



Q&A GUIDELINE FOR THE TRANSITION TO A NEW GOTS VERSION

Q. What is the transition period for Certification Bodies (CBs) to switch over to a new version of GOTS?

A. There is no separate/specific transition period set for CBs to switch over from previous GOTS versions to the new version. Certainly, CBs will have to take additional steps at their end, such as preparing documents, training staff, etc., and the implementation process must be practical. The deadline for CBs to use/comply with the new version is the effective date for the released version, e.g. 1st March 2024 for GOTS V7.0. However, it is highly recommended that CBs begin preparing internally for the new GOTS version as soon as possible,

Accordingly, CBs must ensure that all inspections and corresponding certificates issued as of the effective date of the new version of GOTS are based on this new version only.

Q. Which standard version should be considered and implemented for GOTS certification for entities upon release of a new version? Can you provide different cases based on various dates?

A. *The following cases are based on the assumption that the transition period to the new version of GOTS is 1 calendar year, and that GOTS certification is valid for a period of 12 months.*

Case 1. A new entity's certification activities occur 2 months after the official release of the new version of GOTS. In this case, it is acceptable for this new entity to be inspected and certified in accordance with the previous version.

Case 2. A new entity's certification activities occur 9 months after the official release of the new version of GOTS. In this case, it is recommended that this new entity be inspected and certified in accordance with the new version, provided that the CB involved is capable of certifying in accordance with the new version.

However, if this new entity prepared for initial inspection on basis of the previous version and does not meet certain updated criteria of the new version yet, then is it possible to get certified according to previous version of GOTS.

Case 3. In the event of recertification of an existing entity, the CB involved should inspect existing entities in accordance with the new revision as soon as possible, provided that CB involved is ready to do so.

In every case (1,2,3), all entities shall transfer the production to fully comply with the new version as from the effective date. This shall be checked in any follow-up inspection after scheduled after the effective date that any processing took place after the effective date was based on the new version of GOTS.

Q. Will Scope Certificates issued in accordance with the previous version remain valid during their normal validity period even if they have exceeded the new version's effective date?

A. Yes. Scope Certificates issued in accordance with the previous version remain valid during their normal validity period (which shall be 12 months according to the Policy for the Issuance of Scope Certificate) even if the effective date of the new version has passed.

Though desirable, it may not be possible that all GOTS Certified Entities to hold a Scope Certificate issued under the new version as of its effective date.

However, all entities shall transfer the production to fully comply with the new version as from the effective date. This shall be checked in any follow-up inspection after scheduled after the effective date that any processing took place after the effective date was based on the new version of GOTS.

Q: If a Scope Certificate was issued in accordance with the previous version, say 4 months prior to the effective date of the new version, does this entity require a re-audit after the new version becomes effective?

A. No. The Certificate shall remain valid until the end of the validity period specified on the Scope Certificate. However, the certified entity shall ensure that all processing comply fully with the new version as of the date of effective. For example fibre composition, wastewater testing etc. In the subsequent audit, the Certification Body shall verify that the production has been in compliance with the new version as of the effective date.

Q: What is the maximum period that a semi-finished product (e.g., fiber, yarn, fabric) certified in accordance with the previous version can be accepted under the new version?

A. A manufacturer or processor of GOTS Goods who holds a GOTS certification in accordance with the new version cannot use any material that does not conform to the new version. A manufacturer or processor of GOTS Goods who holds GOTS certification in accordance with the previous version cannot use materials that do not comply with the new version as of its effective date.

For instance, manufacturers of sportswear can no longer use fabrics that do not comply with the new version, even if these fabrics were certified for the previous version.

Q. What are the guidelines regarding the fully produced, finalised, and labelled textiles under the previous version? Are they permitted to be stored, traded, or sold after the effective date of the new version?

A. Yes. The certification status of textile products that have been finally processed and labelled during the validity period of the previous version will not lose their certified status. CBs shall ensure to have evidence that they have been indeed manufactured and labelled during the validity period of the previous version.



REVISION HISTORY OF THIS DOCUMENT

Version No	Release Date	Document Title	Notes
Version 1.0	14 Dec 2020	Guidance Note for Implementation of GOTS Version 6.0	<i>Superseded</i>