

International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

Version 3.0



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Preliminary remark: Terms in '*cursive letters*' are defined in annex A).

1. Principles

1.1. Aim of the standard

The aim of this standard is to define requirements to ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer.

1.2. Scope and structure

This standard covers the processing, manufacturing, packaging, labelling, trading and distribution of all textiles made from at least 70% certified organic natural fibres. The final products may include, but are not limited to fibre products, yarns, fabrics, clothes and home textiles.

The standard focuses on compulsory criteria only. Some of the criteria are compliance requirements for the entire facility where GOTS products are processed (2.4.10. Environmental management, 2.4.11. Waste water treatment, 3. Minimum social criteria and 4.1. Auditing of processing, manufacturing and trading stages), whereas the others are criteria relevant for the specific products subject to certification (all other criteria of chapter 2 and chapter 4.2. of this standard).

As it is to date technically nearly impossible to produce any textiles in an industrial way without the use of chemical inputs, the approach is to define criteria for low impact and low residual natural and synthetic chemical inputs (such as dyestuffs, auxiliaries and finishes) accepted for textiles produced and labelled according to this standard.

1.3. Conformity certificate

Processors, manufacturers and traders that have demonstrated their ability to comply with the relevant GOTS criteria in the corresponding certification procedure to an *Approved Certifier* receive a GOTS conformity certificate (= operational certificate, scope certificate) that lists the certified products (and the production stages) that are in compliance with this standard.

1.4. Label grading and Labelling

The standard provides for a subdivision into two label-grades. The only differentiation for subdivision is the minimum percentage of 'organic' / 'organic - *in conversion*' material in the certified product. Labelling of products as '*in conversion*' is only possible, if the

standard, on which the certification of the fibre production is based, permits such labelling for the fibre in question.

Textile goods (finished or intermediate) produced in compliance with this standard by a *Certified Entity* and certified by an *Approved Certifier* (= *GOTS Goods*) may be sold, labelled or represented as:

a) "organic" or "organic - *in conversion*"

or

b) "made with (x %) organic materials" or "made with (x %) organic - *in conversion* materials"

and the immediate reference

"Global Organic Textile Standard" (or the short form "GOTS").

Labelling must be completed by a reference to the *Approved Certifier* who has certified the *GOTS Goods* (e.g. certifier's name and/or logo) and a reference to the *Certified Entity* (e.g. *Certified Entity's* name and/or licence number).

An *Approved Certifier* must have reviewed and approved the intended labelling in advance of its application.

Where the GOTS logo is used, its application must be in compliance with the 'Licensing and Labelling Guide'.

In all cases the GOTS labelling can only be physically applied by a *Certified Entity*.

1.5. Reference documents

Beside this standard the International Working Group has released the following official reference documents that provide for binding provisions and requirements for *Approved Certifiers* and users of the GOTS:

- Manual for the Implementation of the Global Organic Textile Standard: provides interpretations and clarifications for specific criteria of GOTS. Its purpose is to prevent any inconsistent, inappropriate or incorrect interpretation of the standard. It further contains requirements and detailed specifications for the application of the GOTS and the implementation of the related quality assurance system for certifiers.
- Licensing and Labelling Guide: specifies the licensing conditions for companies participating in the GOTS certification system and defines the corresponding licence fees. It further sets the requirements for the use of the registered trademark 'Global Organic Textile Standard' (GOTS logo) in order to ensure correct and consistent application on products as well as in advertisements, catalogues or other publications.
- Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies: specifies the approval and monitoring procedures and sets out the related requirements for Certification Bodies to implement the GOTS certification and quality assurance system.

2. Criteria

2.1. Requirements for organic fibre production

Approved are natural fibres that are certified organic and fibres from conversion period certified according to a recognised international or national organic farming standard by a certification body that has a valid accreditation for the recognised standard it certifies against and that is IFOAM accredited or internationally recognised (according to ISO 65). Certifying of products as '*in conversion*' is only possible, if the standard on which the certification of the fibre production is based, permits such a certification for the fibre in question. Conversion nature of fibres must be stated as specified in chapter 1.4. of this standard.

2.2. Requirements for material composition

2.2.1. Products sold, labelled or represented as "organic" or "organic – in conversion"

No less than 95% of the fibre content of the products - excluding *accessories* - must be of certified organic origin or from '*in conversion*' period (identified and labelled as specified in chapters 1.4 and 2.1 of this standard). Up to 5% of the fibre content of the products may be made of non-organic fibres that are listed in chapter 2.4.9. The products must not contain any genetically modified fibres. Blending organic and conventional fibres of the same type in the same product is not permitted. The percentage figures refer to the weight of the fibre content of the products in conditioned status.

2.2.2. Products sold, labelled or represented as "made with x % organic materials" or "made with x % organic – in conversion materials"

No less than 70% of the fibre content of the products - excluding *accessories* - must be of certified organic origin or from '*in conversion*' period (identified and labelled as specified in the chapters 1.4 and 2.1 of this standard). Up to 30% of the fibre content of the products may be made of non-organic fibres that are listed in chapter 2.4.9. The products must not contain any genetically modified fibres. The products may contain a maximum of 10% of regenerated or synthetic fibres as listed in chapter 2.4.9, except that socks, leggings and *sportswear* may contain a maximum of 25% of those regenerated or synthetic fibres. Blending organic and conventional fibres of the same type in the same product is not permitted. The percentage figures refer to the weight of the fibre content of the products in conditioned status.

2.3. General requirements for chemical inputs in all processing stages

2.3.1. Prohibited and restricted inputs

The following table lists chemical *inputs* that may (potentially) be used in conventional textile processing but that are explicitly banned or restricted for environmental and/or toxicological reasons in all processing stages of *GOTS Goods*. It is not to be seen as a comprehensive and inclusive list of all chemical *inputs* that are prohibited or restricted under GOTS. Prohibition or restriction of substance groups or individual *substances* that are not explicitly listed in this chapter may further result from chapter 2.3.2 'Requirements related to hazards and toxicity' or from other criteria of this standard.

