



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

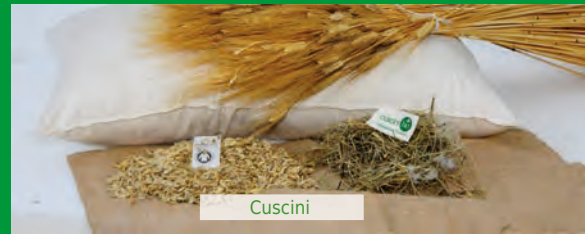
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Lanius



Brands Fashion



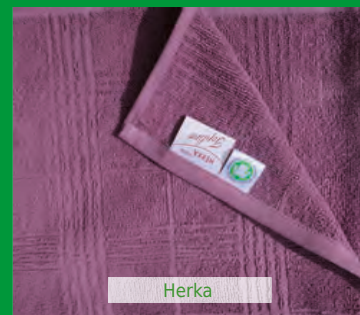
Cuscini



Paptex



Mundotextil



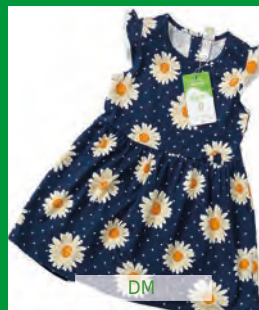
Herka



Efie



Loud + Proud



DM



Corman



Naturepedic

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

➔ 5,024 certified facilities reported in 2017 (up from 4,357 in 2016)

➔ Impact Assessment: number of workers reported over 1.7 million (~ 1 million in 2016 for 3,500 facilities)

➔ 17,905 chemical inputs including 6,897 colourants have now been approved (31 Dec 2017), compared to 15,640 chemical inputs and 5,939 colourants in 2016, an overall increase of 14%

➔ GOTS version 5.0 was released officially on 01 March 2017 along with the associated Implementation Manual

➔ 7 Regional Representatives work for GOTS

➔ A revised Licencing and Labelling Guide, including a new section for Combined Products, was issued in June 2017.

➔ GOTS Pre-Conference to the IFOAM Organics International (OI) Organic World Congress 'Social Compliance Issues in the Organic Textile Supply Chain' - debating with critics and advocates for continuous improvement

➔ Our Motion to IFOAM OI: 'Organic Textiles: Fibre Production & Processing to be Covered by Appropriate Standards' was almost unanimously approved with no amendments at the IFOAM OI General Assembly.

➔ As part of the GOTS certifier train-

ing SAI successfully conducted a series of two-day trainings in six different countries for 95 certifiers/auditors

➔ In the Italian Green Public Procurement decree, GOTS is explicitly mentioned as acceptable verification for products made with organic fibres.

➔ Increase of about 20% page views on GOTS Database from 155 (150) countries

➔ New factsheet in flowchart format: 'Are you allowed to Label GOTS goods or mention GOTS in your advertising?'

➔ New Turkish Simple Show Version



DEVELOPMENT

The GOTS Standard version 5.0 was released officially on 01 March 2017 along with the associated Manual. The transition to GOTS 5.0 was completed on 1 March 2018.

We always required testing for GM presence in the GOTS supply chain, based on the GOTS risk assessment, at the earliest possible stage because of (un)reliability of tests and results

currently seen.

In 2016, GOTS determined, through a limited round-robin exercise, that test results for GMO presence showed inconsistency and were unreliable in cotton fibre. Thus, we initiated and conceptualised a project to determine testing protocols for GM presence in cotton fibre and downstream products. This project is being funded by Orga-

nic Cotton Accelerator (OCA). Ideally it will lead to an ISO standard. It is expected that the exercise may take between 12 and 16 months depending on the scope accepted by the ISO. We feel confident that at the end of this, we will have a clear idea of which tests work, what could be a standardised test protocol and where in the supply chain these tests are reliable.

OUR VISION
IS THAT ORGANIC TEXTILES
WILL BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PART OF EVERYDAY LIFE,
ENHANCING PEOPLE'S LIVES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

OUR MISSION
IS THE DEVELOPMENT,
IMPLEMENTATION, VERIFICATION, PROTECTION
AND PROMOTION OF THE
GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

from: GOTS Vision and Mission



IMPLEMENTATION

Development of businesses

The number of facilities certified to GOTS shows an increase of 8.6%, from 4,642 facilities in 2016 to 5,024 facilities in 2017. GOTS certified facilities are located in 62 countries around the world with continuous growth in both regions of production and consumption.

