



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD  
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# CHANGE LOG

## MANUAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOTS

VERSION 8.0

THIS CHANGELOG LISTS THE MAJOR CHANGES *MADE IN THE  
MANUAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOTS*  
FROM VERSION 7.2 TO VERSION 8.0

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Reference from Manual 7.2	Reference from Manual 8.0	RELEVANT CHANGE(S)
Front Page	Front page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dates and the Version Number have been updated.</li> </ul>
P.i	P.i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The document history has been updated.</li> <li>The Vision and the Mission of Global Standard have been updated as per the Standard.</li> </ul>
Table of Contents	Table of Contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The table of contents has been reviewed and updated, including new subsections and further guidance and explanation.</li> </ul>
Title, p.1	Title, p.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The title has been updated from version 7.0 to Version 8.0.</li> </ul>
1.2.1	1.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the INTERPRETATION table, points <b>c</b> and <b>d</b> have been modified in the following manner for clarification and further strictness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. "A textile fibre product, final or intermediate, can only be certified and labelled "organic" or "made with organic material" as a whole. It is not possible to certify and label only a part or a component of a product."</li> <li>d. "Consumer products that are normally not classified as textile fibre products but containing textile fibre components, such as prams with textile fabrics, bassinets, car seats or furniture with textile fabric upholstery, may also be certified as a combined product. Combined products shall be labelled as per <i>Conditions for the Use of Signs - GOTS</i>, as "Combined Product (name of component) certified to GOTS", ensuring no ambiguity about which component of the final product is certified. Products that are certifiable to GOTS as a whole (e.g. textile bags, cotton buds, mattresses) cannot be considered for certification as a combined product."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.2.8	1.2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
2.2.1 Further Guidance	2.2.1 Further Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new paragraph providing FURTHER GUIDANCE on first process certification has been included as follows: "Should a field-level retting process be explicitly included and considered as part of the farm organic certification, the GOTS Certifier may certify the subsequent processing stage as the first process under GOTS, on the condition that the retting process does not pose harm to the ecology."</li> </ul>
2.2.2	2.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>INTERPRETATION</b>, point e. has been modified for consistency with appropriate cross references.</li> <li>Under <b>GENERAL GUIDANCE ON CERTIFICATION</b>, the paragraphs from "Where verifiable results (audit reports) [...]" to "[...]" from any of the mentioned internationally recognised social compliance schemes are available." have been deleted.</li> </ul>
2.2.5	2.2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>INTERPRETATION</b>, a new paragraph on Virtual Inspections, with a cross-referenced footnote, has been added.</li> <li>Under <b>INTERPRETATION</b>, paragraph 6 has been rephrased, adding "<b>over GOTS Goods</b>" for clarification.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under <b>INTERPRETATION</b>, a new reference has been added: “For the registration process, please follow the guidance given in the document Implementation Guidance for Registration of Traders.”</li> <li>• Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, a new paragraph has been added to elaborate on the methods and means involved in conducting remote audits</li> </ul> <p><b>“ Guidance Related to Remote Audits</b></p> <p>Remote audits and inspection activities can be considered as either “partial”, when only some parts are conducted remotely, or “full”, when all parts are completed remotely.</p> <p>Remote audits or inspection activities may be conducted as per the direction given in one or a combination of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Off-site desktop review: When documentary evidence or data is submitted for review by a competent authority audit/inspection team to confirm required activities have been undertaken or outcomes achieved. These data could include photographic and/or pre-recorded video footage.</li> <li>b. Virtual audit: Where a competent authority uses electronic means to obtain audit evidence remotely, including video conferencing, accessing local IT systems, real-time video streaming, and evaluate it objectively in order to determine the extent of conformity to the audit criteria, just as during an on-site audit.</li> <li>c. Live video-streaming: When live video footage is streamed from an audit or inspection site guided by an auditor or inspector of the competent authority observing real-time operating conditions.”</li> </ol>
2.7.8	2.7.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the <b>GUIDANCE</b> on “Labelling of GOTS Goods sold in retail is mandatory”, the first paragraph has been replaced by the following guidance: “In the absence of GOTS labels on retail products, no claims, advertisements, or references to GOTS shall be allowed.”</li> </ul>
3.1 3.2	3.1 3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated <b>GUIDANCE</b> on qualitative testing of GMO-derived cotton fibre, replacing the test method ISO IWA 32 with ISO 5354-1/-2. A transitional timeline has also been provided.</li> </ul>