Substance group	Criteria
Aromatic solvents	Prohibited
Chlorophenols (including their salts and esters)	Prohibited (such as TeCP, PCP)
Complexing agents and surfactants	Prohibited are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all APEOs (i.e. nonylphenol, octylphenol, APEOs terminated with functional groups, APEO-polymers) - EDTA, DTPA, NTA - LAS, α-MES
Fluorocarbons	Prohibited (such as PFOS and PFOA)
Formaldehyde and other short-chain aldehydes	Prohibited
Genetically modified organisms (GMO's) and their derivates (including enzymes derived from genetically modified organisms)	Prohibited
Halogenated solvents	Prohibited
Heavy metals	Prohibited, <i>inputs</i> must be ' <i>heavy metal free</i> '. Impurities must not exceed the limit values as defined in annex A. Exceptions valid for dyes and pigments are set in chapter 2.4.6. and 2.4.7.

Substance group	Criteria
Inputs containing functional nano-particles (= particles with a size 1-100 nm)	Prohibited
Inputs with halogen containing compounds	Prohibited are <i>inputs</i> that contribute > 1% <i>permanent AOX</i> to primary effluent.
Organotin compounds	Prohibited (such as DBT, MBT, TBT, DOT, TPhT)
Plasticizers	Prohibited are: PAH, phthalates, Bisphenol A and all other plasticizers with endocrine disrupting potential
Quaternary ammonium compounds	Prohibited are: DTDMAC, DSDMAC and DHTDMAC
Substances and preparations that are prohibited for application in textiles with a recognised internationally or a nationally valid legal character	Prohibited
Substances and preparations having restrictions in usage for application in textiles with a recognised internationally or nationally legal character	The same restrictions apply, provide the <i>substances</i> and <i>preparations</i> are not already prohibited or have stricter restrictions criteria according to this standard. <i>Substances</i> listed in regulation EC 552/2009 (amending regulation EC 1907/2006 (REACH), annex XVII), and the 'candidate list of substances of very high concern for authorisation' of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) are prohibited.

2.3.2. Requirements related to hazards and toxicity

Substance group	Criteria
<p><i>Inputs</i> that are assigned to specific risk phrases (hazard statements) related to health hazards</p>	<p>Prohibited are <i>substances</i> that are assigned to any of the following risk phrases or combinations thereof (in accordance with the classification of Directive 67/548EEC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R26: Very toxic by inhalation R27: Very toxic in contact with skin R28: Very toxic if swallowed R39: Danger of very serious irreversible effects R40: Limited evidence of a carcinogenic effect R45: May cause cancer R46: May cause heritable genetic damage R48: Danger of serious damage to health by prolonged exposure R49: May cause cancer by inhalation R60: May impair fertility R61: May cause harm to the unborn child R62: Possible risk of impaired fertility R63: Possible risk of harm to the unborn child R68: Possible risk of irreversible effects <p>Prohibited are <i>preparations</i> that contain at least one <i>substance</i> that is assigned to any of these risk phrases or combinations thereof and <i>preparations</i> that are directly assigned to any of these risk phrases or combinations thereof (in accordance with the classification of Directive 1999/45 EC, amended by Directive 2006/8/EC). For <i>inputs</i> assessed according to the Global Harmonized System (GHS) the equivalent hazard statements apply (annex 3 of GHS).</p>

Substance group	Criteria
<p>Inputs that are assigned to specific risk phrases (hazard statements) related to environmental hazards</p>	<p>Prohibited are <i>preparations</i> that are assigned to any of the following (combinations of) risk phrases (in accordance with the classification of Directive 1999/45EC, amended by Directive 2006/8/EC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R50: Very toxic to aquatic organisms R50/53: Very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment R51/53: Toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment R54: Toxic to flora R55: Toxic to fauna R56: Toxic to soil organisms R58: May cause long-term adverse effects in the environment R59: Dangerous for the ozone layer <p>Prohibited are <i>substances</i> that are assigned to any of these (combinations of) risk phrases, if applied as direct <i>input</i> (in accordance with the classification of Directive 67/548EEC). If applied as part of a <i>preparation</i>, <i>substances</i> that are assigned to any of these (combinations of) risk phrases are not prohibited as long as they do not trigger a classification of the preparation itself with the mentioned risk phrases (due to low concentrations of the <i>substances</i> in the <i>preparation</i>).</p> <p>For <i>inputs</i> assessed according to the Global Harmonized System (GHS) the equivalent hazard statements apply (annex 3 of GHS).</p>

All *preparations* applied must further comply with the following requirements:

Parameter	Criteria
Oral Toxicity ¹⁾	LD ₅₀ > 2000 mg/kg ²⁾
Aquatic Toxicity ³⁾	LC ₅₀ , EC ₅₀ , IC ₅₀ > 1 mg/l
Relation of biodegradability / eliminability ⁴⁾ to aquatic toxicity ³⁾	Only allowed, if: < 70% and > 100 mg/l > 70% and > 10 mg/l > 95% and > 1 mg/l
Bio-accumulativity / Biodegradability	<i>Substances</i> , known to be 'bio-accumulative' ⁵⁾ and not biodegradable ⁶⁾ are prohibited.

1) Performing new animal tests to determine unknown LD₅₀ values is prohibited. Instead alternative methods (such as conclusions on analogy, calculation from available data of substances contained, in vitro test) may be used to determine unknown values

2) *Substances* and *preparations*, such as alkaline and acids, that fail to meet this requirement because of their pH value only, are exempt from this requirement.