Countries or regions with the largest increase in GOTS certification in 2017 are (in rank order): Bangladesh (+40%), North America (+39%), Portugal (+39%), Hongkong (+34%), Italy (+28%) and Spain (+26%).

The top ten countries in terms of total

number of certified facilities are: India (1658), Bangladesh (534), Germany (480), Turkey (445), Italy (307), China (292), Pakistan (194), Portugal (180), USA (99) and South Korea (69).

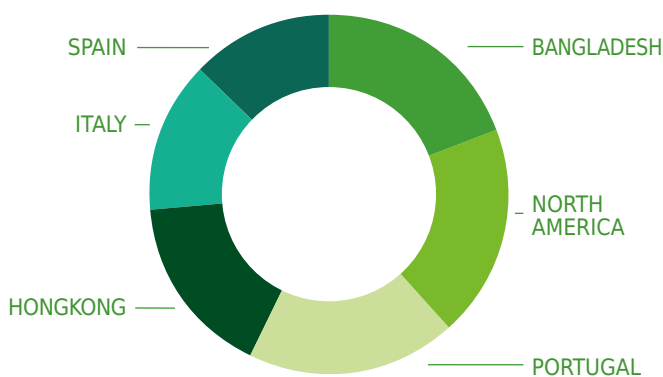
In 2017 the 19 GOTS accredited independent Certification Bodies reported more than 1.74 million people working in GOTS certified facilities.

The number of chemicals on the GOTS Positive List increased 14% to more than 17,900 from a total of 720 manufacturers. The GOTS Positive List contains tradenames of approved chemicals that must be used by all textile

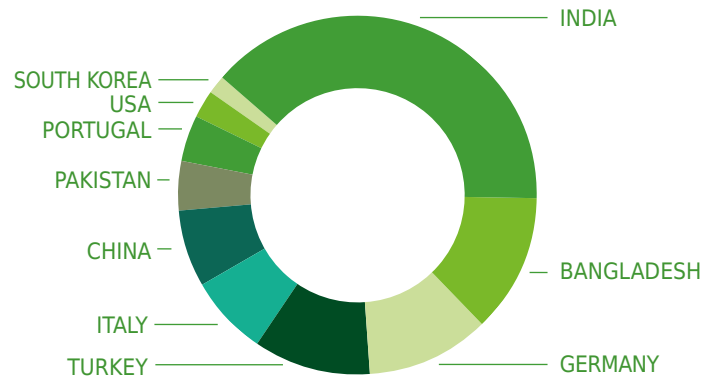
processors for their GOTS certified production.

A revised Licencing and Labelling Guide, including a new section for Combined Products (such as furniture) was issued in June 2017.

We introduced lower licence fees for accessories. In addition GOTS has offered an incentive of a 50% reduction in fees for all additives for a limited time period (to 30 June 2018). This is to promote the use of the GOTS logo amongst approved additive suppliers.



Countries or regions with the largest increase in GOTS certification in 2017.



The top ten countries in terms of total number of certified entities.



VERIFICATION

Third Party Certification

17 certification bodies work as GOTS-approved certifiers.

As part of the GOTS certifier training, agreed between Social Accountability International (SAI) and GOTS, SAI conducted a series of two-day training programs on GOTS 5.0, the new version

of the Standard. The training was targeted at the certifiers carrying out the audits to the GOTS standard in different countries. This training has been part of the GOTS's initiative to further strengthen social compliance auditing skills and knowledge amongst our certifiers. The project was con-

ducted in different countries - India, Bangladesh, Turkey, China, Germany and USA.

The two-day training to the selected participants from both certifiers' and GOTS' staff, included training on social performance indicators and management systems for social compliance.



PROTECTION

The GOTS trademark registrations had been registered for 10 years. Thus they will now have to be renewed.