3.2	3.2.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 4, 5:</b> A new guidance has been included for the verification of “certified organic feedstock” and “non-GMO”.</li> <li>• A Further Guidance has been included elaborating on the “<i>Fibre Purity for Recycled Fibres</i>” as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>“It is recognised that mechanically recycled natural and/or synthetic materials may contain unintended fibre traces as contamination. Such contamination may either result from inherent limitations in the recycling process, or may not be detectable through standard testing methods, making precise fibre identification and quantification challenging.</i></li> <li>• <i>Such unintended contamination shall only be considered for mechanically recycled materials, categorised as “others” in GOTS documents e.g. Transaction Certificates.</i></li> <li>• <i>Virgin polyester fibres shall not be added Intentionally.”</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.3	3.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the section 3.3.2, A, <b>MATERIALS IN GENERAL</b>, a new guidance elaborates on the parameters and testing requirements concerning “decorative glitters” has been added as follows:</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The use of decorative glitters shall comply with the following restrictions:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Prohibited Glitter: insoluble and non-biodegradable glitters shall not be used.</i></li> <li>b. <i>Permissible Glitter: soluble*, biodegradable**, natural, or inorganic glitters may be used only.</i></li> <li>c. <i>Testing for solubility and biodegradability:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <i>Determination of polymer solubility test – Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 Annex XVII Appendix 16, OECD Guideline 120</i></li> <li>** <i>Biodegradability testing – Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 Annex XVII Appendix 15, OECD Guideline 301B</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Section 3.3.2, C: the GUIDANCE has been reworded for an improved clarity.</li> </ul>
4.1.1 (i)	4.1.1 (i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 1 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (i)</b>, a reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.2 Embedding Responsible Business Conduct (Step 1)”</b> has been added.</li> <li>• <b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
4.1.1 (ii)	4.1.1 (ii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 2 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (ii)</b>, two new requirements have been inserted under point 3 of the GUIDANCE: “The Certified Entity shall use multiple sources of information” and “The Certified Entity shall conduct suppliers’ assessment in a gender-sensitive manner.”</li> <li>• All the recommendations under a. b. and c. of the <b>GUIDANCE</b> have been modified replacing “should” to “shall”.</li> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 2 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (ii)</b>, a reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.3 Identifying and Assessing Adverse Impacts (Step 2)”</b> has been added.</li> <li>• <b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
4.1.1 (iii)	4.1.1 (iii)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 3 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (iii)</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under point <b>1</b> of the GUIDANCE, two new requirements have been added: <b>“The Certified Entity shall cease actions that are causing or contributing to harm and take immediate steps to stop existing adverse impacts in its own operations”</b>, and <b>“The Certified Entity shall consult international standards and guidance when developing preventive measures.”</b></li> <li>▪ Point <b>2</b> modified for clarity. A timeline for the mitigation plan has been requested, and a set of explanatory requirements on how to use leverage to influence a supplier to prevent or mitigate impacts have been added.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All the requirements under a. and b. of the <b>GUIDANCE</b> have been rephrased for clarity to better align with the OECD guidance documents.</li> <li>• <b>Six new detailed requirements have been added to reflect the leverage CEs can use to cease, prevent or mitigate risks. The requirements have been phrased as follows:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall implement control measures to prevent contributing to harm through its purchasing practices even if it has not identified specific instances of this. There is a system of procedures to follow in instances where purchasing practices could contribute to harm.</li> <li>▪ When appropriate, the Certified Entity disengages from the supplier to prevent adverse impacts on its supply chains.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If the Certified Entity determines the need to disengage from the supplier, it complies with national laws, international labour standards, and terms of collective bargaining agreements.</li> <li>▪ If disengaging from a supplier, the Certified Entity provides information supporting the business decision to management and the union (if one exists) of the supplier.</li> <li>▪ If disengaging from a supplier, the Certified Entity gives the supplier sufficient notice of the end of the relationship.</li> <li>▪ As long as a Certified Entity has an ongoing relationship with a supplier, it demonstrates its efforts to mitigate the identified adverse impact(s).</li> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 3 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (iii)</b>, a reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.4, Cease, Prevent and Mitigate Adverse Impacts (Step 3),”</b> has been added.</li> <li>• <b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