3) Test method [duration]: LC₅₀ fish: Performing new fish tests to determine unknown LC₅₀ fish values is prohibited. Instead alternative methods to OECD 203 [96hr] (such as conclusions on analogy, calculation from available data of substances contained, fish egg test, in vitro test) may be used to determine unknown values; EC50 daphnia, OECD 202 [48hr]; algae IC50, OECD 201 [72hr]

4) Testing methods: OECD 301 A, OECD 301, E, ISO 7827, OECD 302 A, ISO 9887, OECD 302 B, ISO 9888 or OECD 303A; alternatively to meet the 70% level a *preparation* tested with one of the methods OECD 303A or ISO 11733 a percentage degradation of at least 80% must be shown - or if tested with one of the methods OECD 301 B, ISO 9439, OECD 301 C, OECD 302 C, OECD 301 D, ISO 10707, OECD 301 F, ISO 9408, ISO 10708 or ISO 14593 a percentage degradation of at least 60% must be shown. To meet the 95% level, if tested with any of the mentioned methods a percentage degradation of 95% must be shown. Testing duration with each method is 28 days.

5) A *substance* is considered as (potentially) bio-accumulative, if BCF (= bio-concentration factor) ≥ 100 or if log Pow (= logarithm of the n-octanol-water partition coefficient) ≥ 3

6) Testing requirement: >70% OECD 301A [28d] or equivalent testing method according to footnote 4, except test methods related to eliminability (OECD 302)

2.3.3. Assessment basis for chemical inputs

Basis for assessment of all chemical *inputs* (*substances* and *preparations*) is the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), prepared according to an applicable recognised norm or directive. The *Approved Certifiers* should, where appropriate and felt necessary, include further sources of information (such as additional toxicological and environmental data on specific components of the auxiliary agents, test reports and independent lab analysis) in the assessment.

Certifiers with approval for this specific scope are authorised to issue conformity documents to the chemical supply industry listing the trade names of *preparations* that have been assessed and found to be compliant with the criteria of this standard. All chemical *inputs* intended to be used to process *GOTS Goods* are subject to approval by a *GOTS Approved Certifier* prior to their usage.

2.4. Specific requirements for processing and test parameters

2.4.1. Separation and Identification

All stages through the processing chain must be established so as to ensure that organic and conventional fibres are not commingled and that organic fibres and *GOTS Goods* are not contaminated by contact with prohibited substances.

All organic raw materials must be clearly labelled and identified as such at all stages of the processing chain.

2.4.2. Spinning

Allowed are additives that meet the basic requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1. and 2.3.2. only. Any paraffin products used must be fully refined with a limited value for residual oil of 0,5%.

2.4.3. Sizing and weaving / knitting

Allowed sizing agents include starch, starch derivatives, other natural *substances* and CMC (carboxymethylcellulose).

Polyvinylalcohol (PVA) and Polyacrylate (PAC) may be used for no more than 25% of the total sizing in combination with natural *substances* only, calculated for the chemical without water.

Knitting / weaving oils must not contain heavy metals. Other *inputs* must be derived from *natural materials* only.

2.4.4. Non-woven manufacture

Allowed non-woven manufacturing processing includes only mechanical compaction, webbing and entangling such as hydro entanglement.

2.4.5. Pre-treatment stages, wet processing

Pre-treatment stage	Criteria
Ammonia treatment	Prohibited - Exception: allowed for after-treatment of wool, if performed in closed system.
Bleaches	On basis of oxygen only (peroxides, ozone, etc.). <i>Approved Certifiers</i> may grant exceptions for non-cotton fibre products where oxygen bleaches are not sufficiently functional, provide they meet the basic requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1. and 2.3.2.
Boiling, kiering, washing	Allowed are auxiliaries that meet the basic requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1. and 2.3.2. only. Washing detergents must not contain phosphates.
Chlorination of wools	Prohibited
Desizing	Allowed are GMO free enzymatic desizing and other auxiliaries that meet the basic requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1. and 2.3.2. only
Mechanical/thermal treatments	Allowed
Mercerization	Allowed with auxiliaries that meet the basic requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1. and 2.3.2. only. Alkaline must be recycled.
Optical brightening	Allowed are optical brighteners that meet all criteria for the selection of dyes and auxiliaries as set in chapter 2.4.6. Dyeing.
Other, not explicitly listed pre-treatment methods	Allowed are mechanical / thermal pre-treatment methods and such with the use of <i>substances</i> on basis of <i>natural materials</i> .

2.4.6. Dyeing

Parameter	Criteria
Selection of dyes and auxiliaries	Allowed are natural dyes, synthetic dyes and auxiliaries that meet the requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1 and 2.3.2. only. Prohibited are azo dyes that release carcinogenic arylamine compounds (MAC III, category 1,2,3) Prohibited are (disperse) dyes classified as allergenic. Prohibited are dyes containing heavy metals as an integral part of the dye molecule (e.g.

Parameter	Criteria
	<p>heavy metal dyes, certain reactive dyes) under consideration of the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General exception for Iron - Specific exception for copper: permitted up to 5% per weight in blue, green and turquoise dyestuffs. <p>The use of natural dyes and auxiliaries that are derived from a threatened species listed on the Red List of the IUCN is prohibited.</p>

2.4.7. Printing

Parameter	Criteria
<p>Selection of dyes, pigments and auxiliaries</p>	<p>Allowed are dyes, pigments and auxiliaries that meet the requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 only.</p> <p>Flock printing is allowed with natural and regenerated fibres if the fibres used meet the limit values for residues as listed in chapter 2.4.16.</p> <p>Ammonia is allowed as required buffer in pigment printing pastes.</p> <p>Prohibited are dyes containing heavy metals as an integral part of the dye molecule (e.g. heavy metal dyes, certain reactive dyes) under consideration of the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General exception for Iron - Specific exception for copper: permitted up to 5% per weight in blue, green and turquoise dyestuffs only. <p>Prohibited are discharge printing methods using aromatic solvents.</p> <p>Prohibited are plastisol printing methods using phthalates and PVC.</p> <p>Prohibited are azo dyes and pigments that release carcinogenic arylamine compounds (MAC III, category 1,2,3)</p> <p>The use of natural dyes and auxiliaries that are derived from a threatened species listed on the Red List of the IUCN is prohibited.</p>