35 Complaints were received through our complaint procedure, the majority related to violation of the use of or misrepresentations of the GOTS logo. GOTS settled its most recent trademark enforcement lawsuit which had been filed in the United States against mattress retailer Keetsa, Inc., of California. The lawsuit was settled amicably without admission of liability. GOTS instituted Certification Bans on two entities in 2017, Dynamic Overseas and Kriti Organics, both located in India, for grossly violating GOTS requirements and improper business practises.

We are continuing our enforcement efforts for the textile industry to ensure reliability and accuracy in the use of the GOTS trademark on all kinds of textile products globally.

GOTS is currently working with OTA, on its 'Misleading Organic Claims Task Force'. In 2015, the FTC Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) commissioned an internet-based study to explore consumer perceptions of 'organic' and 'recycled content' claims related to the Commission's Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims. The Commission noted that it lacked sufficient evidence regarding how consumers perceive organic claims and needed to collect

more information in order to provide generally applicable advice. Together with OTA we have urged FTC and NOP to develop a joint enforcement policy on the use of the term 'organic' on non-agricultural products and update the FTC Green Guides with information that helps marketers ensure that the organic claims they make are truthful and non-deceptive.

In order to make the verification for consumers easier we have included QR Codes - with a direct link to the respective GOTS Database entry - of all certified operations in the GOTS Database. They can be downloaded and used on hangtags or packing together with the approved GOTS labelling



PROMOTION

Development cooperation and environmental protection

A major event was our Pre-Conference to the IFOAM Organic World Congress (OWC) in New Delhi, India in November. This conference was first of its kind, solely focused on the theme 'Social Compliance Issues in the Organic Textile Supply Chain'. More than 85 high profile attendees from twelve countries joined, including CSR Managers of brands and retailers, HR Representatives, Certification Bodies, Standard Setters, Government, NGOs and other stakeholders from the field of social compliance. Three main outcomes were agreed to be presented by our GOTS Representatives Saoko Miyoshi and Christopher Stopes to the OWC:

1. Social criteria in sustainability standards help improving working conditions. Improve standards with measurable criteria and keep inspection/certification as a diagnostic tool!
2. In addition or - if possible - in combination find and apply suitable aspirational approaches and tools!
3. Find and apply efficient means to draw the big brands and retailers into

utilizing their responsibility for sustainability of the textile industry!

In addition to the existing Simple Show versions in English, German, Japanese, French, Italian and Spanish we produced and released a Turkish version.

We extended the GOTS Factsheets collection with a Labelling Factsheet in flowchart design 'Are you allowed to Label GOTS goods or mention GOTS in your advertising?'

We continued our successful partnerships with leading trade fairs: Messe Frankfurt in China, Germany and France, Messe Munich, Innatex and Biofach Japan.

Our web analysis tool Piwik recorded, once again, an increase in visitor numbers (243,518) compared to last year (2016: 225,085) with more than 1,082,650 page-views (2016: 985,123) and 36,137 (2016: 28,095) downloads. 363,171 (2016: 301,503) page-views were counted on the GOTS Database. This is an increase of about 20% and again confirms that the GOTS Data-

base is recognized as a valuable instrument for verification and sourcing. By continent, the majority of visitors came from Europe, followed by the United States. The European data confirms the strong buying market in this region. Measured on the number of visits reflecting again increasing interest, the market for GOTS goods in U.S. is still very small. The increase by nearly 10% in North America again shows that there is growing market potential.

MEDIA

Numerous media worldwide covered GOTS. Examples of articles or mentions we found in Bangladesh and India: Textile Focus Bangladesh, Bangladesh Textiles Today, Apparel Views, Apparel Online, Colourage, Fashionating, Fibre2Fashion, Indian Apparel Blog, The Indian Textile Journal, Apparel Resources. Germany: Eve Magazine, Childhood Business, LifeVerde, Fashion Toda. UK: Eco Textile News and The Ethical Fashion Forum.

USA: Furniture World, Textile Insight, Just-Style Magazine, Women's Wear Daily, Fashionating World, Sourcing Journal, Innovation in Textiles, Home Textiles Today, Luxury Fashion, ForreTV.

Europe: Bloggers more and more become crucial partner regarding consumer awareness.

China: We concentrated beyond the classical print media on social media platforms - especially WeChat has become mainstream.