4.1.1 (iv)	4.1.1 (iv)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 4 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (iv)</b>, the requirements have been rephrased for clarity to better align with the OECD guidance documents.</li> <li>• The word “verify” has been modified with “validate” in the last requirement under a.</li> <li>• The wording “[...] including by updating and implementing corrective action plans where appropriate. and seeking external guidance.” has been added under the last guiding requirement under b.</li> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 4 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (iv)</b>, a reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.5 Tracking Implementation and Results (Step 4),”</b> has been added.</li> <li>• <b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
4.1.1 (v)	4.1.1 (v)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 5 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (v)</b>, three new requirements have been added under points <b>1</b> and <b>2</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity's communications shall be in a form and frequency reflecting its human rights impacts.</li> <li>▪ The Certified Entity's communications shall provide sufficient information to evaluate the adequacy of its response to human rights impacts within the Certified Entity's operations and supply chain.</li> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall communicate with its workers, trade unions, and representative organisations of the workers' own choosing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All the requirements under a. and b. of the <b>GUIDANCE</b> have been rephrased for clarity to better align with the OECD guidance documents.</li> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 5 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (v)</b>, a reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.3 Identifying and Assessing Adverse Impacts (Step 5)”</b> has been added.</li> <li>• <b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
4.1.1 (vi)	4.1.1 (vi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the implementation of Step 6 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (vi)</b>, some additional <b>GUIDANCE</b> is provided under point 1: “An operational-level grievance mechanism is a</li> </ul>



		<p>formalised means through which individuals or groups can raise concerns about the impact a Certified Entity has on them – including, but not exclusively, on their human rights – and can seek remedy,” and <b>“The Certified Entity’s grievance mechanism shall not undermine the role of local grievance mechanisms, including judicial and non-judicial mechanisms and the role of trade unions in addressing labour disputes.”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the requirements under a., b. and c. of the <b>GUIDANCE</b> have been rephrased for clarity to better align with the OECD guidance documents.</li> <li>Under the implementation of Step 6 of the Due Diligence Management Process, <b>4.1.1 (vi)</b>, a reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.3 Identifying and Assessing Adverse Impacts (Step6),”</b> has been added.</li> <li><b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
N/A	4.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GUIDANCE</b> on implementing <b>4.1.5</b> has been added to the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS 8.0.</li> <li>Under the implementation of <b>4.1.5</b> a new reference to the <b>“GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, (See Section 4.2.2 Strengthening Management Systems),”</b> has been added</li> <li><b>REFERENCES</b> to the OECD Guidance Documents have been updated to ensure accuracy.</li> </ul>
N/A	4.1.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>GUIDANCE</b> on implementing <b>4.1.11</b> (i.e., internal audits) has been added to the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS 8.0.</li> <li>New <b>REFERENCES</b> have been included.</li> </ul>
4.2.6.2 (b) (c)	4.2.2.2, B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wording has been improved for clarity underlining its approval under GOTS “Paraffin, being directly applied to fibres or yarns during production, shall be considered as a chemical input and shall be subject to the approval process in Section 7 of GOTS.”</li> </ul>
4.2.6.3	4.2.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Terminology aligned</b> to standard prohibition language for “ PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) <b>shall not be used</b> as a backing material for embroidery.”</li> </ul>
4.2.6.4 (a)	4.2.2.4, A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>An exception</b> has been added on the use of PT11 preservatives for hydroentanglement processes as follows “Biocidal active Substance(s) that comply with European biocidal products regulation (BPR 528/2012) and are listed on the Union list of BPR for product type PT11 (preservatives for process system), which are exceptionally allowed may be used for hydroentanglement process.Final product shall comply with the general GOTS residue criteria, Section 5.2.7.”</li> </ul>
N/A	4.2.2.5, B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification has been provided under the <b>INTERPRETATION</b> as follows “Chlorine-Based Bleaching (e.g., Sodium Hypochlorite, Chlorine Dioxide) shall be prohibited. Only oxygen-based bleaching chemicals can be used.”</li> </ul>
4.2.6.6	4.2.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A, (2), The wording under the guidance has been aligned with the new terminology “ allergenic potential and classification as skin sensitising (H317)...”</li> </ul>
4.2.6.7	4.2.2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wording has been updated from as follow “<i>The following disperse dyes which have been indicated as sensitising may be used, provided that strict Occupational Health and Safety measures are implemented,</i></li> </ul>



		<i>including appropriate safe handling procedures in accordance with the applicable Safety Data Sheets (SDS)”</i>
N/A	4.2.2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new GUIDANCE has been incorporated concerning the use and certification of transfer prints including the printer, transfer paper (carrier) and the inks.</li> </ul>