2.4.8. Finishing

Parameter	Criteria
Selection of finishing methods and auxiliaries	<p>Allowed are mechanical, thermal and other physical finishing methods.</p> <p>Allowed are natural and synthetic <i>inputs</i> that meet the basic requirements as set in chapter 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 only.</p> <p>Prohibited in general is the use of synthetic <i>inputs</i> for anti-microbial finishing (including biocides), coating, filling and stiffening, lustring and matting as well as weighting.</p> <p>Prohibited are garment finishing methods that are considered to be harmful to the workers (such as sand blasting of denim).</p>

2.4.9. Requirements for additional materials and accessories

Additional Materials	Criteria
Fibre materials accepted for the remaining non-organic balance of the product's material composition according to chapter 2.2.1. and 2.2.2.	<p>Allowed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - conventional natural fibres (all non GMO vegetable and animal fibres) - mineral fibres (except asbestos) - regenerated fibres (cellulosic based such as viscose, modal, lyocell or acetate and protein based; the raw materials used must be non GMO) - synthetic (polymer) fibres: only polyamide, polyester, polypropylene and polyurethane (elastane) <p>The additional fibre materials may be mixed with the organic fibres to the fabric or used in certain details of the product. From 1st January 2014 onwards any polyester used must be made from post-consumer recycled material.</p> <p>All additional materials must meet the limit values for residues as listed in chapter 2.4.16.</p>

Accessories	Criteria
Material in general	<p>Allowed are <i>natural materials</i> including biotic material (such as natural fibre, wood, leather, horn, bone, stone, shell) and inorganic material (such as minerals and metals). Regenerated and synthetic materials are allowed, if their use is not explicitly restricted in the below list of <i>accessories</i>. From 1st January 2014 onwards any polyester used must be made from post-consumer recycled material. Prohibited is the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - chrome (e.g. as component of a metal) - nickel (e.g. as component of a metal) - material from threatened animals, plant and timber - PVC <p>All materials used for <i>accessories</i> must not contain any prohibited <i>input</i> as listed in chapter 2.3.1 and must meet the limit values for residues as listed in chapter 2.4.16.</p>
Appliqué, borders, buckles, cords, hatbands, laces, linings, supports and frames	<p>Allowed are <i>natural materials</i> and material compositions that are permitted for the applicable label grade of the <i>GOTS Good</i> as defined in chapter 2.2.1 respective 2.2.2.</p>
Buttons and press-studs, edgings, elastic bands and yarns, embroidery yarns, fasteners and closing systems, inlays, interface, labels, interlinings, pockets, seam bindings, sewing threads, shoulder pads, zips	<p>The requirements as specified in the line 'material in general' apply.</p>
Other, not explicitly listed accessories	<p>Allowed are <i>natural materials</i> and material compositions that are permitted for the applicable label grade of the <i>GOTS Good</i> as defined in chapter 2.2.1 respective 2.2.2. <i>Approved certifiers</i> may grant exceptions for other materials if the required properties cannot be achieved by using <i>natural materials</i>.</p>

2.4.10. Environmental management

Operators must have a written environmental policy. Depending on the processing stages performed, the policy should include:

- person responsible
- data on energy and water consumption per kg of textile output
- target goals and procedures to reduce energy and water consumption per kg of textile output
- the monitoring of waste and discharges
- procedures to minimise waste and discharges
- procedures to follow in case of waste and pollution incidents
- documentation of staff training in the conservation of water and energy, the proper and minimal use of chemicals and their correct disposal
- programme for improvement

Wet processing units must keep full records of the use of chemicals, energy, water consumption and waste water treatment, including the disposal of sludge. In particular they must continuously measure and monitor waste water temperature, waste water pH and sediment quantities.

2.4.11. Waste water treatment

Wastewater from all wet processing sites must be treated in an internal or external functional wastewater treatment plant before discharged to surface waters. The applicable national and local legal requirements for waste water treatment (including limit values with regard to pH, temperature, TOC, BOD, COD and residues) must be fulfilled. Wastewater from wool scouring sites must, when discharged to surface waters after treatment (whether on-site or off-site), have a COD content of less than 45 g/kg greasy wool. Treatment of wastewater from water retting of bast fibres must achieve a reduction of COD (or TOC) of at least 95% for hemp fibres and 75% for all other bast fibres. Wastewater from all other wet-processing sites must, when discharged to surface waters after treatment (whether on-site or off site), have a COD content of less than 20 g/kg of textile output expressed as an annual average. Any treated effluent that is discharged to surface waters, must have a pH between 6 and 9 (unless the pH of the receiving water is outside this range) and a temperature of less than 40C° (unless the temperature of the receiving water is above this value). The copper content must not exceed 0,5 mg/l.

Wastewater analyses must be performed and documented periodically at normal operating capacity.

2.4.12. Storage, packaging and transport

Organic textile products must be stored and transported in such a manner as to prevent contamination by prohibited *substances* and commingling with conventional products or substitution of the contents.

Packaging material must not contain PVC. From 1st January 2014 onwards any paper or cardboard used in packaging material, hang tags, swing tags etc. must be post-consumer recycled or certified according to FSC or PEFC.

Transport means and routes must be documented.

In cases where pesticides/biocides must be used in storerooms / transport means, they have to comply with the applicable international or national organic production standard.

