



## GUIDANCE NOTE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF GOTS VERSION 6.0

**Q: What is the transition period for Certification Bodies (CBs) to switch over to GOTS Version 6.0?**

A: There is no separate/specific transition period set for CBs to switch over to GOTS Version 6.0. Certainly, CBs shall have to take additional steps at their end, like preparing documents, training staff, etc. and the implementation process must be practical. The CBs should prepare for GOTS Version 6.0 ASAP but the final deadline for anybody to use/comply with GOTS v 6.0 is 01 March 2021. Accordingly, the CBs must assure that all inspections carried out and corresponding certificates issued from 01 March 2021 onwards must be based on GOTS v 6.0 only.

**Q: If an Operator starts now (say in December 2020) the GOTS certification process, which standard version should be applied?**

A: For a new operator, it makes most sense to apply the new version and base inspection and certification on basis of v 6.0.

However, if the Operator prepared for initial inspection on basis of version 5.0 and does not meet certain updated criteria of version 6.0 yet, it is possible to get certified according to GOTS Version 5.0. As an existing client, the Operator would then need to transfer production to fully comply with v 6.0 until 01 March 2021.

**Q: Can Scope Certificates issued before 01 March 2021 according to v 5.0 remain valid the normal validity period even if this is exceeding the deadline 01 March 2021?**

A: Yes, certificates issued before 01 March 2021 according to v 5.0 can remain valid the normal validity period (which is max. 15 months according to the policy for issuing scope certificates). Though desirable, it may not be possible that all GOTS Certified Entities hold a v 6.0 scope certificate on implementation date. But, it shall be checked in any follow-up inspection after 01 March 2021 that any processing / manufacturing that took place after 01 March 2021 was based on GOTS v 6.0 already.

**Q: If a Scope Certificate is issued on 01 November 2020 according to v 5.0, does the company undergo another audit on 01 March 2021?**

A: No. The Certificate shall remain valid until given validity date on the Scope Certificate. The certified operation shall ensure that all production taking place 01 March 2021 onwards must fulfil all criteria of GOTS v 6.0, for example fibre composition, wastewater testing, etc. This shall be verified by the Certification Body in the subsequent audit, which shall be done according to GOTS v 6.0.



**Q: What is the maximum period that GOTS v 5.0 certified semi-finished products can be accepted for v 6.0?**

A: Any Operator, who is certified according to GOTS v6.0, cannot use any material that does not comply with GOTS v6.0 criteria. Any manufacturer / processor of GOTS Goods who is still certified according to GOTS v 5.0 can no longer use any materials that do not comply with GOTS v 6.0 after 01 March 2021.

For example, a sportswear manufacturer can no longer use a 75% organic cotton 25% polyamide fabric in his GOTS production on 01 March 2021, even if this fabric was previously certified to GOTS v 5.0, since this fibre composition is no longer an acceptable mix for sportswear in GOTS v 6.0.

**Q: What about finally processed and labelled textiles certified to GOTS v 5.0 stored after the deadline 01 March 2021?**

A: As in previous revisions, finally processed and labelled textiles / garments placed on stock will not lose their certified status if it can be demonstrated that they have been finally manufactured and labelled before 01 March 2021.