APPROACHING RELEVANT TEXTILE OPERATORS AND INITIAL CONSULTANCY FOR GOTS CERTIFICATION

We contributed to numerous international events like the Suedwind Conference, New Delhi, the Waste Management Conference, Mumbai, ISEAL Global Sustainability Standards Conference, Zurich, APEDA / ISOT Stakeholders Meeting, New Delhi, T4SD Forum 2017, Geneva or the Textile Exchange Conference and Round Tables, Washington.

The GOTS Representatives had booths at many important fairs around the globe. At Intertextile Shanghai Apparel Fabrics Spring and Autumn Editions 2017, Felicia Shi combined the exhibition appearance with a lecture and panel discussion. Together with IVN Lina Pfeifer had booths at Ethical Fashion Show in Berlin in (January and July), InnaTex in Wallau (January and August) and Munich Fabric Start (February and September) combined with a 'Denim Sustainability & Innovation' and a 'Responsible Innovators for Fashion and Textiles RIFT' panel. At the International Organic EXPO GOTS Satoko Miyoshi had a booth and organized two seminars together with JOCA, Satoko Miyoshi contributed with two seminars to JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) exhibition for sustainable fashion from September 2017 to January 2018, prepared the Organic Lifestyle Expo held in Tokyo and organized two seminars there: 'Organic and SDGs', and 'What is demand for fashion from now'. Christopher Stopes in the UK had a booth at the Future Fabrics Expo with a GOTS seminar included in the Expo programme.

In Bangladesh and India Sumit Gupta



spoke at Sustainability 2.0, the International Conference on Textile and Clothing, Kolkata, the 14th International & 72nd All India Textile Conference, the Bestseller Mill Day on Sustainability, Shaping India 2030: Sustainable Development and Socio-Economic Perspectives & Challenges, Sustainability in Textile Industry, Tirupur, Textiles India 2017, Gandhinagar, Seminar on Textile Dyes & Chemicals - Roadway to Sustainable Future, Ahmedabad, Carrefour Organic Cotton Supply Chain Event, Gurgaon and FICCI Tag 2017 Conference. Felicia Shi in China held a GOTS presentation at the Sustainability Seminar of SELECTED, which is part of the Danish company BESTSELLER, a lecture at ECOCERT 2017 Seminar on Organic Textiles, a keynote speech at the launch event of sustainable fashion brand Klee Klee. Furthermore she was invited to a panel discussion at H&M's Circular Fashion Salon and to present GOTS as the panelist at International Launch Event of the Revised CSC9000T (CNTAC's Social Responsibility Management System for Textile and Apparel Sector), which was the first ever China's sustainability standard in social responsibility initially introduced in 2005.

Lina Pfeifer conducted a lot of webinars to initially consult companies in Germany, Austria and Switzerland like Hopp KG, Peter Hahn, Deltex, Paptex, Aldi Nord or Takko. She contributed to the Fair Wear Tchibo Sustainability Innovation Lab and to two conferences on sustainable consumption from Kompetenzzentrum Nachhaltiger Konsum and the ISEAL Alliance Living Income Workshop.

Satoko Miyoshi held presentations at NOAF seminar, FLACC organic seminar. and the conference of the Asia Productivity Organization in Tagaytay, Philippines.

In Turkey Elif Yaraşık provided initial consultancy to Turkish companies like Altan Konfeksiyon, Akin Tekstil, Erdem Tekstil, Eradenim, Sezer Tekstil, Seykon Tekstil, Gai Sourcing and Edpa Kimya and label supplier Cadica and Saypaş Etiket. At the International Izmir Textile and Apparel Symposium she held a lecture and was a panelist on the TE panel.

Lori Wyman in USA conducted a webinar with OTA and TE entitled Labeling Organic Textiles in the US, a GOTS Regional Round Table in New York and was a speaker at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) there as part of a conference on sustainability. At the WEAR Conference in Toronto she moderated a panel and a GOTS Workshop.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY AND SCHOOL EDUCATION

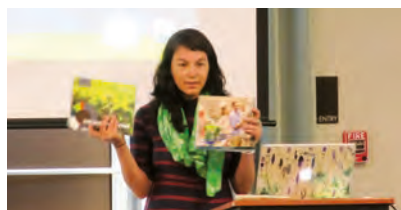
Master and PhD candidates are increasingly approaching us. Universities increasingly include sustainability topics in their curricula and we are very happy to support this in serving as guest lecturers.