In the event that treatment of a raw organic fibre product with a *substance* that does not comply with the applicable international or national organic production standard is legally required in an importing country and for the product in question (e.g. by governmental phytosanitary regulations), a derogation for the application of the prohibited *substance* may be granted by the importer's GOTS *Approved Certifier*, provided that:

- a) No alternative treatment is permitted by the importing country's legislation (e.g. phytosanitary regulations), as documented by a statement from the responsible government agency; and
- b) Prior to acceptance by the GOTS certified importer the treated raw organic fibre product must be tested for residues of the prohibited *substance* under the supervision of the importer's GOTS *Approved Certifier*, with no such residues being detected.
- c) This derogation will remain in effect until such time as the responsible government agency approves an alternative treatment for the raw imported organic fibre material that is permitted under the GOTS, or two years from adoption of this provision, whichever is sooner.

2.4.13. Record keeping & internal quality assurance

All operational procedures and practices must be supported by effective documented control systems and records that enable to trace:

- The origin, nature and quantities of organic products which have been delivered to the unit
- The nature, quantities and consignees of *GOTS Goods* which have left the unit
- Any other information such as origin, nature and quantities of raw materials, *accessories* and chemical *inputs* delivered to the unit and the composition of manufactured products that may be required for the purposes of proper inspection of the operation

Certified Entities purchasing organic fibres must receive and maintain transaction certificates (=certificates of inspection), issued by

a recognised certifier and certified in accordance with the criteria of chapter 1.4 for the whole quantity purchased. *Certified Entities* purchasing *GOTS Goods* must receive and maintain a proof on the GOTS certified status (e.g. transaction certificate) issued by an *Approved Certifier* for the whole quantity of *GOTS Goods* purchased.

The consignee of any organic fibres and *GOTS Goods* must check the integrity of the packaging or container and verify the origin and nature of the certified products from the information contained in the product marking and corresponding documentation (e.g. invoice, bill of lading, transaction certificate) upon receipt of the certified products.

A product whose GOTS compliant status is in doubt may only be put into processing or packaging after elimination of that doubt.

2.4.14. Technical quality parameters

Any final product labelled according to this standard should comply with the following technical quality parameters. Information about any (potential) non-compliance(s) must be indicated by the licensee of the final product in the product declaration.

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
Rubbing fastness, dry for fibre blends	3-4 3	ISO 105x12
Rubbing fastness, wet	2	ISO 105x12
Perspiration fastness, alkaline and acid for fibre blends	3-4 3	ISO 105 E04
Light fastness	3-4	ISO 105 B02
Dimensional changes after washing at 40 °C resp. at 30 °C for animal fibre material and blends thereof. This criterion is only valid for the garment sector. Knitted/hosiery: Woven:	max. 8% max. 3%	ISO 6330
Saliva fastness	"FAST" for baby and children's clothing	LMBG B 82.10-1

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
washing fastness when washed at 60 °C	3-4	ISO 105 C06 C1M
Washing fastness of animal fibre material and blends thereof when washed at 30 °C	3-4	ISO 105 C06 A1S without use of steel balls; analogue with reduced washing temperature

2.4.15. Limit values for residues in GOTS Goods

Even if produced in compliance with this standard textiles may carry traces of residues (e.g. due to unavoidable contamination). The following table lists the corresponding limit values for *GOTS Goods*:

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
Arylamines with carcinogenic properties (amine-releasing azo dyes MAC III, category 1,2,3)	< 20 mg/kg	EN 14362-1
AOX	< 5.0 mg/kg	Extraction with boiling water, adsorption on charcoal, AOX-Analyzer, ISO 9562 i.A. ¹⁾
Disperse dyes (classified as allergenic or carcinogenic)	< 30 mg/kg	DIN 54231
Formaldehyde	< 16 mg/kg	Japanese Law 112, ISO 14184-1 i.A.
Glyoxal and other short-chain aldehydes	< 20 mg/kg	Extraction, HMBT, Photometry UV/VIS
pH value	4.5 – 9.0 (no skin contact) 4.5 – 7.5 (skin contact and babywear)	DIN EN 1413
Chlorophenols (PCP, TeCP)	< 0.01 mg/kg	VDI 4301-3, i.A.
o-Phenylphenole	< 1.0 mg/kg	Extraction, DFG/S19, GC/MS

Parameter	Criteria	Test method	
Pesticides, sum parameter		§ 64 LFGB L 00.0034	
All natural fibres (except shorn wool), cert. organic	< 0.1 mg/kg		
Shorn wool, cert. organic	< 0.5 mg/kg		
Heavy metals	<u>In eluate</u> : figures in mg/kg refer to the textile	Elution DIN EN ISO 105-E04 ISO 17294-2	
Antimony (Sb)	< 0.2 mg/kg		
Arsenic (As)	< 0.2 mg/kg		
Cadmium (Cd)	< 0.1 mg/kg		
Chromium (Cr)	< 1.0 mg/kg		
Chromium VI (Cr-VI)	< 0.5 mg/kg		DIN EN ISO 105-E04, ISO 11083
Cobalt (Co)	< 1.0 mg/kg		
Copper (Cu)	< 25 mg/kg		
Lead (Pb)	< 0.2 mg/kg		
Nickel (Ni)	< 1.0 mg/kg		
Mercury (Hg)	< 0.02 mg/kg		
Selenium (Se)	< 0.2 mg/kg		
Tin (Sn)	< 2.0 mg/kg		
Heavy metals	<u>in digested sample</u> :	ISO 105-E 04, ISO 11083	
Cadmium (Cd)	< 45 mg/kg		
Lead (Pb)	< 50 mg/kg		
Organotin compounds, individually TBT, TphT, DBT, DOT	< 0.05 mg/kg	Extraction, E-DIN 38407-13 i.A. quantification with GC/MS	
MBT	< 0.1 mg/kg		
Phthalates (DINP, DNOP, DEHP, DIDP, BBP, DBP, DIBP), sum parameter	< 100 mg/kg	DIN EN 15777: 2009-12	

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH): Chrysene, Benzo[a]anthracen, Benzo[b]fluoranthene, Benzo[k]fluoranthene, Benzo[a]pyrene, Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene, Naphthalin, Acenaphthylene, Acenaphthene, Fluorene, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Fluoranthene, Pyrene, Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene, Benzo[g,h,i]perylene, sum parameter individually	 < 10 mg/kg < 1 mg/kg	ISO 18287

1) The determination of the residue of halogenated compounds in the textile follows an extraction of the textile with boiling hot water. The extracted halogenated compounds will be adsorbed on charcoal. The charcoal with the adsorbed organic halogenated compounds will be analyzed following the ISO 9562 in adaption.