4.2.6.9	4.2.2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional clarification has been included as follows“ Section 8 of GOTS shall be referred for the definition and limits for “heavy-metal free.”</li> </ul>
4.3.1.2	4.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The INTERPRETATION section has been fully redrafted in line with updates and for greater clarity: <i>“Non-processing Certified Entities (e.g. traders) should address the environmental topics that are appropriate to the nature and scale of their activities. GHG emissions arising from their own operations (e.g. office energy use, lightning, heating, and business travels) as well as emissions linked to their supply chain should be considered. The written Environmental Policy should typically include the approach used to identify the emission; plans to reduce energy consumption (e.g. efficient lighting, switching off equipment, energy-efficient appliances); consideration of renewable electricity where available; measures to reduce GHG emissions from business travel (e.g. remote meetings, low-emission transport); sustainable purchasing of office equipment and consumables.”</i></li> </ul>
	4.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new <b>INTERPRETATION</b> section has been added note requiring Certified Entities to retain documented evidence of legal compliance: <i>“Certified Entities shall maintain documented evidence to demonstrate compliance with applicable legal requirements and shall implement corrective actions where non-compliances are identified.”</i></li> </ul>
4.3.1.3 (a)	4.3.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement in GOTS 8.0, Section <b>4.3.5.1</b> has been rephrased.</li> </ul>
4.3.1.3 (b) and (c)	4.3.9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement in GOTS 8.0, Section <b>4.3.9.1</b> has been rephrased.</li> <li>Under <b>FURTHER GUIDANCE</b>, please note that the relevant tool is currently under revision.</li> </ul>
	4.3.9.3.2 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>GUIDANCE</b> has been added for the calculation method of renewable energy share:</li> <li>“The calculation method for renewable energy share (including treatment of purchased instruments such as certificates, where applicable) and boundaries (electricity/thermal) shall be documented.”</li> </ul>
4.3.1.7	4.3.10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The subsection has been rephrased and retitled as <b>4.3.10.1</b>.</li> <li>Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, additional globally recognised frameworks have been added for further guidance.</li> </ul>
N/A	4.3.10.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further <b>GUIDANCE</b> for air pollution is provided to alignment with WHO: Alignment with established health standards WHO’s Global Air Quality Guidelines (2021) <b>REFERENCE</b> has been added to explain the type of Greenhouse Gas (Kyoto Protocol and Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol)</li> </ul>
	4.3.11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New <b>GUIDANCE and REFERENCE</b> have been included concerning GHG emissions management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>GUIDANCE</b> is to clarify expectations for risk-based identification, quantification and progressive reduction of GHG emissions (without introducing mandatory timelines/limits), encourage phased</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



		<p>extension from Scope 1–2 to relevant Scope 3 where feasible, and confirm alignment with recognised frameworks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>REFERENCE</b> and recommended public tool list is expanded/cleaned to include GHG Protocol, ISO 14064 series, IPCC EFDB, and UK Government GHG conversion factors.</li> </ul>
	4.3.11.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>GUIDANCE</b> has been included to clarify the GHG related reporting system and procedure.</li> </ul>
	4.3.11.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New <b>INTERPRETATION and REFERENCE</b> have been added to clarify that providing primary data is not a verified PCF; only PCFs calculated under a recognised PCF standard (and verified where applicable) may be presented as verified.</li> </ul>
4.3.2.1 4.3.2.2	4.3.13.3 4.3.13.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>new GUIDANCE</b> has been included concerning external ETP as follows “<i>where wastewater is wholly or partially treated in an external effluent treatment plant (ETP):</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>certified entity shall have a valid delivery contract with the operator of the external etp.</i></li> <li><i>the contract shall indicate the maximum wastewater quantity, parameters, and the related limits which shall be respected before discharging the wastewater to the receiving etp.</i></li> <li><i>the operator of the external etp shall be legally authorised via official permits to carry out the operations and continuously complies with applicable local and national legal requirements.</i>”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.3.2.3	4.3.13.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GUIDANCE has been reworded and edited for clarity.</li> </ul>
N/A	4.3.13.7, (a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GUIDANCE has been reworded and edited for clarity.</li> </ul>
4.3.2.4	4.3.13.7 (c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clarification statement has been included in the GUIDANCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Certified Entities shall ensure that treated wastewater complies with the following parameters and limit values.</i></li> <li><i>Where external ETPs are fully or partially used, all applicable national and local legal wastewater requirements shall not be lower than GOTS limits for discharged wastewater.</i></li> <li><i>In order to prevent wastewater contamination with Adsorbable Organic Halogens (AOX), GOTS takes a precautionary approach and requires chemical input-level assessment as set out in Section 7.2.3.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
