

**Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) Facilities Increase 18% in 2014**

*GOTS 4.0 Labelling Guide Released; First GOTS Conference in Mumbai, India, May 22*

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**Beijing, China** (May 13, 2015) The number of facilities certified to the [Global Organic Textile Standard](http://www.global-standard.org/) (GOTS) grew by more than 18% last year, from 3085 facilities in 2013 to 3663 facilities in 2014. GOTS is recognized worldwide as the leading processing standard for textiles made from organic fibers. GOTS certified facilities are now located in 64 countries around the world. Growth is evenly spread across all market segments including the mass market and the big brands. GOTS certification enables consumers to purchase items that are certified organic from field to finished product. Seven [representatives](http://global-standard.org/about-us/regional-representatives.html) worldwide (China, Japan, EU, Germany/Austria/ Switzerland, India/Bangladesh, UK, USA/Canada) are driving the increase in the awareness of certification to GOTS.

Countries with the greatest increase in GOTS certification in 2014 are (in rank order) are: India (+338), Bangladesh (+89), Germany (+32), Turkey (+21) and China (+18).

The Top Fifteen countries and regions in terms of the total number of GOTS-certified facilities are: India, Turkey, Germany, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Italy, South Korea, Portugal, Japan, France, USA, UK, Austria, and Hong Kong. The growth rate of GOTS certified facilities particularly in India, Bangladesh, Turkey, and China demonstrates that the pull effect on the supply chain continues to be strong.

"The growth in certifications demonstrates that GOTS has become the standard of choice for brands and retailers to efficiently manage their organic fiber supply chains,” says Claudia Kersten, GOTS Marketing Director. “Certification to GOTS also demonstrates a company’s commitment to sustainability through third party and independent GOTS certification and reference to GOTS on product labels instead of self-claims."

"GOTS has considerably strengthened its widespread global acceptance as a tool that enables and monitors sustainable production worldwide,” adds Herbert Ladwig, [GOTS](http://global-standard.org/information-centre/news/213-why-gots-fact-sheets.html) Managing Director. “This is also confirmed by the support of governments and worldwide institutions such as the endorsement by IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements), including the recommendation to governments not to start development of redundant standards and regulations, but rather to make reference to GOTS as *the* processing standard for organic labelled textiles."

In China, GOTS continued the partnership with Messe Frankfurt, attended and held seminars at Interstoff Hong Kong Spring and Autumn Editions during which the China Representative gave a speech on the topic of "sustainable design". GOTS China Representative also actively engaged with leading international and domestic brands to increase their awareness, answer their enquiries as well as facilitate their suppliers in the certification process and so on. Moreover, GOTS was on panel discussions on the key sustainability initiatives for textile industry in China such as Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee and World Green Design Forum.

last November, GOTS appointed Felicia Shi as the new China Representative, whom has expertise and extensive experiences in the implementation of international voluntary standards in China.

*Labelling Guide for GOTS 4.0 released*

On 01 March 2015 GOTS released a new edition of [the Licensing and Labelling Guide](http://global-standard.org/licensing-and-labelling/licensing-and-labelling-guide.html) addressing changes made in the latest version (4.0) of GOTS. The updates include detailed explanation for the correct on-product and off-product logo application and GOTS referencing especially for traders and retailers. In particular, the Guide explains where and when GOTS labelling and referencing is not permitted in order to prevent possible misinterpretation and misuse.

The [First International GOTS Conference](http://global-standard.org/gotsconference.html) will take place May 22 in Mumbai, India.  The registration had to be closed as it was fully booked out.

**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 organic fiber (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 labor, 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) - in order to define globally-recognized requirements that ensure the organic status of textiles. For more information on the Global Organic Textile Standard, please see [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org).

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