2.4.16. Limit values for residues in additional materials and accessories

Additional materials and *accessories* (in accordance with the criteria of chapter 2.4.9.) used for *GOTS Goods* need to comply with the following limit values for residues:

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
Arylamines with carcinogenic properties (amine-releasing azo dyes MAC III, category 1,2,3)	< 20 mg/kg	EN 14362-1
AOX	< 5.0 mg/kg	Extraction with boiling water, adsorption on charcoal, AOX-Analyzer ISO 9562 i.A. ¹⁾
Disperse dyes (classified as allergenic or carcinogenic)	< 30 mg/kg	DIN 54231
Formaldehyde	< 300 mg/kg (no skin contact) < 75 mg/kg (skin contact) < 16 mg/kg (babywear)	Japanese Law 112 ISO 14184-1 i.A.
Glyoxal and other short-chain aldehydes	< 300 mg/kg (no skin contact) < 75 mg/kg (skin contact) < 20 mg/kg (babywear)	Extraction, HMBT, Photometry UV/VIS
pH value	4.5 – 9.0 (no skin contact) 4.5 – 7.5 (skin contact and babywear)	DIN EN 1413
Chlorophenols (PCP, TeCP)	< 0.05 mg/kg	VDI 4301-3, i.A.

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
Pesticides, sum parameter		DIN 38409-14 i.A.
All natural fibres (except shorn wool)	< 0.5 mg/kg	
Shorn wool	< 1.0 mg/kg	
Heavy metals	<u>In eluate</u> : figures in mg/kg refers to additional material or <i>accessory</i>	Elution DIN EN ISO 105-E04, ISO 17294-2
Arsenic (As)	< 0.2 mg/kg	
Cadmium (Cd)	< 0.1 mg/kg	
Chromium (Cr)	< 1.0 mg/kg	
Chromium VI (Cr-VI)	< 0.5 mg/kg	DIN EN ISO 105-E04, ISO 11083
Cobalt (Co)	< 1.0 mg/kg	
Copper (Cu)	< 50 mg/kg	
Lead (Pb)	< 0.2 mg/kg	
Nickel (Ni)	< 1.0 mg/kg	
Mercury (Hg)	< 0.02 mg/kg	
Selenium (Se)	< 0.2 mg/kg	
Tin (Sn)	< 2.0 mg/kg	
Heavy metals	<u>in digested sample</u> :	ISO 105-E 04, ISO 11083
Cadmium (Cd)	< 45 mg/kg	
Lead (Pb)	< 50 mg/kg	
Nickel release	< 0.5 µg/cm ² /week	EN 12472, EN 1811
Organotin compounds, individually TBT, TphT, DBT, DOT MBT	< 0.05 mg/kg < 0.1 mg/kg	Extraction, E-DIN 38407-13 i.A. quantification with GC/MS
Phthalates (DINP, DNOP, DEHP, DIDP, BBP, DBP, DIBP) sum parameter	< 100 mg/kg	DIN EN 15777: 2009-12

Parameter	Criteria	Test method
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH): Chrysene, Benzo[a]anthracen, Benzo[b]fluoranthene, Benzo[k]fluoranthene, Benzo[a]pyrene, Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene, Naphthalin, Acenaphthylene, Acenaphthene, Fluorene, Phenanthrene, Anthracene, Fluoranthene, Pyrene, Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene, Benzo[g,h,i]perylene, sum parameter individually	 < 10 mg/kg < 1 mg/kg	ISO 18287

1) The determination of the residue of halogenated compounds in the textile follows an extraction of the textile with boiling hot water. The extracted halogenated compounds will be adsorbed on charcoal. The charcoal with the adsorbed organic halogenated compounds will be analyzed following the ISO 9562 in adaptation.

3. Minimum social criteria

3.1. Scope

The following social criteria apply to all textile processing and manufacturing stages. As soon as applicable minimum social criteria will be introduced to recognised organic farming standards, these will apply to the farm level as well. For adequate implementation and assessment of the following specific criteria the corresponding key conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) have to be taken as the relevant basis for interpretation.

3.2. *Employment is freely chosen*

There is no forced or bonded labour.

Workers are not required to lodge "deposits" or their identity papers with their employer and are free to leave their employer after reasonable notice.

3.3. *Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected*

Workers, without distinction, have the right to join or form trade unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively.

The employer adopts an open attitude towards the activities of trade unions and their organisational activities.

Workers representatives are not discriminated against and have access to carry out their representative functions in the workplace.

Where the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining is restricted under law, the employer facilitates, and does not hinder, the development of parallel means for independent and free association and bargaining.

3.4. *Working conditions are safe and hygienic*

A safe and hygienic working environment must be provided, bearing in mind the prevailing knowledge of the industry and of any specific hazards. Adequate steps must be taken to prevent accidents and injury to health arising from, associated with, or occurring in the course of work, by minimising, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment.

Workers must receive regular and recorded health and safety training, and such training must be repeated for new or reassigned workers.