Lina Pfeifer visited the master's programme of HTW (Hochschule für Technik - Studiengang Bekleidungstechnik/Konfektion) in Berlin, taught on GOTS and answered critical questions from students. Together with Femnet e.V. the university is organising a project on 'transparency in the textile supply chain'.

Elif Yaraşık taught at Dokuz Eylül University, Art Faculty Textile and Fashion Design Department, Sumit Gupta at BD Somani Institute Of Art And Fashion Technology and Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), Mumbai. He also contributed to a book on India and Sustainability Standards by Aston Business School (UK) and Centre for Responsible Business (India) and to the paper on 'Impact of Private Sustainability Standards on Market Access and Sustainable Development', published in the proceedings of the 'United Nations Conference on Trade and Development'.

POLITICS

Upon our initiative IFOAM EU Group established a Task Force on organic non-food products in 2017, launched at Biofach in Germany. Two groups, one on textiles and one on cosmetics have worked throughout the year with the active participation of GOTS. The Textile Task Force comprised representatives of stakeholder groups and organisations with an interest in organic textiles. Working through the year, a paper on organic textiles



was prepared stating the position of IFOAM EU Group and this was adopted by the IFOAM EU Board and Council in December. It will serve as basis for joint lobbying activities by IFOAM EU and GOTS vis a vis the EU.

In Germany the work on the Partnership of Sustainable Textiles continued. It is a collaborative initiative with government, NGO and commercial engagement that is aimed at reducing the negative impact of textile products on a range of sustainability measures and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Claudia Kersten was elected by all participating standards to represent them in the Steering Committee and Lina Pfeifer and Christopher Stopes were mainly working in the Natural Fibre Working Group. A big achievement in 2017 was that all standards of the IFOAM Family of Standard are automatically accepted as Organic Production Standards within the Partnership of Sustainable Textiles. In the UK, a similar initiative, also with GOTS involvement, is the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP). At a European level, both of these initiatives are part of a European funded (EU Life Project) called the European Clothing Action Plan (ECAP). The potential synergy between the national and European initiatives have been identified. In the UK, the SCAP has the participation of more than 50% of the clothing retail sector and over the past four years has, through the adoption of various improvement actions including the transition to organic fibres, made progress towards the agreed targets for reduction in the carbon and water impacts. Switching to organic fibre (cotton) makes up a small (0.1%) contribution to this reduction. Both initiatives share similar goals, and although the focus on fibre choice helps to mitigate the negative impacts of the farm production (particularly of cotton), neither is taking the whole supply chain (production and processing) into account. This is substantial feature of GOTS. The original UK SCAP targets were set to 2020, and the post-2020 work and focus of the group is under review. In 2014 a reform of the EU's public procurement rules had resulted in the

Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement. For the first time, public procurers can use voluntary sustainability standards as a proof for the fulfilment of 'Green' performance criteria required in their specification. On the basis of this legal framework a number of European countries developed guidance in this area. In 2017, for example the relevant Italian decree explicitly provides

within the supply chain. The Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) has constituted a 'Working Group on Eco Agriculture' in which Sumit Gupta serves as a member in the sub-group on Policy Thrust.

Satoko Miyoshi in Japan attended meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (MAFF), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Environment (MEV).

would be to bring the processing and labelling of organic textile products and organic fibre content claims into a coherent system that is consistent with organic food products, where both production and processing are the subject of agreed organic standards. The Motion proposed by GOTS was recommended by the IFOAM OI World Board for approval by the GA. Latter approved the motion almost unanimously with no amendments.



that GOTS is acceptable to verify that products are made with organic fibres. Regarding Public Procurement in India, we submitted a paper to the QCI-UNFSS India National Platform for Private Sustainability Standards (PSS) in order to support them in their efforts to acknowledge GOTS for public procurement in India.