N/A	4.3.13.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new GUIDANCE has been included as follows “<i>Certified Entities without a direct wastewater discharge systems, as listed under 4.3.13.6, GOTS, may follow ZDHC Wastewater and Sludge Guidelines for compliance to this section.</i>”</li> </ul>
N/A	4.3.14.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new GUIDANCE related to Waste Hierarchy has been provided and a reference has been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>“The waste hierarchy applies as a priority order in waste prevention and management as laid down in the EU waste framework directive (Directive 2008/98/EC).</i></li> <li><i>The Hierarchy is generally depicted in the form of an inverted pyramid with the most preferred options at the upper end and disposal at the bottom as the last-resort solution to managing waste.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Certified Entities shall base their textile waste management procedure on the priority activities as follows:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Prevention and Reduction: certified Entities shall take measures to prevent and reduce waste generation at source.</i></li> <li><i>Reuse: where prevention is not feasible, Certified Entities should prioritise reuse of materials and products. Reuse includes the continued use of materials in their existing form without fibre regeneration or chemical/mechanical reprocessing. This may involve direct reuse, repurposing, or upcycling, where waste materials are adapted, redesigned, or incorporated into new products while largely retaining their original material structure. Examples include reuse of textile off-cuts, yarn waste, or fabric remnants internally or through external channels.</i></li> <li><i>Recycling: where reuse is not possible, waste materials should be recycled in an environmentally sound manner.</i></li> <li><i>Recovery: where recycling is not technically or economically feasible, recovery options may be considered. Examples include energy recovery from non-recyclable textile waste, where allowed by law and carried out by authorised operators.</i></li> <li><i>Disposal: disposal shall be used only as a last resort where no higher-level option in the waste hierarchy is feasible</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>• <i>Any contractor handling with waste shall be legally authorised.”</i></li> </ul>
N/A	4.3.15.1 4.3.15.3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New GUIDANCE sections have been included for Packaging Criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Packaging information shall be documented by material type (e.g. paper, cardboard, plastic type) and quantity, enabling traceability and reporting.</i></li> <li>• <i>To support compliance with the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) (EU) 2025/40 for the European market, Certified Entities should target a minimum of 35% post-consumer recycled content in plastic packaging. Reference given to Regulation (EU) 2025/40</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.6.2.5	4.3.15.3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GUIDANCE has been reworded for clarity and consistency.</li> </ul>
	4.3.15.3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• INTERPRETATION section has been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>This section applies when a hanger is integrated into the final product unit and is intended by design to accompany the product to the consumer after the point of sale.</i></li> <li>• <i>Accordingly, these requirements for hanger do not apply to:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Intermediate products (e.g. yarn, fabric)</i></li> <li><i>Retailers using hangers solely for in-store</i></li> <li><i>Retailers whose hangers remain in-store and do not accompany the garment after the point of sale with the consumer.</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.6.2.6	4.3.15.3.10 (b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GUIDANCE has been reworded for clarity and consistency.</li> </ul>



4.4.1.3	4.4.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>INTERPRETATION</b>, providing the lists of international human rights instruments further to guide Certified Entities, the following Conventions and Recommendations have been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>UN General Assembly, International Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, 1577, UNTS 3 (1990), Arts. 28(1) et seq., 32</b></li> <li>▪ <b>R097 – Protection of Workers’ Health Recommendation, 1953 (No. 97)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>C120 – Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964 (No. 120)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>C148 –Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>C174 – Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>R181 – Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Recommendation, 1993 (No. 181)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>C187 – Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006, (No. 187)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>R205 – Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4.2	4.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further <b>GUIDANCE</b> is provided on Forced Labour, including two additional requirements, with the aim of ensuring that no forced labour occurs and better aligning with the OECD Guidelines on this human rights issue. This includes the wording of “...<b>zero-tolerance policy for forced labour</b>...” and “The Certified Entity shall consider risk factors for forced labour in the garment and footwear sector as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector.”