Access to clean toilet facilities and to potable water, and, if appropriate, to rest areas, food consuming areas and sanitary facilities for food storage must be provided.

Accommodation, where provided, must be clean, safe, and meet the basic needs of the workers.

The company observing the code must assign responsibility for health and safety to a senior management representative.

3.5. *Child labour must not be used*

There must be no new recruitment of child labour.

Companies must develop or participate in and contribute to policies and programmes which provide for the transition of any child found to be performing child labour to enable her or him to attend and remain in quality education until no longer a child.

Children and young persons under 18 must not be employed at night or in hazardous conditions.

These policies and procedures including the interpretation of the terms "child" and "child labour" must conform to the provisions of the relevant ILO conventions C138 and C182.

3.6. *Living wages*

Wages and benefits paid for a standard working week meet, at a minimum, national legal standards or industry benchmark standards, whichever is higher. In any event wages should always be enough to meet basic needs and to provide some discretionary income.

All workers must be provided with written and understandable information about their employment conditions including wages before they enter employment and about the particulars of their wages for the pay period concerned each time that they are paid.

Deductions from wages as a disciplinary measure are not permitted nor must any deductions from wages unless provided for by national law without the express permission of the worker concerned. All disciplinary measures should be recorded.

3.7. Working hours are not excessive

Working hours must comply with national laws and benchmark industry standards, whichever affords greater protection.

In any event, workers must not be required to work in excess of 48 hours per week on a regular basis, and must be provided with at least one day off for every 7 day period on average. Overtime must be voluntary, must not exceed 12 hours per week, must not be demanded on a regular basis and must always be compensated at a premium rate.

3.8. No discrimination is practised

There is no discrimination in hiring, compensation, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement based on race, caste, national origin, religion, age, disability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, union membership or political affiliation.

3.9. Regular employment is provided

To every extent possible work performed must be on the basis of recognised employment relationship established through national law and practice.

Obligations to employees under labour or social security laws and regulations arising from the regular employment relationship must not be avoided through the use of labour-only contracting, sub-contracting, or home-working arrangements, or through apprenticeship schemes where there is no real intent to impart skills or provide regular employment, nor must any such obligations be avoided through the excessive use of fixed-term contracts of employment.

3.10. Harsh or inhumane treatment is prohibited

Physical abuse or discipline, the threat of physical abuse, sexual or other harassment and verbal abuse or other forms of intimidation must be prohibited.

3.11. Social Compliance Management

Operators must have a policy for social accountability to ensure that the social criteria can be met. They must support the implementation and monitoring of the social criteria by:

- nominating a person responsible for social accountability
- monitoring compliance with the social criteria and implementing necessary improvements at its facilities
- informing its workers about the content of the minimum social criteria
- maintaining records of the name, age, working hours and the wages paid for each worker
- maintaining and providing appropriate safety equipment and materials to its workers
- allowing the workers to nominate a representative for social accountability that is able to provide feedback to the management regarding implementation status of and compliance with social criteria
- recording and investigating complaints from workers or third parties related to the adherence to the social criteria and maintaining records about any necessary corrective measures arising from them
- refraining from disciplinary measures, dismissals or other forms of discrimination against workers for providing information concerning observance of the social criteria

4. Quality assurance system

4.1. Auditing of processing, manufacturing and trading stages

Processors, manufacturers and traders of GOTS Goods must undergo an on-site annual inspection cycle (including possible additional unannounced inspections based on a risk assessment of the operations) and must hold a valid conformity certificate. *Traders* having an annual turnover with *GOTS Goods* less than 5000 € and retailers only selling to end consumers are exempt from the certification obligation; provide they do not (re-)pack or (re-)label *GOTS Goods*. *Traders* with less than 5000€ annual turnover with *GOTS Goods* must register with an *Approved Certifier* and must inform the same immediately after their annual turnover exceeds 5000€.

The responsible *Approved Certifier* may further decide on exceptions from the annual onsite inspection cycle for small-scale sub-contractors with a low risk potential regarding environmental and social criteria. Such units must be clearly identified, must have a contract with the contracting *Certified Entity* (who is responsible for their compliance with these standards) and may be subject to inspection at the certifiers discretion.

The entity under whose name or brand the labelled *GOTS Goods* are sold to the end consumer is responsible for exercising due care in ensuring compliance of the products with this standard, the Licensing and Labelling Guide and further provisions as released by the International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard (IWG).

Certifiers must be authorised by the IWG for the specific scope(s) in which they offer certification services:

- ① Certification of mechanical textile processing and manufacturing operations and their products
- ② Certification of wet processing and finishing operations and their products
- ③ Certification of trading operations and related products

Basis for authorisation by the IWG is an accreditation of the certifier in accordance with the IWG document 'Approval Procedure and Requirements for Certification Bodies' by the main co-operation partner of the IWG for this process, IOAS, or another recognised accreditation body.

4.2. Testing of Technical Quality Parameters and Residues

Certified Entities are expected to undertake testing in accordance with a risk assessment in order to assure compliance with this standard and in specific with the criteria of chapter 2.4.14 (Technical Quality Parameters) as well as 2.4.15 and 2.4.16 (Limit Values for Residues in *GOTS Goods*, additional materials and *accessories*). All *GOTS Goods* and the components of these products should be included in this risk assessment and therefore potentially subject to testing. The testing frequency and the number of samples should be established according to this risk assessment.

Samples for residue testing may also be taken by the inspector during the required on-site inspection, either as back-up to the inspection process or in case of suspicion of contamination or non-compliance. Additional samples of goods may be taken from the supply chain at any time without advance notice.

Laboratories that are accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025 and that have appropriate experience in textile residue testing are approved to perform residue testing under this standard.

