



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHANGE LOG

GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD (GOTS)

VERSION 7.0

THIS CHANGELOG LISTS THE MAJOR CHANGES MADE FROM
GOTS VERSION 6.0 TO VERSION 7.0

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GOTS 6.0	GOTS 7.0	RELEVANT CHANGE(S)
1.1	1.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The section has been edited for consistency and clarity.
1.2	1.2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The section has been edited for consistency and clarity. An introductory statement inserted stating the concerned stakeholders under GOTS certification criteria “This document defines the GOTS criteria for textile producers, manufacturers, B2B operators as well as for textile chemicals.” Added for clarity "All GOTS criteria which are applicable to Certified Facilities shall be equally implemented at subcontractors of the Certified Entities, unless otherwise stated." The following wording was deleted: GOTS criteria or the local legal requirements, whichever is higher, shall always be followed. In place of this, an alternative wording was added for clarity: Certified Entity shall comply with local laws and regulations to ensure the legality of its business. Certified Entity shall follow GOTS criteria or the local legal requirements, whichever affords higher protection to people and the environment. Added for clarity "the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS provides further implementation related details of GOTS criteria, therefore, constitutes an integral part of the Standard." A new criterion on the supply chain is included. " GOTS Criteria on Responsible Business Conduct, Social Compliance, and Due Diligence Management Systems reflect sector-specific risks of textile supply chains and are designed to enable effective due diligence for GOTS Certified Entities. GOTS requires Certified Entities to implement six steps due diligence process (as defined in GOTS Section 3.13 Social Compliance and Due Diligence Management Systems) concerning issues covered by GOTS Human Rights and Social Criteria, GOTS Environmental Criteria and Ethical Business Behaviour." The requirement to conduct due diligence in line with the OECD guidance documents is included, and the principles of the due diligence process are defined. "GOTS requires Certified Entities to implement due diligence, as provided in OECD guidance documents. Due diligence shall be preventative, dynamic, commensurate with risk (risk-based), informed by meaningful engagement with stakeholders, appropriate to Certified Entity’s circumstances, shall involve multiple processes and objectives, ensure ongoing communication, can involve risk-based prioritisation and shall not cause a shift of responsibilities."
1.3	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The section has been edited for consistency and clarity.
NA	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new section (Transaction Certificates) is included “Transaction Certificates (TCs) are the key enablers of traceability and transparency of the GOTS supply chain. TCs are issued by GOTS Approved Certifiers in accordance with the Policy for the Issuance of Transaction Certificates after due verification when GOTS certified goods move along the certified GOTS supply chain. Volume Reconciliation shall be a complementary mechanism to verify claims of GOTS Goods.”
1.5	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The numbering of the section has been updated. A new reference document, “Certification and Operating Parameters for GOTS Certified Gins”, is included.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperlinks to the reference documents are included.
NA	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section has been merged “GOTS Supply Chain, Traceability and Quality Assurance”. This new section now includes former sections 2.1 “Requirements for Organic Fiber Production”, 1.3. “Scope Certificate”, 1.4. “Label Grades and Labelling”, 4.1. “Auditing of Processing, Manufacturing and Trading Stages, 4.2 “Testing of Technical Quality Parameters and Residues”.
2.1	2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation version is revised to reflect the new version of EU Organic Regulation as “(EU) 2018/848”.
2.2	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entire section ihas been edited and updated for consistency and clarity.
NA	2.1.5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new criterion is included "The use of fibres, which originate from production projects located in high human rights risks areas, may require additional mitigation measures (for example, on-site social audits) to ensure that these production projects comply with GOTS Social Criteria."
2.3.1	4.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section ihas been edited and updated for consistency. • Table structure has been edited for clarity. • Substance group name is reworded for clarity as “Inputs (e.g. azo dyes and pigments) which release arylamines with carcinogenic properties (MAK III, category 1,2,3) and Aniline, free, (category 4).” • Permanent AOX exception is specified by adding "for printing". • The term "PFC" has changed to "PFAS". • PFAS (PFC) prohibition is reworded for clarity as “all PFAS compounds including PFCA (incl. PFOA), PFSA (incl. PFOS) FTOH, PFNA, PFHpA, PFDA, PFOSA, PTFE” • "PFOSA, PTFE" are included among the examples of prohibited substances under the substance group "PFAS" (PFC) • Cyclic siloxanes: a contamination limit of “0.025% (250mg/kg)” is included for D4. The unit is changed to mg/kg from ppm for consistency. For D5, D6 wording changed to “Prohibited are inputs that contain ≥1000 mg/kg” • Quinoline is included as a prohibited substance (residue limit is included in the Implementation Manual).
2.3.2	4.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section has been edited structurally and reworded for clarity.
2.3.3	4.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section has been edited structurally and reworded for clarity.
2.3.4.	4.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new criterion is included to cover also chemical subcontractors of the chemical formulators "Chemical formulators and chemical subcontractors (if any) shall implement...product stewardship practises". • A new criterion is included "Chemical formulators shall designate suitably trained and authorised personnel for Product Stewardship responsibilities. Relevant updates and education shall be provided to the concerned personnel regularly."

