GOTS ADVISORY
ACCESSORY APPROVAL PROCEDURE UNDER GOTS

December 20, 2023

1.1 GOTS has received a number of requests from Approved Certifiers and accessory manufacturers seeking clarification regarding the voluntary approval procedure of accessories through the issuance of a GOTS Letter of Approval.

1.2 The purpose of this advisory is to provide guidance on the current requirements for applications and assessments of accessory approvals by GOTS Approved Certifiers.

1.3 Accessory approval through a GOTS Letter of Approval (LoA) is not mandatory. However, accessory producers who wish to obtain GOTS Letters of Approval may apply to a GOTS Approved Certifiers to be assessed under the relevant GOTS requirements.

1.4 In accordance with GOTS, accessories used on GOTS Goods shall meet certain criteria as defined in Sections 3.3.1 and 5.2.8 of GOTS V 7.0.

1.5 Accordingly, the following procedure shall be followed for the accessory approvals:

a) Applications shall be submitted to any GOTS Approved Certifier accredited to GOTS Scope 1 (certification of mechanical textile processing and manufacturing operations and their products).

b) Applications shall be assessed as per Section 3.3.1 - Allowed and Prohibited Accessories and Section 5.2.8 - Limit Values for Residues in Additional Fibres and Accessories, in GOTS 7.0.

c) For the layout and format of the Letter of Approval, general guidelines provided in the relevant sections of the Policy for Issuing Letters of Approval for GOTS Additives shall be referred to and the Template for Issuing Letters of Approval for Accessories shall be used.

1.6 Please note that accessories cannot be certified but can only be approved under GOTS. Therefore, relevant Sections 5.1.1.2, a and g; 5.1.2.2, e and f; 5.2.1.1, from a to d and f; 5.3.2.2, d in Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies V3.0 shall be applicable.

1.7 Unlike chemical approval procedure, there is no requirement for onsite inspection or audit of an accessory manufacturer at this time.

1.8 This advisory is effective as of the date of release on the GOTS Website.

1.9 GOTS will continue to review and improve the accessory approval procedure.

In case of questions or further clarification please contact kalayci@global-standard.org.

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1 Latest versions of all referred documents shall always be applied.