Annex

A) Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following terms are defined as:

Term	Definition for the purpose of this standard
<i>Accessories</i>	Items that are added to supplement <i>GOTS Goods</i> for required functional or for fashionable reasons. Most commonly used <i>accessories</i> are listed in chapter 2.4.9. The processing of those accessories is not under direct scope of the GOTS on-site certification system. The GOTS criteria applicable to accessories are listed in chapter 2.4.9 and 2.4.16.
<i>Approved Certifier</i>	Certification body which is approved by the IWG to perform inspections and certifications according to GOTS in the relevant scope. Un updated list of Approved Certifiers and their scopes is available at: http://www.global-standard.org/certification/approved-certification-bodies.html
<i>Certified Entity</i>	<i>Processor, manufacturer or trader of GOTS Goods certified by an Approved Certifier.</i>
<i>GOTS Goods</i>	Textile goods (finished or intermediate) produced in compliance with GOTS by a <i>Certified Entity</i> and certified by an <i>Approved Certifier</i> .
<i>'Heavy metal free'</i>	An <i>input</i> is considered as 'heavy metal free' if it does not contain heavy metals as a functional constituent and any impurities contained do not exceed the following limit values as set by ETAD: Antimony: 50ppm, Arsenic: 50ppm, Barium: 100ppm, Cadmium: 20ppm, Cobalt: 500ppm, Copper: 250ppm, Chrome: 100ppm, Iron: 2500ppm, Lead: 100 ppm, Manganese: 1000ppm, Nickel: 200ppm, Mercury: 4ppm, Selenium: 20ppm, Silver: 100ppm, Zinc: 1500ppm, Tin: 250ppm
<i>'In conversion'</i>	A product from an operation or portion thereof, which has completed at least 12 months under organic management and is under the supervision of a certification body.
<i>Input</i>	General term for all <i>substances and preparations</i> directly applied as textile auxiliary agents, dyes or pigments.
<i>Manufacturer</i>	Entity in the manufacturing chain (sewing industry or so called CMT (cutting, making, trimming) industry up to labelling and final packing) of <i>GOTS Goods</i> .
<i>Natural materials</i>	A <i>natural material</i> is any product or physical matter that comes from plants, animals, or the ground. Minerals and the metals that can be extracted from them are also considered to belong into this category (e.g. natural fibres, leather, wood, stones, shells, metals, seed and plant oils etc.).

Term	Definition for the purpose of this standard
'Permanent AOX'	AOX is permanent, if the molecular structure of the <i>input</i> contributes halogenated organic compounds to wastewater generated during fibre processing.
<i>Preparations</i>	Mixtures or solutions composed of two or more <i>substances</i> .
<i>Processor</i>	Entity in the processing chain (post-harvest handling up to finishing) of <i>GOTS Goods</i> .
<i>Substances</i>	Chemical elements and their compounds as they occur in the natural state or as produced by industry.
<i>Sportswear</i>	<i>Sportswear</i> includes any garment that is functional or technical active wear, which requires it to perform properly with regard to stretch, sun block, insect repellent, moisture repellent, wrinkle repellent and breathability. Such a garment is intended to be suitable for activities such as walking, hiking, running, exercise, dance, and athletic pursuits, not including leisure or casual wear.
<i>Trader</i>	Entity trading with (=buying and selling) <i>GOTS Goods</i> in the supply chain between the producer of the fibre and the retail merchant of the final product regardless whether the goods are physically received or not (e.g. an import, export or wholesale trading entity). Agents that do not become proprietor of the goods and retailers only selling to the end consumer are not considered as traders.

B) List of abbreviations

Organisations / Standards:

GOTS	Global Organic Textile Standard
IWG	International Working Group on GOTS (member organisations: IVN, JOCA, OTA, SA)
IVN	International Association Natural Textile Industry, Germany
JOCA	Japan Organic Cotton Association, Japan
OTA	Organic Trade Association, USA
SA	Soil Association, UK
ECHA	European Chemicals Agency
ETAD	Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and Organic Pigments Manufacturers
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council

GHS	Global Harmonized System
IFOAM	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOAS	International Organic Accreditation Service
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
OECD	Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes
REACH	EEC Regulation regarding Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

Others:

EC50	Effect concentration (50%)
IC50	Inhibition concentration (50% inhibition)
LC50	Lethal concentration (50% mortality)
α -MES	α -methyl ester sulphonate (C16/18)
AOX	Absorbable halogenated hydrocarbons and <i>substances</i> that can cause their formation.
APEO	Alkylphenolethoxylate
BBP	Benzylbutyl phthalate
BOD	Biological Oxygen Demand
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand
DBP	Dibutyl phthalate
DBT	Dibutyltin
DEHP	Diethylhexyl phthalate
DIBP	Di-isobutyl phthalate
DIDP	Diisodecyl phthalate
DINP	Diisononyl phthalate
DNOP	Di-n-octyl phthalate
DTDMAC	Ditallowdimethylammonium chloride
DSDMAC	Distearyl dimethylammonium chloride
DHTDMAC	Dihydrogenated tallow dimethylammonium chloride
DTPA	Diethylenetriamine penta-acetate
EDTA	Ethylendiamine tetra-acetate
GMO	Genetically modified organisms

HMBT	2-Hydrazono-2,3-dihydro-3-methylbenzothiazole-hydrochloride
MAC	Maximum Allowable Concentration (of a <i>substance</i> at the working place)
MBT	Monobutyltin
NTA	Nitrilotriacetic acid
LAS	Linear alkyl benzene sulphonate
PAH	Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCP	Pentachlorophenol
PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic acid
PFOS	Perfluorooctane sulfonate
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
TBT	Tributyltin
TeCP	Tetrachlorophenol
TOC	Total Organic Carbon
TPhT	Triphenyltin

Availability of documents:

This standard, the reference documents and any further relevant public information as released by the International Working Group are introduced and available for download on the website www.global-standard.org
