GOTS Criteria and New Requirements

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Structure of Presentation

- Sustainability definition and PPP
- GOTS Brief
- Requirements for Organic Fibres
- Environment Criteria for Textile Facilities
- Approval Criteria for Chemical Inputs
- Social Compliance for Textile Facilities
- Traceability
- GOTS Labelling of Products
- Other Sections/ Criteria
- Statistics
- International Recognition
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Sustainability: Triple Bottom Line

The triple bottom line
Economic principle
people - planet - profit

Pure Profit

Pure Philanthropy

social progress
socio economic
sustainability

socio environmental
environmental stewardship

eco efficiency
economic growth
Sustainability

Sustainability is the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.
Introduction to GOTS

- **Processing Standard** for textiles made from min 70% organic fibres.

  - ISO Type I Standard
  - Environmental Criteria (RSL & MRSL)
  - Social Criteria as per ILO
  - Entire Supply Chain Covered
  - Annual Onsite Inspection and risk based product testing
  - Started in year 2002 with harmonisation of existing organic standards.
Entry Level Criteria in GOTS for Organic Fibres

Approved organic standards are:

• Regulation (EC) 834/2007
• USDA National Organic Program (NOP)
• NPOP
• Any (other) standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards for the relevant scope of production (crop or animal production)

CBs must at least have one of the following qualifications:

• ISO 65 / 17065 accreditation
• NOP accreditation
• IFOAM accreditation
• IFOAM Global Organic System accreditation
Criteria for Fibres

Organic Fibres (Minimum 70%)

Additional Fibers (Balance 30% or 5% content)

- Non-GMO Natural Fibres
- Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers (respective max. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)
- Maximum 30% of recycled synthetic fibres

- Organic and conventional fibres of same type **cannot be mixed** in same product.
Environment Criteria - Textile Facilities

- Energy & Water Consumption **Data** must be available
- Waste & Discharges
- Sludge Disposal
- Staff Training
- Max COD content of discharged water: 20 g/kg of textile output
- pH of discharged water: 6 to 9
- Max Temperature of discharged water: 35 °C
Residue Limits for GOTS Goods (RSL)

- **RSL (Textile Products)**
- **Section 2.4.15:** Main material (yarn, fabric, etc)
- **Section 2.4.16:** Additional fibres, Accessories (sewing thread, buttons etc.).
Restricted Criteria for Chemical Inputs

- **Section 2.3.1**: Prohibited and restricted inputs (incl. Azo dyes, PCP, APEOs etc.) - **MRSL**

- **Section 2.3.2**: Requirements related to hazards and toxicity (Preparations containing substances classified with any hazard statements)
Assessment of Chemical Inputs (Dyes/ Pigments/ Inks/ Auxiliaries)

- All Chemical Inputs need to get GOTS Approval
- Preparations evaluated and their Trade Names have to be registered on approved lists prior to their usage
- Alternative Trade Names of same products also need to be separately listed in Positive List
- MSDS to be prepared according to a norm or directive recognised by GOTS
- Processors (like printing units) can request for a copy of Positive List from their Certification Body
- GOTS logo cannot be used by additive suppliers unless ‘Additives Licence Fee’ is paid and label design approval taken from Certifier.
Social Compliance
Social Compliance Criteria

- **Social minimum criteria based on the ILO key conventions** is compulsory for all processing and manufacturing stages.

  **Building and Fire Safety**

- **The requirements include e.g.:**
  - No child labor
  - Payment of Fare Remuneration
  - Working hours must not be excessive
  - Safe and hygienic working conditions
  - No discrimination, no harsh or inhumane treatment
  - Operators must establish **social compliance management tools** that support the implementation and monitoring of the social minimum criteria
Certification programs of which the results should be considered and recognised in the course of GOTS inspection:

- Fair Wear Foundation (FWF)
- Social Accountability 8000 (SA 8000)
- Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)
- Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)
Traceability
Traceability through Transaction Certificates (TC) along the supply chain

Each buyer in the supply chain only needs to check SC and TCs of the supplier(s).
TC & Exclusion

- Transaction Certificates (TCs) are obligatory for each change of ownership.
- Multiple shipments can be covered in a single TC for same buyer and same supplier for a period up to 3 months and up to 100 shipments.
- Wholly owned subsidiaries of a retailer are exempt from TCs for change of ownership within the subsidiaries.
Licensing System and Product Labelling
• Logo can be used only when the whole supply chain is GOTS certified for a final product.

