

Global Organic Textile Standard International Working Group
- Technical Committee -



List of relevant changes in GOTS 4.0 and the Manual compared to GOTS 3.0

Relevant changes and specifications to the content are listed, but not each detail and explanation is provided in this overview. Accordingly it cannot be used as a fully comprehensive and complete list of all changes but as a supportive working document only. Decisive and binding is only the wording in the new GOTS Version 4.0 and the corresponding Manual.

| Document | Chapter | Relevant change |
|----------|-----------------|--|
| Manual | Principles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information added that implementation deadline to comply with a new version of the standard, the manual or another official reference document published by the IWG is 12 months after its release unless other / specific advice is given. |
| GOTS | 1.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mattress and bedding products, fashion textile accessories (carried or worn), textile toys, as well as textile personal care products explicitly listed in the scope |
| Manual | 1.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified that textiles containing electronic components and furniture are not in the scope |
| Manual | 1.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to policy and template for issuing Scope Certificates is provided Information provided that certifiers enter all GOTS certified entities into the public data base Specified that <i>subcontractors</i> and their relevant processing and manufacturing steps become listed on the Scope Certificate of the Certified Entity assigning the certification. |
| GOTS | 1.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specified that the reference to the certified entity in GOTS labelling must be its license number |
| GOTS | 1.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policies and Templates for issuing SCs, TCs and Letters of Approval introduced as reference documents |
| GOTS | 2.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of recognised organic certifications for fibre production revised to: Regulation (EC) 834/2007, USDA National Organic Program (NOP), or any (other) standard approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards for the relevant scope of production (crop or animal production). List of recognised accreditation revised to: ISO 65 / 17065 accreditation, NOP accreditation, IFOAM accreditation and IFOAM Global Organic System accreditation |
| GOTS | 2.2.1 /2.2.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All specific requirements related to additional fibres were moved to chapter 2.4.9 for more consistency |
| GOTS | 2.3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirement for AOX containing inputs tightened: All inputs must not contain > 1% permanent AOX (AOX is permanent, if the halogen is permanently bound to the molecule and cannot get hydrolysed or released during fibre processing), with exception for certain pigments as specified in chapter 2.4.7. More precise wording for GMOs and PFCs introduced Inputs releasing carcinogenic arylamine compounds (MAK III, category 1,2,3): moved to this chapter from 2.4.6 |

| Document | Chapter | Relevant change |
|---------------|---------|--|
| | | <p>and 2.4.7 to clarify that the criterion concerns all inputs; MAK III, category 4 added</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCCPs, brominated and chlorinated flame retardants, chlorinated benzenes, endocrine disruptors as well as <i>inputs</i> that contain or generate formaldehyde or other short-chain aldehydes during designated application newly listed (most of these substances were banned in V 3.0 already, as they did not comply with the general requirements related to hazards and toxicity). |
| Manual | 2.3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specification added that substances listed in this chapter as prohibited must not be contained in preparations at any level/concentration if intentionally added/present as a functional component. • Specification added that inputs are also not allowed if there is validation that their designated use leads to any exceeding residue limits in textiles of the parameters listed in chapter 2.4.15. • Specification on assessment of endocrine disruptors added • Aniline added as prohibited azo dye compound of MAK III, category 4 |
| GOTS | 2.3.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk phases replaced by adequate hazard statements, where available • Requirement and test methods related to Bio-accumulativity / Biodegradability specified • Wording for alternative test methods to fish and animal tests specified |
| Manual | 2.3.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk phases listed that correspond to the hazard statements of GOTS 2.3.2 • Clause added that considers performance of legally mandatory animal / fish tests |
| GOTS / Manual | 2.3.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for assessment (procedure) of chemical inputs specified |
| GOTS | 2.4.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility to use any synthetic sizes, that meet 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 up to 25% of the size recipe added In case such synthetic sizes are recycled/recovered with a ratio >80% they may be used without limitation in the total sizing. |
| GOTS | 2.4.7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified that all printing methods using aromatic solvents, phthalates and PVC are prohibited • Exceptionally for yellow, green and violet pigments the permanent AOX limit is 5%. |
| GOTS | 2.4.9 | <p>Additional Fibre Materials in the fibre composition (excluding Accessories):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of conventional cotton, conventional angora wool and virgin polyester is no longer possible • Regenerated fibres that are from organic raw materials, from certified sustainable forestry management or recycled are permitted now up to 30% • Recycled synthetic fibres are permitted now up to 30% • Use of carbon and silver fibres prohibited |
| Manual | 2.4.9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samples for allowed and not allowed material compositions provided • Adequate verification proofs and certifications defined for recycled fibres and for fibres from sustainable forestry sources |
| GOTS | 2.4.9 | Accessories: |

