

## Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

[www.Global-Standard.org](http://www.Global-Standard.org)

Rules for ecologically and socially responsible textile production

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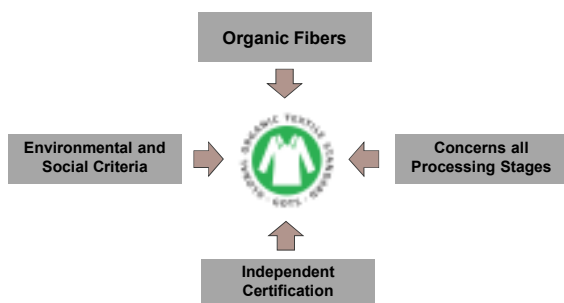
## What is GOTS?



- GOTS is a *voluntary* standard that covers the processing, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, trading, and distribution of all textiles made from at least 70% certified organic natural fibers (organic cotton, organic wool, organic silk...) [www.global-standard.org/images/stories/gots-version3\\_01march2011.pdf](http://www.global-standard.org/images/stories/gots-version3_01march2011.pdf)
- As with organic food standards, a textile product carrying the GOTS label grade 'organic' must contain a minimum of 95% certified organic fibers, whereas a product with the label grade 'made with organic' must contain a minimum of 70% certified organic fibers.
- Final products may include yarns, fabrics, and clothes, as well as home textiles such as beds and bedding. The standard does not set criteria for leather products.

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## Basic Features



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## GOTS International Working Group (IWG)



International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany



Soil Association (SA), England



Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA



Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan

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## 10-year anniversary of GOTS in 2012



August 2002 Intercot, Düsseldorf	Formation of the International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS IWG)
May 2005 Intercot, Chicago	OTA, IVN, Joca and Soil Association agree on the 1st version of GOTS
October 2006	Start of certification system
June 2008 IFOAM Conference	Introduction of the logo & release of the Labelling Guide
March 2014	Release of GOTS Version 4.0 (current version)

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## GOTS Regional Representatives

➤ Seven (7) Regional Representatives assigned in major production and sales markets who focus on marketing activities:

- U.S./Canada
- Japan
- Australia/New Zealand
- India
- Germany/Switzerland/Austria
- Great Britain
- China

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## Key criteria for fiber use



### Organic Fibers

- Minimum of 70% certified organic fibers
- Certification according to recognized organic production standards (such as USDA NOP or Regulation EC 834/2007)

### Additional Fibers

- Natural Fibers – all non-GMO vegetable and animals fibers (hemp, soy...)
- Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers (max. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)

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## Environmental criteria for processing



- General criteria for all processing stages (e.g. separation, record keeping, environmental policy, social criteria)
- General ban on harmful substances in all processing stages (e.g. formaldehyde, toxic heavy metals, GMOs)
- General criteria for the assessment of chemical inputs (meet strict limits on human and environmental (aquatic, fauna, flora and soil) toxicity as well as on biodegradability / eliminability)
- Specific criteria for the different processing stages (e.g. functional waste water treatment plant for wet processing plants, limitations on materials for accessories and finishing methods).

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## Positive lists – Statistics



- Approximately 30% of currently used chemical textile inputs for natural fibers qualify for GOTS
  - “Positive lists” are available for more than 400 suppliers of dyes and auxiliaries
  - They contain:
    - approximately 3200 trade names of dyestuffs and prints
    - approximately 4800 trade names of auxiliary agents
- The positive lists are available to all operators participating in the GOTS certification system through their certifier.

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## Minimum social criteria

- Meeting social minimum criteria based on the International Labor Organization (ILO) key norms is required for all processing and manufacturing stages.
- The requirements include e.g.:
  - No child labor
  - Payment of living wages
  - Working hours must not be excessive
  - Safe and hygienic working conditions
  - No discrimination nor harsh or inhumane treatment.
- Operators must establish social compliance management tools that support the implementation and monitoring of the social minimum criteria.