• The GOTS logo may be used as on-product and consumer label to market GOTS certified textiles

• Intermediate Textiles (like yarns, fabrics etc) may also carry the GOTS logo

  • Additives suppliers can mention about GOTS approval status in text.

  • Suppliers of GOTS Additive may use the logo after payment of additional ‘Additives License Fee’ and obtaining label design approval from their certifier, while the letter of approval is valid.
▪ New issue released on 8\textsuperscript{th} May 2017

▪ Sets requirements for the correct \textit{on-product} and \textit{off-product logo application} and GOTS referencing

▪ Provides explicit clarification under which conditions GOTS labelling and referencing is not permitted (to reduce misinterpretation and misuse)

▪ All labels must be approved by Certifiers using the appropriate form for label release.
Labelling - Visible commitment to the end consumer
Label Grades

Using 95 - 100% organic fibers:

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
Organic
Certified by [certifier’s ref.]
License no. [12345]

Using 70 - 94% organic fibers:

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
Made with (x%) organic materials
Certified by [certifier’s ref.]
License no. [12345]
Consumer Facing Label - Examples
Other Sections/ Criteria
Key changes in GOTS Ver 5.0

- Viscose / Modal restricted to 10% as additional material
- More detailed Social Criteria
- Section on Ethical Business Behaviour added
- Simplification of the requirements for accessories (OTS100)
- Revision of residue limits and test methods for accessories (Babies / Personal Care & other products)
- No on-site waste burning or uncontrolled waste land-filling should be undertaken.
- **Guidance on contamination limits for chemical inputs**
- Guidance on testing / risk assessment by way of a suggested testing grid in manual
- Allowing GOTS certification on Combined Products
- Guidance on wastewater & social criteria tools
Storage, Packing, Transport & Record Keeping

- Contamination with non organic products is prohibited
- Chlorinated Plastics (like PVC) in packing materials is prohibited
- Paper/cardboard in consumer facing packing has to be FSC Certified or recycled
- Records relevant to the inspection must be kept for at least 5 years
- Pesticide/ Biocide use in storeroom/ transportation has to be in accordance with International/ National Organic Production Standard
Important Documents

- GOTS Version 5.0
- Manual for the Implementation of GOTS (Issue 5.0)
- Licensing and Labelling Guide
- Labelling Release for GOTS Goods
- Labelling Release for GOTS Additives
- Policy and Template for issuing Certificates of Compliance (Scope Certificates, SCs)
- Policy and Template for issuing Transaction Certificates (TCs)
- Policy and Template for issuing Letters of Approval
- Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies
Who needs to be certified?  
- Processing and Manufacturing

- **Processors and manufacturers:** certification according to GOTS based on annual on-site inspection is obligatory

- **All stages starting from ginning (cotton)**¹, spinning, knitting, weaving, wet processing (pre-treatment, dyeing, printing finishing), manufacturing, packing and labelling must be certified.

¹ stages considered as first processing step that must be GOTS for other natural fibres listed in the Manual, chapter 4.1
Who needs to be certified?

• Trading and Retailing

- **Traders** (incl. import, export and wholesale entities): certification is obligatory, if:
  - they become proprietor of GOTS Goods (= buy and sell them, B2B) with an annual turnover of at least 5000€
  - they are engaged with (re-)packing or (re-)labelling of GOTS Goods

- **Retailers:**
  certification is required only if:
  - they have – beside their retail activity – also a B2B trade activity
  - they are engaged with (re-)packing or (re-)labelling of GOTS Goods
Check list for retailers to ensure they receive GOTS certified and labelled textiles

• Ask the direct supplier (manufacturer or B2B trader/ wholesaler) for its valid GOTS Scope Certificate before ordering

• Explicitly order GOTS certified and labelled textiles from this supplier

• Ask for Transaction Certificates for the whole quantity of GOTS goods purchased (on the TCs the supplier must be noted as seller and the retailer himself as buyer)

