

**Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) Facilities Increase 18% in 2014**

*GOTS 4.0 Labelling Guide, Annual Report Released; First GOTS Conference in Mumbai, India, May 22*

**For Immediate Release Sandra Marquardt, GOTS Representative in North America,** [**marquardt@global-standard.org**](mailto:marquardt@global-standard.org)**, 301-592-0077**

**Washington, D.C.** (May 12, 2015) The number of facilities certified to the [Global Organic Textile Standard](http://www.global-standard.org/) (GOTS) grew by more than 18% last year, from 3085 facilities in 2013 to 3663 facilities in 2014. GOTS is recognized worldwide as the leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibers. GOTS certified facilities are now located in 64 countries around the world. Growth is evenly spread across all market segments including the mass market and the big brands. GOTS certification enables consumers to purchase items that are certified organic from field to finished product. Seven [representatives](http://global-standard.org/about-us/regional-representatives.html) worldwide (China, Japan, EU, Germany/Austria/ Switzerland, India/Bangladesh, UK, USA/Canada) are driving the increase in the awareness of certification to GOTS.

Countries with the greatest increase in GOTS certification in 2014 are (in rank order) are: India (+338), Bangladesh (+89), Germany (+32), Turkey (+21) and China (+18).

The Top Fifteen countries and regions in terms of the total number of GOTS-certified facilities are: India, Turkey, Germany, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Italy, South Korea, Portugal, Japan, France, USA, UK, Austria, and Hong Kong. The growth rate of GOTS certified facilities particularly in India, Bangladesh, Turkey, and China demonstrates that the pull effect on the supply chain continues to be strong.

"The growth in certifications demonstrates that GOTS has become the standard of choice for brands and retailers to efficiently manage their organic fiber supply chains,” says Claudia Kersten, GOTS Marketing Director. “Certification to GOTS also demonstrates a company’s commitment to sustainability through third party and independent GOTS certification and reference to GOTS on product labels instead of self-claims."

"GOTS has considerably strengthened its widespread global acceptance as a tool that enables and monitors sustainable production worldwide,” adds Herbert Ladwig, [GOTS](http://global-standard.org/information-centre/news/213-why-gots-fact-sheets.html) Managing Director. “This is also confirmed by the support of governments and worldwide institutions such as the endorsement by IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), including the recommendation to governments not to start development of redundant standards and regulations, but rather to make reference to GOTS as *the* processing standard for organic labelled textiles."

According to the Organic Trade Association’s recent [*Organic Industry Survey*](http://ota.com/news/press-releases/18061), the market for organic textiles is the most rapidly growing non-food organic category in the U.S., growing to $1.1 billion in sales in 2014. The sector grew 18% in 2014, its strongest growth since 2009. Much of this growth is the result of the [2011 US Department of Agriculture policy](https://ota.com/sites/default/files/indexed_files/What%20are%20Organic%20Fiber%20Products.pdf) requiring companies labeling their textiles as “organic” to certify their products to the U.S. organic food standard or GOTS, as well as grocery retailers urging their suppliers to become certified to GOTS.

Indeed, the number of companies in the U.S. gaining certification in 2014 increased 20 percent over 2013 and included: [Burt’s Bees Baby™](http://www.burtsbeesbaby.com/), [Boll & Branch](https://www.bollandbranch.com/), [IMM Group](GOTS), [Loomstate](http://www.loomstate.org/), [Maggie’s Organics](http://www.maggiesorganics.com/), [MetaWear](http://metawearorganic.com/), [Michael Stars](https://www.michaelstars.com/), [Organics and More](http://www.organicsnmore.com), [Portico](http://porticohome.com/), [Synergy Organic Clothing](http://synergyclothing.com/), [Under the Canopy](http://underthecanopy.com/), and [WearPact](https://www.wearpact.com/). The companies make a wide array of products, from apparel for babies through women/men, to beds and bedding.

*Labelling Guide for GOTS 4.0 released*

On 01 March 2015, GOTS released a new edition of [the Licensing and Labelling Guide](http://global-standard.org/licensing-and-labelling/licensing-and-labelling-guide.html) addressing changes made in the latest version (4.0) of GOTS. It includes detailed explanation for the correct on-product and off-product logo application and GOTS referencing especially for traders and retailers. In particular, the guide explains where and when GOTS labelling and referencing is not permitted in order to prevent possible misinterpretation and misuse.

Detailed information **about 2014 GOTS activities** can be found in the GOTS Annual Report 2014, available for download on <http://www.global-standard.org/information-centre/news/230-annual-report-2014-released.html>

The sold-out [First International GOTS Conference](http://global-standard.org/gotsconference.html) will take place May 22 in Mumbai, India.

**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 organic fiber (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 labor, while requiring strong social compliance management systems and strict waste water 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) - in order to define globally-recognized requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles. For more information on the Global Organic Textile Standard, please see [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org).

###