



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ADVISORY RETAIL GROUPS

1. PREAMBLE

Retail Groups consist of affiliated or contractually linked companies, all of which are wholly owned subsidiaries and serve the sole purpose of retailing for the same brand. Within the group, business-to-business (B2B) trading transactions may occur before the actual retail sale to customers (B2C).

GOTS certification is not obligatory for such Retail Groups regardless of trading, storing and/or warehousing activities within the entire Group, provided that they do not engage in (re)packing, (re)labelling, or any other physical interventions on the purchased final GOTS goods.

However, Retail Groups may choose to voluntarily seek certification under GOTS by following a customised certification procedure as detailed in the subsequent sections.

2. CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

The following guidelines should be followed when a Retail Group intends to obtain GOTS certification:

- The Retail Group shall designate a “central unit” within the Group as the main holder of the GOTS Scope Certificate.
- The Scope Certificate shall list (under the “facility”) all other wholly owned subsidiaries¹ involved in the physical, administrative, or legal transfer of the purchased GOTS Goods across the Retail Group.
- The “central unit” shall possess, document and record all traceability information of the purchased GOTS Goods, e.g. purchase orders.
- An annual inspection shall be conducted by the certifier as per GOTS criteria.
- Annual inspections may be conducted on-site and/or remotely for all or some of the listed facilities based on the certifiers’ risk assessment.
- Annual entity fees shall apply to the main holder of the Scope Certificate and all listed facilities, whether audited remotely or on-site.
- Certification may cover different geographies and regions provided the same Certification Body covers operations of all subsidiaries in their assessment.

3. LABELLING AND CLAIMS

Any claim, advertisement, or reference to GOTS can only be made if the final retail product bears the complete GOTS labelling.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

Immediate.

¹ This applies to all units except for the retail units where the actual sales to consumers (B2C) take place.¹