</li> <li>New <b>REFERENCES</b> have been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930</b></li> <li>▪ <b>ILO, Indicators of Forced Labour, Revised Edition (2025)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4.3	4.4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, the first requirement has been rephrased for better clarity. Further, <b>GUIDANCE</b> is provided with two additional requirements to better align with the OECD guidelines and ensure better protection of the Rights of the Child, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall consider risk factors for child labour in the garment and footwear sector as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector.</li> <li>▪ <u>Workplace-based child monitoring committees may be an effective method of monitoring child labour.</u></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4.4	4.4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, the wording “[...] labour in its own operations and that of its suppliers.” has been added to the first requirement for clarity.</li> <li>A new requirement under <b>GUIDANCE</b> has been added, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall consider risk factors for sexual harassment and sexual and gender-based violence as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector.</li> </ul> </li> <li>A new <b>REFERENCE</b> has been added: <b>1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1249 UNTS 13 (1981)</b></li> <li>A <b>REFERENCE</b> has been removed: <del>ILO (2023) Manual on Grievance Mechanisms</del></li> </ul>



4.4.5	4.4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>REFERENCE</b> to the <b>1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1249 UNTS 13 (1981)</b> has been added.</li> </ul>
4.4.6	4.4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further, the <b>GUIDANCE</b> includes two additional requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall establish a clear policy prohibiting anti-worker practices in its own operations and across its supply chain</li> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall consider a description of anti-union policies and practices as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• A new reference has been added: <b>OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector (2018), pp. 146-151</b></li> </ul>
4.4.7.1	4.4.7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, a new requirement has been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall, to the extent possible, follow the <b>ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Textiles, Clothing, Leather, and Footwear Industries.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• An additional guiding requirement has been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Certified Entity shall provide for or co-operate in remediation where appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Two new REFERENCES have been added, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>C121 - Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 (No. 121)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>C187 – Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4.7.10	4.4.7.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Subsection number has been updated as there was an error under the IM 7.2</li> </ul>
4.4.7.15	4.4.7.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsection <b>4.4.7.15</b>: The requirement under GOTS 7.0 is now relocated under <b>4.4.7.17</b></li> <li>• <b>4.4.7.15</b> is now a new subsection under OHS of GOTS 8.0 on emergency responses to climate-induced hazards and worker well-being.</li> <li>• Further <b>GUIDANCE</b> is provided on different types of preventive measures and identifiable hazards, depending on the Certified Entity's location and activities.</li> <li>• Several references and reports provide further detailed explanations and tools to use in such cases.</li> </ul>
N/A	4.4.7.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4.4.7.16</b> is now a new subsection under OHS of GOTS 8.0 on climate mitigation and workers' well-being.</li> <li>• Further <b>GUIDANCE</b> and <b>INTERPRETATION</b> have been provided, with proper references from various international and intergovernmental organisations.</li> <li>• It provides a template for creating a climate mitigation plan and further information on the various environmental risks that may affect workers.</li> </ul>



4.4.8.2	4.4.8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, a new requirement has been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Certified Entity shall establish a clear policy ensuring that remuneration is paid in accordance with applicable laws and international standards on wages for all workers in its own operations and across its supply chain.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4.8.9	4.4.8.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As <b>4.4.8.9</b> has been adjusted under the Standard, further and new <b>GUIDANCE</b> has been provided, with proper references from various international and intergovernmental organisations and bodies to ensure appropriate estimates or calculations of Living Wages.</li> <li>A completely new set of <b>REFERENCES</b> has been added in line with recent international developments.</li> </ul>
4.4.8.10	4.4.8.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As <b>4.4.8.10</b> has been adjusted under the Standard, further and new <b>GUIDANCE</b> has been provided.</li> <li>A new <b>REFERENCE</b> to the <b>ISEAL’s Guiding Framework to Support Companies and Sustainability Systems to Make Credible Living Wage Claims</b> has been added.</li> </ul>
4.4.9	4.4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under <b>GUIDANCE</b>, within the first paragraph, the wording “...for industrial production...” has been added for greater clarity.</li> <li>Cross-references have been updated, to reflect the various changes in GOTS 8.0. A new Guiding requirement has been added, namely: “The Certified Entity shall consider factors that may drive excessive working hours at manufacturing as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector” to better align with the OECD guidelines.</li> </ul>
