



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

4th March 2020

Dear Chinese friends,

In this difficult time, we would like to express our strong solidarity with the Chinese people in the fight against the Novel *Coronavirus* (2019-nCoV). We send our support to the health workers and volunteers who work in the frontline of this battle. We also send our best wishes to the workers who are gradually resuming work whilst facing many challenges.

In light of this, the GOTS Management has decided to issue guidance on audits that may be scheduled / scope certificates that may be expiring for Chinese GOTS certified entities.

Scope Certificates that are now expiring (or have expired in 2020) for Chinese Certified Entities shall be given an extension of 3 months. GOTS further recommends that virtual audits should be conducted by CBs as opposed to audit or inspection visits.

GOTS will review the situation in April 2020 to take a decision if the recommendation and extension both need to be extended at the time.

GOTS will continue to work together with China to promote organic textiles and to work through this challenging time.

We wish you once again good health and fast recovery to all who (were) are infected by the virus.

With best wishes,

Rahul Bhajekar and Claudia Kersten
GOTS Managing Directors



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Press Release

For immediate release

Felicia Shi
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Beijing, 4th March 2020

GOTS registers highest growth rate ever in 2019

7765 certified facilities worldwide, an increase of 35% with more than 3 million workers covered under GOTS in 2019.

In 2019, the number of GOTS certified facilities globally grew by 35%, from 5,760 to 7,765 located in 70 countries. The number demonstrates that GOTS successfully serves as sustainable solution. The required certified organic fibres protect the climate by absorbing CO₂ and every processing step - from field to fashion - has to meet stringent social and environmental criteria before a finished product is allowed to carry the GOTS label.

This huge leap forward was seen in both, production and consuming regions. Countries with largest growth in GOTS-certification in percentage in 2019 are: Netherlands (73%), Bangladesh (73%), Spain (71%), and Turkey (65%). In terms of total numbers of certified facilities, the highest increase is reported from Bangladesh (+505), followed by India (+438) and Europe (+396).

The top ten countries in terms of total numbers of GOTS-certified facilities in 2019 are: India (2411), Bangladesh (1194), Turkey (858), Germany (565), China (448), Italy (444), Portugal (301), Pakistan (276), USA (147), and the UK (75).

“The enormous growth shows that GOTS successfully serves as sustainable solution from certified organic fibre to finished product. With more and more GOTS certified operations and products we altogether substantially contribute to sustainable development.” Claudia Kersten, GOTS Managing Director.

GOTS certification helps to ensure compliance with each of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 3 Million workers working in GOTS-certified facilities were reported in 2019 by the 17 accredited independent Certification Bodies.

2019 was also a GOTS revision year resulting in the new GOTS Version 6.0, due to be released in spring 2020.

In 2019, China showed a significant increase in terms of the total number of certified facilities with 448 (301), an increase rate of 49%. The demand for GOTS trainings from international brands, retailers and other organisations was high. Successful partnerships with leading trade show organizer Messe Frankfurt continued and GOTS was presented in both the Spring and Autumn Edition of the Intertextile Shanghai 2019.



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Under the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee (MAC), a platform built by eight global sustainability organizations including amfori, CNTAC, ETI, SAI, Sedex, Solidaridad and WRAP, GOTS jointly launched the MAC Handbook for companies and industry players looking to implement continuous improvement in social performance in China.

GOTS Greater China Representative Felicia also hosted a lecture on Sustainable Fashion in China to executive students from the renowned Parsons Design School. "With the increasing recognition of sustainability standards, it was our pleasure to see that GOTS has been listed on the Chinese National Platform on Voluntary Sustainability Standards a cooperation between ITC and China Association for Standardization." Felicia Shi, GOTS Representative for Greater China.

About GOTS: GOTS is the stringent voluntary global standard for the entire post-harvest processing (including spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing and manufacturing) of apparel and home textiles made with certified organic fibre (such as organic cotton and organic wool), and includes both environmental and social criteria. Key provisions include a ban on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), highly hazardous chemicals (such as azo dyes and formaldehyde), and child labour, while requiring strong social compliance management systems and strict waste water treatment practices. GOTS was developed by leading international standard setters - Organic Trade Association (U.S.), Japan Organic Cotton Association, International Association Natural Textile Industry (Germany), and Soil Association (UK) to define globally recognised requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles, from field to finished product. GOTS is a non-profit organisation which is self-financed. For more information please see www.global-standard.org and follow @[globalorganictextilestandard](https://www.linkedin.com/company/globalorganictextilestandard) on LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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A GOTS image is available for [download](#).