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## Dual system for quality assurance



### Certification

- On-site inspection of the entire processing chain up to the import level
- Annual inspection cycle
- Organic product flow, environmental and social criteria subject to inspection

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### Residue Testing

- Orientation values for residues
- Risk assessment of contamination
- Analysis in ISO-accredited labs

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## Scope Certificate (SC) and Transaction Certificate (TC)



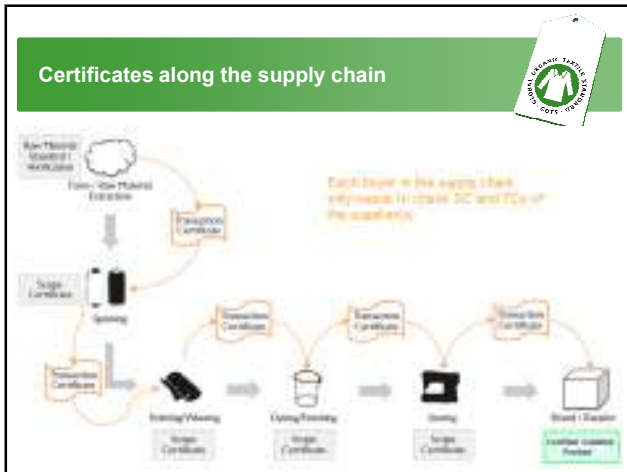
Certificates of Compliance (=Scope certificates or SC's) indicate that a company is in compliance to GOTS and is **able** to supply products that are certified to the standard.



Transaction certificates (TC's) indicate **that a given shipment** of goods has been produced in accordance to GOTS.

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## Certificates along the supply chain



## Label grading

Using 95 – 100% organic fibers:



Using 70 – 94% organic fibers:



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## Public Data Base Useful Sourcing and Verification Tool

By entering the [license no.] from an on-product label into the 'free text' field of the search engine, the certified entity can be verified.



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## Who needs to be certified?

⇒ All stages starting from ginning (cotton), spinning, knitting, weaving, wet processing (pre-treatment, dyeing, printing finishing), manufacturing, packing and labelling must be certified.

⇒ The certifiers may grant exceptions for 'small-scale sub-contractors with a low risk potential' (no more than 10 workers, non-wet processing units only, located in developed countries only)

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## GOTS: Increased International Recognition

### USDA (United States Department of Agriculture):

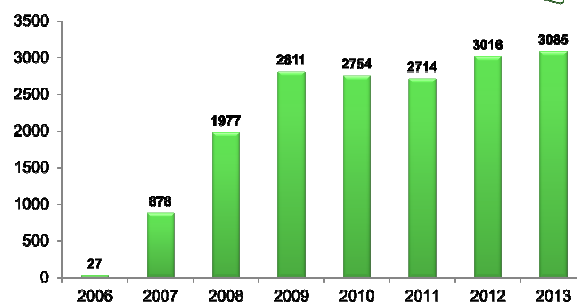
✓ NOP (National Organic Program) policy memorandum (May 20· 2011) explicitly recognizes GOTS and its label grade 'organic':

*"Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S."*

✓ USDA clarifies that 'made with organic' is also a codified label grade and can only be used for textiles certified to NOP or GOTS.

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## Development of certified facilities 2006 - 2013

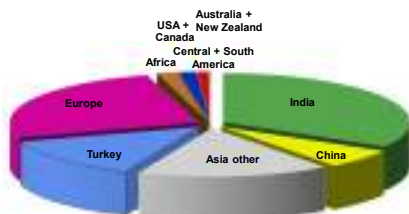


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## Breakdown of facilities by region / country 2013

3085 facilities certified to GOTS in 62 countries  
(in 2012: 3016 in 62 countries)

India	1029 (1062)
China	197 (252)
Asia other	514 (552)
Turkey	421 (400)
Europe	791 (606)
Africa	54 (59)
USA / Canada	48 (47)
Central- / South America	28 (33)
Australia / New Zealand	3 (5)



## Top 20 counties with GOTS-certified facilities

In 2013, the Top 20 countries in terms of the total number of GOTS-certified facilities were (by rank):

India, Turkey, Germany, China, South Korea, Italy, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan, Portugal, France, United Kingdom, United States, Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Greece, Denmark, Belgium, and Sri Lanka.

