



Press Release

For immediate release

Lori Wyman

GOTS Representative in
North America

wyman@global-standard.org

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GOTS marks 20th anniversary with all-time high in certified facilities

Record high: 12,338 (+19%) GOTS certified facilities in 79 countries in 2021

Twenty years after its inception, the world's leading textile processing standard for organic fibres records new all-time high figures: 18 GOTS Approved Certification Bodies report a total of 12,338 certified facilities (+19%) in 79 countries (+11%).

Among the countries with the largest increase in GOTS certified facilities in 2021 are Turkey (+61% to 1,799), Italy (+53% to 894), Germany (+19% to 817), Portugal (+35% to 608), France (+22% to 122), Denmark (+14% to 115), Switzerland (+15% to 61), Belgium (+55% to 59), Sweden (+34% to 51) and Vietnam (+264% to 51).

“What seemed utopian to many in 2002 has become a reality in the past 20 years. We have created an organic textile standard, certified by approved certification bodies, which is accepted in all major markets. GOTS is a standard that gives consumers the power to choose truly organic products sourced from sustainable supply chains.” says Claudia Kersten, Managing Director at GOTS. “Despite ongoing difficulties and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, decision-makers continue to pursue their sustainability goals and value GOTS as a tool to accomplish them”.

The results of the annual GOTS Survey among certified entities underline this. Out of 1,114 respondents (+39%), 63% indicated a permanent shift in their sustainability strategy with a focus on the environment and health of their workers and staff.

Growing interest from industry, the public, and the media drove website visits up an impressive 48 percent. Media exposure grew by 64 percent and GOTS social media followers across several platforms jumped by 57percent.

“As much as we are pleased with the development so far, we don't intend to rest on our laurels” adds Rahul Bhajekar, Managing Director at GOTS. “In March 2022 we begin revision for GOTS version 7.0 involving all stakeholders including associations, organizations, companies, and individuals to further advance the progressive, innovative, stringent yet practical standard GOTS is”.

In the USA, California has become the state with the most GOTS certified companies with a total of thirty-two (+33%). These businesses encompass the entire textile supply chain from ginning through to finishing, including every production stage except for spinning. Fortunately, there is GOTS certified spinning happening in nearby Mexico, so it is possible to source products grown from USDA/NOP organic cotton and completely manufacture in North America. Canada saw six new GOTS certified companies in 2021.



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
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All GOTS activities in 2021 were virtual, but North American GOTS Representative, Lori Wyman is hoping to host a GOTS Roundtable in Los Angeles as soon as the Covid situation resolves.

GOTS hired Travis Wells to be the North American GOTS Protection Officer to strengthen the correct use of GOTS signs in the region.

About GOTS: GOTS is the stringent voluntary global standard for the entire post-harvest processing (including spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing, and manufacturing) of apparel and home textiles made with certified organic fibre (such as organic cotton and organic wool), and includes both environmental and social criteria. Key provisions include a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), highly hazardous chemicals (such as azo dyes and formaldehyde), and child labour, while requiring strong social compliance management systems and strict wastewater treatment practices. GOTS was

developed by leading international standard setters - Organic Trade Association (U.S.), Japan Organic Cotton Association, International Association Natural Textile Industry (Germany), and Soil Association (UK) to define globally-recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles, from field to finished product.

GOTS is a non-profit organisation which is self-financed. For more information please see www.global-standard.org and follow @globalorganictextilestandard on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

3,509 characters

The GOTS logo is available for [download](#).