2.3.5	4.2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section title has been reworded. • The entire section has been edited and updated for consistency and clarity. • A new criterion is included "Chemical formulators and their subcontractors (if any) shall undergo an on-site audit for environmental management system and safety at their premises". Requirements of this Section will also be implemented by subcontractors of the chemical formulators. • On-site inspection at chemical formulators is reworded for the purpose of clarity as "On-site inspection shall be performed as part of the chemical input assessment for granting and/or renewing a Letter of Approval, which may be valid for up to 3 years or until a new Standard Version comes into effect, whichever is earlier." • Rewording is completed to include "subcontractors", and "for the whole year" is replaced by "during the validity of the certification" for clarity: "...subcontractors (if any) and shall be applicable to the entire site during the validity of the certification."
2.4	4.2.6.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section title has been reworded to "Textile Processing Criteria" from "Specific Requirements and Test Parameters" in v 6.0
2.4.1	2.6.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included as a subsection under 2.6 "Segregation, Storage, Packaging and Transport of GOTS Goods" as part of segregation criteria.
	4.2.6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new subsection is included as "First Processing"
2.4.3	4.2.6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned.
2.4.4	4.2.6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. • The section has been reworded for clarity.
2.4.5	4.2.6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. • For "Ammonia Treatment", the exception criterion is revised to include not only wool fibre but any fibre as long as the recycling rate in a closed system has a success rate of 99% recycling rate. • For "Bleaching", an exception is inserted as "Catalysers which contain manganese may be used provided that ETAD's manganese residue limit (1000 mg/kg, see Section 7) is met." • For "Mercerisation", an exception is included as "ammonia may be allowed for mercerization of cotton only if performed in a closed-loop system and only if a minimum of 99% of the ammonia is recycled in such a system." • For "optical brightening", "...pigments, inks..." are included for clarity
2.4.6	4.2.6.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. • Criteria are categorised under "allowed" and "prohibited". • The term "pigments" is included "selection of dyes, pigments and auxiliaries." • The entire section has been reworded for clarity and structurally revised. • The criterion concerning the "sensitising dyes (disperse)" is revised to "Sensitising (H317) chemicals such as disperse dyes shall not be used, handled or manufactured unless proper and sufficient Occupational Health and Safety practices are adhered ..."