4.4.10	4.4.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>REFERENCE</b> has been changed to use the <b>ILO source: R198 – Employment Relationship Recommendation, 2006 (No. 198), paras. 1, 9 –13</b>;</li> </ul>
4.4.11	4.4.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with ongoing developments and the strengthened need to protect Migrant Workers, an explanation of The Dhaka principles is provided in the following manner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirements set out in Section 4.4.11 are based on the Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity. These principles provide a human rights-based framework for the ethical treatment of migrant workers throughout the migration cycle. The Certified Entity is encouraged to use the Dhaka Principles, particularly Principles 1 and 2 on equal treatment and ethical recruitment, respectively, as a reference point when developing policies, assessing recruitment practices and addressing the risk of exploitation and discrimination among migrant workers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Two new <b>REFERENCES</b> have been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) (2012), Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity</b></li> <li><b>Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB), Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, Six Steps to Responsible Recruitment: Implementing the Employer Pays Principle.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4.12	4.4.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new recent <b>REFERENCE</b> has been added: <b>ILO (2021), ILO Report: Working from home from invisibility to decent work (2021).</b></li> </ul>



4.4.13.5	4.4.13.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>REFERENCE</b> to the UN. (2011). Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework has been added.</li> </ul>
4.5.3	4.5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further <b>INTERPRETATION</b> is now provided on the requirement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Certified Entity shall adhere to the relevant OECD Guidelines.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.1.1	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Guidance on Quality Management System (QMS) has been expanded</b> to define a QMS and specify its key components, including quality policy, objectives, processes and procedures, roles and responsibilities, document control, performance monitoring, and continuous improvement, as well as complaint management, internal audits, incident documentation and monitoring, contamination risk assessment, corrective actions, and periodic management review.</li> </ul>
5.2	5.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GUIDANCE has been reworded for clarity and consistency.</li> <li>Terminology has been aligned with the changes in GOTS "Allergenic" to "Allergenic Potential/skin sensitizing"</li> </ul>
5.2.6	5.2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following guidance sections have been included under the INTERPRETATION: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"A clarification statement has been added "... shall remain identical to those defined for the corresponding primary test methods."</li> <li>Durability/robustness tests (F, G, H) shall be performed following five cleaning cycles, unless a different number of washing cycles is explicitly required by an applicable regulation (e.g. ESPR) or as required for a specific product category.</li> <li>ISO 6330 shall be followed and instructions specified on the care label shall be followed e.g. washing temperature</li> <li>Sellers of GOTS Goods should inform end-users of end-of-life options (e.g. repair, care or take-back services) made available by the seller."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
N/A	5.2.6 (I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GUIDANCE provides information on the monitoring of microfibre shedding / fibre fragmentation, including participation procedures, recognised test methods (ISO 4484-1/-3, AATCC TM 212, and The Microfibre Consortium (TMC) Test Method), and reporting requirements.</li> </ul>
N/A	5.2.7 and 5.2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new GUIDANCE on PFAS analysis is introduced, defining a stepwise approach including Total Fluorine screening using EN 14582:2016, ASTM D7359:2023, and EN 17813:2023 with a provisional limit of 50 mg/kg (ppm), a decision rule for triggering targeted PFAS analysis, and mandatory PFAS analysis in accordance with EN 17681-1:2025 (LC-MS/MS with alkaline hydrolysis), together with clarifications on methodological limitations, threshold rationale, and the interim nature of the approach.</li> </ul>
N/A	5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new GUIDANCE is introduced, providing guidance to Section 5.3 - clarifying the application of circularity requirements for GOTS Goods, including scope and responsibilities, conditions for GOTS references and claims, documentation.</li> </ul>
N/A	6.1.4.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An exemption has been provided allowing the use of CMC (carboxymethylcellulose) derivatives as processing aids for cotton buds under specified conditions as follows <i>"Exemption for cotton bud products: CMC (carboxymethylcellulose) derivatives of pharmaceutical or food grade quality, compliant with GOTS Sections 7.2.3 and 7.2.4 derived from non-GMO sources, may be used as processing aids without a GOTS Letter of Approval (LoA), provided they are applied at concentrations below 1% in the processing of cotton buds."</i></li> </ul>



N/A	6.1.4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new GUIDANCE has been included on chemical safety testing for tampon and absorbent hygiene products, specifying the application of the CWA 18062:2023 test method, clarifying its technical basis and relevance, and setting out residue limit compliance requirements with reference to GOTS residue limits and the EDANA Stewardship Programme. Reference has been included <a href="#">“EDANA Stewardship Programme for Absorbent Hygiene Products“</a></li> </ul>