| Document | Chapter | Relevant change |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virgin polyester may still be used for accessories • stainless steel added to the list of accepted additional fibres and materials • asbestos, carbon and silver fibres, chlorinated plastics as well as chrome from leather tanning prohibited • textile fibres used as fillings can no longer be assessed as accessories – but must be assessed with rules for fibre composition • Non textile fillings must be from organic origin, if applicable • Latex foam used in mattresses must be derived from certified organic or sustainable forestry management. Polyurethane foams must not be used • For 'other, not explicitly listed accessories' now the requirements for 'material in general' apply. |
| GOTS | 2.4.10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified that companies must have an environmental policy and procedures in place to allow monitoring and improving relevant environmental performances in their facilities • Specified that data on energy and water resources must be available |
| GOTS | 2.4.11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter reworded for more clarity • Temperature limit for treated effluent discharged to surface water reduced |
| Manual | 2.4.11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verification measures introduced to assure compliance of waste water requirements with applicable legislation • Verification/calculation method for COD g/kg of textile output requirement specified |
| GOTS | 2.4.12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified that requirement to use recycled paper or paper from certified sustainable forestry management wood is applicable to packaging material for GOTS Goods only (not for bulk packaging) • Derogation for legally required non-compliant (phytosanitary) treatment dropped |
| Manual | 2.4.12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate verification proofs and certifications defined for recycled paper/cardboard and for paper/cardboard from sustainable forestry sources |
| GOTS | 2.4.13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TCs are obligatory now considering the new policy that allows for multiple shipments covered on a single TC • Specified that records relevant to the inspection must be kept for at least five years. • Chapter restructured for more clarity |
| GOTS | 2.4.15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP, OP, NPEO, OPEO sum limit parameter < 20 mg/kg added • Aniline limit parameter < 100 mg/kg added • PFOA, PFOS individual limit parameter added < 0,001 mg/kg • FTOH limit value added < 0,01 mg/kg |
| GOTS | 2.4.15 / 2.4.16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMEP added to phthalates to be tested • Various test methods up-dated |
| GOTS | 2.4.16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Se and Sn and AOX dropped from testing protocol for accessories • Sb limit value < 20 mg/kg for virgin polyester added |

| Document | Chapter | Relevant change |
|----------|----------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various parameters applicable for natural latex foam added • Specified that Cu limit is not applicable to accessories made from metals |
| GOTS | 3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified that the minimum social criteria are applicable also to trading stages in case they are employing workers • Rephrased to clarify the binding nature of the ILO core conventions. |
| GOTS | 3.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement added that health and safety training must include fire prevention training and evacuation drills • Criterion moved from 3.11 that appropriate personal protective equipment must be provided to the workers • Specified that it must be assured that protective equipment is used whenever necessary • Specified that for all chemicals used the corresponding MSDS must be maintained and it must be assured that the applicable health and safety measures for handling and storing these chemicals are implemented |
| GOTS | 3.11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified that workers must be informed on minimum social criteria in the applicable local language(s) |
| GOTS | 4.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option to perform remote-inspections instead of on-site inspections for <i>traders</i> added which do not have or subcontract any <i>processing</i> or <i>manufacturing</i> activities. On-site inspection must however be performed at least for the first year and every 3rd year of granted certification • Specified that on-site inspection for small-scale <i>subcontractors</i> with a low risk potential regarding environmental and social criteria must be performed at least for the first year and every 3rd year of granted certification |
| Manual | 4.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation on inspection requirements for processors and manufacturers, their subcontractors as well as traders specified • Minimum inspection protocol added for social criteria • Certification programs listed of which the results should be considered and recognised in the course of GOTS inspection • Interpretations for audit time balancing between verification of social and environmental criteria added resp. specified |
| GOTS | 4.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specified that <i>inputs</i> are to be included in the risk assessment • Requirement specified that labs must have ISO 17025 accreditation for the concrete tests they are performing for GOTS |
| Manual | 4.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations on GM testing added |
| GOTS | Annex A) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific requirements for textile personal care products added |
| GOTS | Annex B) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition for <i>permanent</i> AOX revised (in line with revised criterion in 2.3.1) • Definitions for the terms endocrine disruptor, invasive and topical products, pre and post-consumer waste, subcontractor and worker added |

status: 01 March 2014