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An specific exception is included for AOX “Specific exception of up to 5% permanent AOX only for yellow, green and violet pigments.”
2.4.7	4.2.6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.7 in v6.0) • The entire section has been reworded for clarity and structurally revised. • Criteria are categorised under "allowed" and "prohibited". • The criterion concerning the “sensitising dyes (disperse)” is revised to “Sensitising (H317) chemicals such as disperse dyes shall not be used, handled or manufactured unless proper and sufficient Occupational Health and Safety practices are adhered...”
2.4.8	4.2.6.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. • The entire section has been structurally edited and reworded for clarity. • Criteria are categorised under "allowed" and "prohibited". • A new criterion is included "Stain removers that meet the basic requirements as set in Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 only."
NA	4.2.6.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New section is included “General Requirement for Machine Oils”. This new section is created as a general rule for machine oils which may come in contact with GOTS Goods during production " Machine oils which may come in contact with GOTS Goods during processing/manufacturing stages, along the GOTS supply chain shall be heavy metal-free. Such machine oils may undergo a voluntary assessment for approval and can be listed in the GOTS Positive List.”
2.4.9	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The section number and title have been changed to "Additional Fibre Materials".
2.4.9.1	3.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.9.1 in v6.0) • The entire section has been reworded for clarity and structurally revised. • Criteria are categorised under “allowed” and “prohibited”. • Added for further clarity: "blending organic with organic in-conversion...is not permitted." • The term "non-organic balance" was replaced with "uncertified balance" for clarity. • Reworded for clarity to include “virgin or recycled”: Allowed are.... “Non-GMO..., virgin or recycled...fibres”. • Inclusion for allowed additional fibre types “Organic, mechanically recycled natural vegetable or animal fibres, derived from pre-consumer waste of GOTS Goods (intermediate or finished)” for up to 30% category. • “Protein-based fibres” reworded for clarity as “protein-based regenerated fibres”, and a definition is included in Section 7. • The term “forestry” is included for clarity "...sustainable forestry management principles". • Allowed percentage for recycled synthetic (polymer) fibre is revised as “up to 20%” for the additional fibre category. • Reworded for further clarity "conventional cotton (virgin, recycled, non-GMO)" under prohibited additional fibre types.

2.4.9.2	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.9.2 in v6.0). • The entire section has been reworded for clarity and structurally revised. • Criteria are categorised under “allowed” and “prohibited”. • Examples for “material in general” are improved to include: “Lace used as decoration”, “soles in footwear”, and “pocket liners”. • The word “biotic” is replaced with “biogenic”, and a definition is added as a footnote. • Reworded for clarity “regenerated or synthetic materials”, previously “regenerated and synthetic materials.” • Reworded for clarity (filling and stuffings) “If textile fibres are used, the material shall be certified to organic or organic in-conversion (fillings with textile fibres are not considered accessories).” • For the “Non-Slip Floor Covering” category, a new criterion is included “Latex shall be made from certified organic or organic in-conversion latex or from latex certified according to a program that verifies compliance with sustainable forestry management principles.” • For the “Non-Slip Floor Covering” category, clarification is made on prohibited materials as “Prohibited are synthetic backing materials.” • A new requirement is included: “Cotton bud sticks: allowed are natural materials.”
2.4.10	4.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for having a written environmental management policy are revised and extended to include “a written chemical management policy”. • Revised to include “chemical” for the criterion person responsible: “Responsible person(s) for environment and chemical management related duties.” • Data requirement areas and procedures for environmental and chemical management are improved. • Certified Entities shall monitor and measure waste toxicity. • There shall be provisions to recycle/dispose of solid waste. • Monitoring of noise pollution and air pollution shall be in accordance with local legal regulations, and periodic testing shall be carried out. • Certified Entities shall define a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Management that encompasses the identification of sources of GHG emissions, as well as monitoring, quantifying, and setting measures to reduce GHG emissions. Certified Entities shall initially collect information on sources of direct GHG emissions of their own operations (Scope 1) and identify means for reduction for each source. As a long-term plan, Certified entities should include the indirect (Scope 2 & Scope 3) and product-specific GHG emissions in their Greenhouse Gas Emission Management activities.
2.4.11	4.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.11 in v6.0). • The term “wastewater treatment plant” has been replaced with “Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP).” • Criteria concerning the ETP are included “..effective, operational and maintained continuously.” • Training of the responsible staff is included as a new criterion: “training for operation and maintenance of ETP shall be given to the responsible staff.” • The entire section has been edited for consistency and clarity.