4.2 4.2.1 4.2.2	7 7.1 7.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All existing requirements and guidance related to chemical input approval and chemical formulators have been repositioned under Section 7.</li> <li>Entire section of 7.1 and 7.2 have been reworded for improved clarity.</li> <li>General rewording applied: “Approved Certifier” replaced by “Approved Certification Body”</li> <li>The passage on the onsite audit cycle at Chemical Formulators has been removed and will be communicated once certain details have been clarified. .</li> </ul>
4.2.2	7.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entire section of 7.2.3 have been reworded for improved clarit and the listing order has been rearranged.</li> <li><b>1. AROMATIC AND/OR HALOGENATED SOLVENTS:</b> Trichloroethylene (79-01-6) contamination detection limits has been changed to 10 mg/kg.</li> <li><b>2 FLAME RETARDANTS:</b> The list of flame retardants has been expanded to include additional substances, including tris(methylphenyl) phosphate, 2,3-dibromopropan-1-ol (2,3-DBPA), chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs, MCCPs, LCCPs), chlorinated alkanes, hexabromocyclododecane isomers (<math>\alpha</math>-, <math>\beta</math>-, and <math>\gamma</math>-HBCD), decabromodiphenylethane (DBDPE), and additional bromodiphenyl ethers. Contamination detection limits has been updated to 50 mg/kg each and 100 mg/kg sum.</li> <li><b>5. ALL ALKYLPHENOLS (APS) AND ALKYLPHENOETHOXYLATES (APEOS):</b> the limit values for complexing agents, surfactants, and wetting agents have been updated, including nonylphenol (NP) and octylphenol (OP) (50 mg/kg each), as well as octylphenol ethoxylates (OPEO) and nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPEO) (250 mg/kg each), and 250 mg/kg as sum.</li> <li><b>12. AROMATIC AMINES AND ANILINE (FREE):</b> Requirements for aromatic amines and free aniline have been clarified and updated, including revised for free aniline determined "without a reductive step (150 mg/kg)", and an exceptional limit for "free aniline in indigo colourants" (2000 mg/kg), together with specific testing, reductive extraction, and result normalisation requirements based on ISO 14362.</li> <li>Index number has been included for Navy Blue Colourant</li> <li><b>14. HALOGEN CONTAINING INPUTS:</b> Notes has been invluded concerning the change in erminology update and wastewater <i>“Note 1: “Non-hydrolysable Halogens“ formerly referred to as “permanent AOX”. See Section 8 in GOTS for an updated definition. Note 2: AOX (Adsorbable Organic Halogens) as wastewater parameter: The most effective upstream measure to reduce AOX in wastewater is the elimination of non-hydrolysable halogens at the formulation level. AOX testing of wastewater is required as a downstream control parameter to verify compliance and to ensure that substitution measures result in measurable environmental benefits. See Section 4.3.11 (Wastewater and Sludge Discharge) in this Manual. Terminology used has been changed from AOX to Non-hydrolysable Halogens.”</i></li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>17. PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS):</b> The listing of PFAS substances has been removed. Necessary reference and instructions has been included in the further GUIDANCE.</li> <li>• <b>19. CHLORINATED PARAFFINS:</b> Limits for both SCCP and MCCP has been updated to 250 mg/kg each.</li> </ul>
4.2.2.3	7.2.3 (6)	<p><b>ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new guidance on the assessment of endocrine disruptors (EDs) has been included, specifying the use of harmonised ED classifications under CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (Annex VI) for the evaluation of all GOTS-approved chemical.</li> <li>• a reference link to the applicable EU legislation.</li> </ul>
4.2.2.	7.2.3 (9)	<p><b>GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOs):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All relevant guidance on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) has been consolidated in this section, 4.2.2. in v 7.2 has been contained in this section.</li> <li>• A new clarifying verification requirements for non-GMO status of substances certified under bio-based or similar programs has been included as follow “For chemical substances certified under a biobased or similar programmes, it shall be verified that the concerned scheme provides verifiable evidence of non-GMO status. Where such programmes do not include GMO verification, additional documentation and/or testing shall be provided to demonstrate compliance with non-GMO requirements.”</li> </ul>
4.2.2.3	7.2.3 (11) 7.2.3 (12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tables listing chemicals have been edited “DYES AND PIGMENTS – Allergenic Potential, Carcinogenic or Equivalent Concern” and “Aromatic Amines and Aniline (free)”</li> </ul>
4.2.2.3	7.2.3 (17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AFIRM Appendix B, Version 11, 2026 has been indicated for a reference list of PFAS chemicals. Relevant references have been listed.</li> </ul>
4.2.2.3	7.2.3 (23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<b>In-can preservatives in chemical inputs</b>” the first and the second bullet points have been slightly improved for clarity .</li> </ul>
4.2.3	7.2.4.1 (A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bullet points 1-4 have been reworded for consistency and clarity.</li> </ul>
4.2.3, Footnote 8 & 10	7.2.4.2 Footnote 21 & 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The INTERPRETATION for the footnotes has been reworded for consistency and clarity.</li> </ul>
Copyright	Copyright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The date in the Copyright has been updated.</li> </ul>
Footer	Footer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The dates and the version of the document have been updated throughout the whole document.</li> </ul>