarn (or fabric) in a finished product is GOTS certified?** This is only a self-claim as only finished products may be certified to GOTS (see above). Thus, you cannot be sure this claim is true.

→ **What kinds of worker-oriented provisions are in GOTS?** Workers are not exposed to toxic chemicals when working with GOTS-certified inputs and practices. In addition, the GOTS social criteria are based on the International Labor Organization (ILO) key conventions, which include a ban on child and forced labor and provisions, such as having systems in place to prove they are addressing social concerns, such as grievances. Furthermore, GOTS requires fire prevention training and evacuation drills.

→ **What about animal husbandry?** As it is a textile processing standard, GOTS does not set its own criteria for organic farming. Rather, it requires that at least 70% of the fibers used must be of organically-certified materials that would have had to be managed to organic animal husbandry standards. These rules can be found in the applicable national standards - the EC Organic Regulation 834/2007 (incl. implementation regulation EC 889/2008), the USDA National Organic Program regulations, and other standards in the IFOAM Family of Standards.

→ **Is GOTS an official standard?** GOTS is a voluntary standard so it is not regulated by a governmental body, but rather managed by a non-profit organisation. However, it is supported by the U.S. government which requires that textile products claiming to be organic in the U.S. be certified to the organic food standard or GOTS.

→ **How do products/companies become certified to GOTS?** GOTS is a product certification, meaning that finished products claiming to be GOTS certified must meet all GOTS criteria. In addition, all facilities involved in the production of such goods must be certified. The certification is undertaken by an independent GOTS-approved certification body and facilities are inspected regularly.

→ **What can I do to improve the problems with textile processing?** Become a 'change agent!' Choose GOTS-certified products when making your purchases. If you can't find such products at your favourite stores, ask the manager to carry such products, or contact your favourite brands or retailers directly to ask them to 'GO GOTS!'

→ **Watch the GOTS Simple Show Clip (< 4 min)**