2.4.12.1	2.6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.12.1 in v6.0). • The term “pre-retail” is included in the title for further clarity. • “Shipping documents” wording is included “Transportation means, and shipping documents shall be documented.” • A new criterion is included "Synthetic packaging material shall not contain chlorinated plastics (e.g. PVC). The use of plastic packaging materials should be minimised."
2.4.12.2	2.6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.12.2 in v6.0). • Title is reworded for clarity “B2C Trade of GOTS Goods (retail)”. • A new statement is included permitting bioplastic packaging under certain conditions as “Bioplastic packaging produced from non-GMO biomass sources and certified/tested to be non-toxic, and biodegradable or home/industrially compostable can be used.” • The materials for “strings of hangtags” are now limited to the outlined criteria (please see the section).
2.4.15	5.2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.15 in v6.0). • A new test method, "AP: ISO 21084:2019", is included for "alkylphenol (ethoxylates)". • The limit criterion for "aniline, free (MAK III category 4)" is revised to "<20 mg/kg" from "<100 mg/kg". • The limit criterion for “disperse dyes classified as allergenic” is revised to "<20 mg/kg" from "<30 mg/kg". • An alternative test method, "EN ISO 17070", is included for the parameter “chlorophenols”. • An additional test method, “L 00.00-115”, is included for the parameter “pesticides”. • The test method of the “extractable heavy metals” is revised to include “EN 16711-2”, and „DIN EN ISO 105-E04“ is removed. • Test method of the “Extractable heavy metals, Chromium VI (Cr-VI)” is updated as to “elution using EN 16711-2 EN ISO 17075-2”. • The limit of “Total heavy metals (in digested sample), the Cadmium” is revised to “40mg/kg” from “45 mg/kg”. • An alternative test method, “ISO 22744-1:2020, Part 1 and Part 2,” is included for the parameter “organotin compounds”. • The term "Per- and Polyfluorinated Compounds (PFC)" is changed to "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)" for accuracy and clarity. • PFOA-relevant substances are included as examples, "Me-PFOA, Et-PFOA", and limit value for PFOA is revised to "0.025 mg/kg." • “Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)” limits are revised as “PFOS and PFAS C9-C14: <0.025 mg/kg” and “C9-C14 related PFAS: < 0.1 mg/kg. • New test methods for PFAS are included DIN EN 17681-1 and DIN EN 17681-2. • The test method of the “Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)” is updated as “AfPS GS 2019:01PAK”, and the test method ISO 18287 of the “Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)” is removed. • The limit of “D4, cyclic siloxanes” is revised to “250 mg/kg”. • The parameters under “other chemical residues (Azodicarboxamide/ Azodicarbonamide/ Diazene-1,2-dicarboxamide (ADCA))” is removed from due to its irrelevancy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new test method of DIN EN 17137 is included for "Chlorinated Benzenes & Toluenes".
2.4.16	5.2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section number has been assigned. (2.4.16 in v6.0). • The limit criterion for “disperse dyes classified as allergenic or carcinogenic” is revised to “<20 mg/kg” from “<30 mg/kg”. • An additional test method “L 00.00-115” is included for the parameter of “pesticides”. • The test method of the “extractable heavy metals” is revised to include “EN 16711-2” and „DIN EN ISO 105-E04“ is removed. • Test method of the “Extractable heavy metals, Chromium VI (Cr-VI)” is updated as to “elution using EN 16711-2 EN ISO 17075-2”. • The limit value of „nickel release“ is revised to „0.5 µg/cm²/week”. • An alternative test method “ISO 22744-1:2020, Part 1 and Part 2” is included for the parameter “organotin compounds”. • The test method of the “Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)” is updated as “AfPS GS 2019:01 PAK” and the test method “ISO 18287” for “Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH)” is removed. • The limit of “D4, cyclic siloxanes” is revised to “250 mg/kg”. • Test method details have been included for "cyclic siloxanes" as "Extraction in solvent, GC/MS". • Test method details have been included for "NMP, DMAc, DMF" as "extraction with methanol, GC-MS or dynamic headspace". • Test method details have been included for "Chlorinated Benzenes & Toluenes" as "DIN EN 17137". • Quinoline limit is included as < 20mg/kg, and the relevant testing method is referenced as “DIN 54231:2005 with methanol extraction followed by LC/MS”.
3	4.4	<p>The Section was renamed to GOTS Human Rights and Social Criteria. New sections are added and the numbering of the sections has been changed accordingly. Some Section titles have been edited for clarity.</p>
3.1	4.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section is edited for consistency and clarity. A reference to Section 1.2 is added. The wording is changed to indicate that GOTS does not cover the farming level. • New Section concerning respect for human rights is added: “The Certified Entities are required to respect human rights and shall avoid causing, contributing, soliciting, encouraging or supporting human rights abuse through their activities.” • A new criterion is included: "This includes that the Certified Entity shall respect the human rights of individuals belonging to specific groups or populations at risk of particular vulnerability and in relation to whom there is particularised protection, including indigenous peoples; women; national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; children; persons with disabilities; and migrant workers and their families."
3.2	4.4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The title of the Section "Employment is freely chosen" is changed to "Forced Labour". • The Section is edited for consistency and clarity. • New Criteria are included "No employee shall be compelled to work under the menace of penalty, including through force or intimidation of any form." • New Criteria are included: "The Certified Entity shall not restrict the workers' ability to voluntarily end their employment."