In India we attended two stakeholder consultation meetings of APEDA, Ministry of Commerce, who expressed their intent to extrapolate the scope of their current organic cotton farm regulation NPOP so as to include all stages of textile production. With the support of other stakeholders across the industry we made efforts to have them consider GOTS as a recognised preeminent standard so as to avoid additional costs and dual certification

WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

GOTS drafted a Motion to IFOAM Organics International (IFOAM OI), representing the global organic movement for the organisation's triennial General Assembly (GA) held in November 2017 in New Delhi. The purpose of the Motion submitted was to call on IFOAM OI to acknowledge that 'organic textiles' should not only be made with organic fibres but also processed to a standard that prohibits hazardous and residual inputs. Although the Motion clearly stated that the whole supply chain should be covered, the relevance of independently verified statements of the organic fibre content of textiles (for example through the Organic Content Standard of Textile Exchange) was accepted as a relevant step. The aim

The ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programme does not develop its own certification system for ZDHC Manufacturing Restricted Substances List (MRSL) conformant chemistry to accelerate the global impact of the organisation but instead leverages existing certification bodies as indicators of ZDHC MRSL conformance. On 5th of December GOTS became one of the ZDHC Roadmap to Zero Programmes Accepted Certification Standards. GOTS approved chemical products have been deemed to be conformant to ZDHC MRSL Level 1. Whilst GOTS prohibits an even greater number of chemical groups, we are pleased that ZDHC has formally recognised GOTS approved chemicals because this will improve the efficiency of implementation of their Roadmap to Zero.

ORGANIZATION

Herbert Ladwig formally stepped down as Managing Director effective 31 December 2016. In order to maintain his strong ties to GOTS, he will continue his employment as: „Policy and Legal Advisor“. Upon his recommendation the GOTS Advisory Council appointed Claudia Kersten and Rahul Bhajekar joint Managing Directors. In 2017 seven regional Representatives were working on GOTS promotion:

Sumit Gupta (India and Bangladesh), Felicia Shi (China), Satoko Miyoshi (Japan), Lina Pfeifer (Germany, Austria, Switzerland), Christopher Scopes (United Kingdom), Lori Wyman (USA) and Elif Yarasik (Turkey). Christopher Scopes was additionally appointed „GOTS Representative to the EU“. His tasks in this function are to serve on the recently established IFOAM EU Textile Task Force and do active lobbying.

Our organisation maintains a flat structure and aims to minimise administrative costs.

The GOTS programme is self-financed. All income is used to reach our objectives. Accordingly the operating unit has legal non-profit status (Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH).



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GOTS is recognised as the world's leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibres. It defines high-level environmental criteria along the entire supply chain of organic textiles and requires compliance with social criteria as well. GOTS was developed by leading international standard setters in order to define globally recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles - from harvesting of the raw materials through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing all the way to labelling - in order to provide credible assurance to the consumer. Supported by the growth in consumption of organic fibres and by the remarkable demand for standardised processing criteria from the industry and retail sector, GOTS has already gained universal recognition. It enables processors and manufacturers to supply their textiles made from organic fibres

with one certification accepted in all major selling markets. GOTS is comprised of four well-respected member organisations: Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA, International Association of Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany), Soil Association, UK and the Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan. Together with international stakeholder organisations and experts, they contribute their respective expertise in organic farming and environmentally and socially responsible textile processing to GOTS. The monitoring system is based on on-site inspection and certification performed by independent, specially accredited bodies. This assures the integrity of GOTS-certified textiles.

The GOTS licence entitles to participate in the GOTS programme, including use of the GOTS logo on its respective GOTS goods.



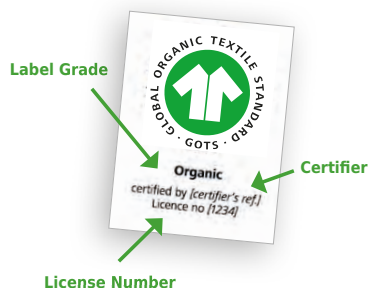
Security Advice

for Consumers

Do you want to be sure that a product is really GOTS certified?

Please check for **complete labelling**.

Check our public database to verify www.global-standard.org.



for Retailers

Make sure that products are actually GOTS certified and labelled correctly!

Wrong labelling is a trademark infringement!

Retailers are liable for incorrect labelling

More information at www.global-standard.org

Request from your supplier:

- **Scope Certificate (Certificate of Compliance)** proves that the supplier is able to process according to GOTS criteria
- **Transaction Certificate** proves that the actual products are GOTS certified
- **the certifiers release** for the valid GOTS logo use on the product