• Check that the GOTS labelling is complete (contains logo, label grade, certifier ref. and license number)
Statistics
Summary of GOTS Operations 2017

- 5,024 Facilities
- 2,922 Entities
- 62 countries
- 17,905 Chemical Inputs (6897 colourants)
- 1,759,943 workers covered under GOTS
- 17 Approved Certification Bodies
GOTS Certified Facilities 2017
8.2% increase
Top 5 Countries as per 2017 data

1. India
2. Bangladesh
3. Germany
4. Turkey
5. China
GOTS Approved Chemicals Inputs (Positive List) 14% increase

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Auxiliaries</th>
<th>Suppliers</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>11008</td>
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U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- policy memorandum (May 20, 2011) explicitly recognizes GOTS and its label grade ‘organic’: “Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S.” Note that this does not entitle use of the USDA seal.

IFOAM

- endorses GOTS as the minimum reference for organic textile processing. The endorsement letter (April 23, 2014) includes the recommendation to governments not to start development of redundant standards and regulations but to make references to GOTS as processing standard for textiles labelled ‘organic.’

Italian Government

- In the Italian Green Public Procurement decree (Jan 2017), GOTS is explicitly mentioned as acceptable verification for products made with organic fibres.
a) Per i prodotti con contenuto di fibra cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico tra il 70% e il 100% rispetto al contenuto totale delle fibre;

b) Per i prodotti con contenuto di fibra cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico tra il 50% e il 70%, rispetto al contenuto totale delle fibre;

c) Per i prodotti con contenuto di fibra cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico tra il 20% e il 50% rispetto al contenuto totale delle fibre;

Verifica: In offerta tecnica dovrà essere indicata l’etichetta posseduta, conforme alle caratteristiche previste dall’art. 69 del D.Lgs. 50/2016 e i riferimenti della licenza d’uso della medesima, tra cui il periodo di validità. In particolare si presumono conformi al criterio a) i prodotti con l’etichetta “Global Organic Textile Standard” (GOT) e ai criteri b) e c) i prodotti con l’etichetta “Organic Content Standard (OCS)”, a seconda del contenuto di cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico che vi è riportata, rilasciata sulla base delle verifiche effettuate dagli enti terzi accreditati in base al citato schema di etichettatura.

Si presumono conformi altresì i prodotti in possesso del marchio di qualità ecologico Ecolabel europeo, nel caso riporti un contenuto di cotone (o altra fibra naturale) biologico sufficiente all’ottenimento dei punteggi. 

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✓ ZDHC - Roadmap to Zero

- GOTS approved chemical Inputs (dyes/ chemicals/ inks/ auxiliaries etc) are conformant to ZDHC MRSL Level 1. They can be listed in ZDHC Chemical Gateway (December 2017)

✓ Greenpeace International

- Textile Procurement Policy (October, 2012) states that all cotton-based textiles used by volunteers, activists, or staff must be certified to GOTS or the equivalent.
Linkages of the Standard with UN SDGs

- SDGs are addressed by GOTS

- GOTS provides robust framework to evaluate company’s sustainability claims

- Well-placed to become evaluation tool for SDG implementation by companies and other supply chain actors

- GOTS SDGs FactSheet
Benefits to India from GOTS

- One **International Standard** for all markets- trust for all stakeholders
- Generating market for organic textiles, **benefiting whole supply chain till organic cotton farmers**
- **Premium** for GOTS Certified Organic Textiles
- **Limited Cost of Compliance** due to worldwide acceptance
- Safe and hygienic **working conditions** in certified textile processing facilities; hence benefitting the poor workers

- Dyes / auxiliaries assessed for criteria like toxicity, biodegradability, ingredients, residues of hazardous substances for GOTS
- Only treated water discharged from GOTS certified facilities
- Aquatic animals saved from harmful chemicals like APEOs and restricting their entry to food chain
- Local residents saved from health hazards arising from toxic industrial waste
Subscribe to GOTS Newsletter (then click link on verification email)
A post-toxic world is not only desirable, it’s possible. Together we can create it.
Thank You!

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