3.4	4.4.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The former Section "Child Labour Shall not be used" was renamed "Child Labour". • The Section was edited for consistency and clarity. • New Criteria are included "If a child below minimum age appears to be employed in the Certified Entity, the Certified Entity shall take all appropriate measures to remove the child from the workplace and to ensure that this child gets appropriate remedy, including actively supporting access to education." • New Criteria are included "A Young Worker shall be employed in a manner that allows access to continued education or additional educational opportunities, such as vocational or technical training."
3.5 & 3.7	4.4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The former Section "No Discrimination is Practised" is merged with the former Section "No Harassment and Violence" and is renamed to "Discrimination, Harassment and Violence." • The Section is edited for consistency and clarity. • New Criteria are included: "The Certified Entity shall foster and provide an environment free of harassment and violence, where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. In particular, the Certified Entity shall operate a zero-tolerance policy for any form of sexual harassment, including sexual and gender-based violence." • New Criteria are included: "The Certified Entity shall encourage confidential reporting of abuse or harsh treatment. The Certified Entity shall treat all incidents seriously and promptly investigate all allegations of discrimination, violence and harassment, including sexual harassment. If a claim of harassment or discrimination is proven, the Certified Entity shall apply disciplinary measures, up to and including termination of employment." • New Criteria are included: "No worker shall be subjected to any physical, sexual, psychological or verbal harassment or abuse or other forms of intimidation as a disciplinary measure." • New Criteria are included: "The Certified Entity shall have disciplinary procedures in place and shall make sure that they are effectively communicated to the workers. Information regarding disciplinary procedure shall be explained to the workers when they enter employment and easily accessible at the workplace."
NA	4.4.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Section on "Gender Equality" is added.
3.3	4.4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section "Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining" is edited for consistency and clarity.
3.6	4.4.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section "Occupation Health and Safety (OHS)" is edited for consistency and clarity. • New Criteria are added: "The Certified Entity shall provide special protection in relation to health and safety to vulnerable categories of workers such as – but not limited to – young workers, new and expecting mothers and persons with disabilities." • New Section is added, setting a requirement of compliance with local fire safety regulations, including the provision of required fire safety equipment. • New Criteria are included: "The Certified Entity shall make available unrestricted, thus unlocked and unobstructed, access to clearly marked emergency exits and escape routes. Certified Entity shall install and maintain functioning fire alarms on every floor or working area." • New Criteria are included "The Certified Entity shall provide training and make safety signs available in the local language and the

		language(s) spoken by their workforce. The Certified Entity may additionally use pictograms for the safety signs. Workers shall be involved as per the law-defined mechanisms in the discussions related to occupational health and safety."
3.8	4.4.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section "Remuneration and Assessment of Living Wage Gap" is edited for consistency and clarity. The sequence of sections was changed for consistency. • Additional requirement is included in the Section concerning "piece rate workers": "Additionally, in any case, the wage of such piece rate workers must not be less than national legal standards or negotiated wage or industry benchmark standards, whichever is higher." • New Criteria are included: "Workers shall receive remuneration directly in their hand/bank account or in a manner convenient to workers. Wherever possible, efforts and priority must be given to digital payment. Any digital form of wages is permitted only under the conditions and to the extent prescribed by law or fixed by collective bargaining agreements." • New Criteria are included "Certified Entity shall develop a plan to cover the wage gap and pay the living wage to its workers."
3.9	4.4.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section "Working Time" is edited for consistency and clarity. • A new criterion is added: "In any event and at a minimum, the working hours at the Certified Entity shall comply with ILO international framework including the general principles in this sub-section."
3.10	4.4.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section "No Precarious Employment is Provided" is edited for consistency and clarity.
3.11	4.4.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section "Migrant Workers" is edited for consistency and clarity.
NA	4.4.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Section on "Home Workers" is added.
NA	4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section "Due Diligence Management Process" is added. • The new set of requirements to implement a due diligence management system through six steps framework is added: "The Certified Entity shall engage into a responsible business conduct. GOTS Chemical Input Criteria, GOTS Environmental Criteria, GOTS Social Criteria, and GOTS Governance Criteria shall be implemented through the due diligence process. This process shall be commensurate with the risk and appropriate to a specific Certified Entity's circumstances and context. As provided by OECD Due Diligence Guidance for responsible business conduct and OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector the following six steps framework shall be followed by the Certified Entity when conducting due diligence process: The Certified Entity shall embed its due diligence process into its policies and management systems, The Certified Entity shall identify actual or potential adverse impacts associated with the Certified Entity's operation, The Certified Entity shall cease, prevent or mitigate adverse impacts, The Certified Entity shall track implementation and results, The Certified Entity shall communicate how impacts are addressed; and The Certified Entity shall enable remediation when appropriate." • New Criteria were added: "The Certified Entity shall continuously implement due diligence so that they can show progressive improvement over time."



		<p>"The Certified Entity shall adopt a Policy on Responsible Business Conduct that articulates Certified Entity's commitments to responsible business conduct in its own operations and in its supply chain."</p> <p>"The Certified Entity shall strengthen management systems to conduct due diligence of harm in Certified Entity's own operation and in its supply chain".</p> <p>"The Certified Entity shall assign oversight and responsibility for due diligence to relevant senior management and assign board-level responsibilities for implementing Policy on Responsible Business Conduct and GOTS Social Criteria".</p> <p>"The Certified Entity shall allocate adequate support and resources to conduct due diligence on human rights, labour, environment, and integrity risks. The Certified Entity shall monitor compliance with the GOTS Social Criteria and implement necessary improvements at its facilities, also keeping in mind potential adverse impacts."</p>
3.12	4.4.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Section is edited for consistency and clarity. • New Section is included: "The Certified Entity shall ensure the foregoing criteria are not avoided or their purpose defeated by way of informal employment modalities, including misuse of apprenticeship schemes; seasonal work; subcontracting, or recruitment or employment agencies." • New Section is included "Approved Certifiers are expected to study and consider local and national conditions in their Risk Assessment while conducting inspections and audits." (This provision was formerly part of Section 3.1.)
4.2	5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new section is included covering the quality management system and criteria of GOTS Goods. "Certified entities shall have a document, a 'Product Quality Manual' for Quality Management System (QMS). Such a Manual shall be appropriately made available to the relevant staff and workers. <p>This system shall assure that GOTS Goods consistently meet the technical quality parameters and residue limits set in GOTS and Implementation Manual. The system shall establish objectives, performance indicators, testing quality of production inputs, semi-final products and final products. The system shall have a complaint management system for product quality, an internal audit system, documentation of corrective actions, monitoring and management of incidences, risk assessment for contamination, periodic review of QMS by the management. GOTS Approved Certifiers shall have their own risk assessment for Quality Management of GOTS Goods that is independent from Certified Entities."</p>
4.2	5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The criterion "Certified Entities are expected to undertake testing in accordance with a risk assessment..." is revised to an obligatory criterion; accordingly, the wording "expected to" replaced by "shall".
6	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text is edited for clarity and consistency
6.1.1	6.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The term "ear buds" replaced with "cotton buds"
6.1.2.4	6.1.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further criterion is included as "For security veils, only 100% organic cotton fibres are allowed."
7	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New definitions are included for the terms; chemical formulator /supplier, chemical subcontractor (toll manufacturing), chemical trader

		(rebranding), coating, home worker, formulation, GOTS Positive List, mulesing, site, volume reconciliation, protein-based (regenerated) fibres, Scope 1,2 & 3 (GHG emission scopes), wholly owned subsidiary, and the definition of for "microplastics" is updated.
8	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New abbreviations are included: "FTCs", "PFHpA", "PFOSA", "Aps", "DMAc", "DMF", "PFNA", "PFDA", "PTFE", "PFAS", "NMP".

NA: Not available.