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## U.S. Retailers Carrying GOTS Products

Several leading retailers are carrying GOTS-certified products:

- ABC Home
- BabiesRUs
- Bed, Bath, and Beyond
- Bed and Bath
- buybuy BABY
- Dillards
- Home Outfitters
- Neiman Marcus
- Target
- The Company Store
- Walmart (products made from GOTS-certified fabric)
- West Elm
- Whole Foods Market

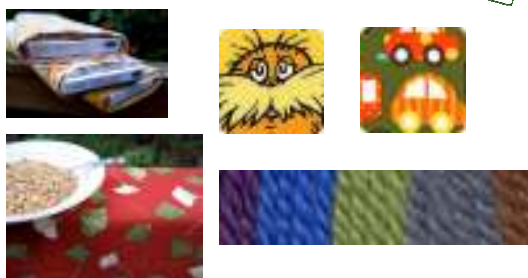
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## GOTS Examples – Personal Care



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## GOTS Examples – Yarn and Fabrics



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## GOTS Examples – Kitchen (Fabric-only certified so far)



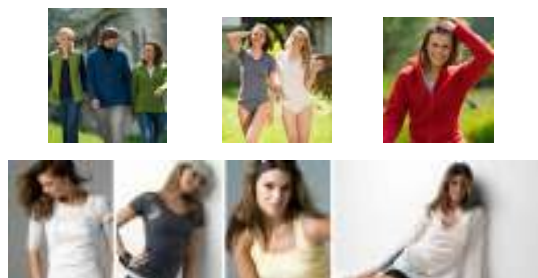
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## GOTS Examples – Children's Products



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## GOTS Examples – Adult Apparel



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## GOTS Examples- Home Textiles



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## The GOTS Marketplace



- Increasingly:
  - consumers are demanding ecologically- and socially responsibly-processed textiles, and
  - companies are searching for tools to make their supply chains more sustainable.
- GOTS certifications increased **11%** from 2012-2013, once the recession was over.

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## Organic Fiber Product Sales – Global



Textile Exchange (TE's) 2013 Organic Cotton Market Report:

- The international market for organic cotton products reached **\$8.9 billion** in 2012.
- This equals a 31% increase over \$6.8 billion in 2011.
- 71 percent of respondents were planning to increase organic cotton for 2013.
- The Top Ten organic cotton users by volume are (in order by rank): **C&A, H&M, Nike, Puma, Coop Swiss, Anvil, William-Sonoma, Inditex, Carrefour and Target**, in order. For the first time, Top Ten users by volume had to consume over two million pounds of organic cotton each to make it onto this list!

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## GOTS: Greenpeace International Textile Procurement Policy - October 2012



All cotton-based textiles (this includes t-shirts, shirts, sweat-shirts, trousers and bags) that can be used by volunteers, activists, or staff within the organization.



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## The Business Case for GOTS



The textile and apparel industry is a global industry, thus, standards must be international.

Developed - like GOTS - in partnership with international stakeholder communities, they ensure global acceptance.

Being GOTS certified businesses are furthermore:

- **SAFE** – GOTS helps reduce or control risks
- **CREDIBLE** – Independent certification includes onsite inspection and product testing, and enables companies to improve or retain their image and reputation
- **EFFICIENT** – GOTS improves productivity and efficiency
- **INNOVATIVE** – GOTS provides market differential
- **TRANSFORMATIVE** – GOTS drives change in the overall textile marketplace.

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## International Marketing Campaign: "Have you cottoned on yet?"



### The Organic Cotton Initiative



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## Have you cottoned on yet?



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## Cotton on!



- ✓ Sign up to show your support for organic cotton
- ✓ Share on facebook/ twitter
- ✓ Feature on our website [cottonedon.org](http://cottonedon.org)
- ✓ Contact us! [info@cottonedon.org](mailto:info@cottonedon.org)

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## Sources of information about GOTS



- The GOTS Manual and the Licensing & Labelling Guide are key documents containing all related information
- Website section "Licensing & Labeling" page: "How to get products labeled" page summarizes requirements and procedures <http://www.global-standard.org/licensing-and-labelling/how-to-get-products-labelled.html>
- Fact sheet 'Important information for companies who sell or advertise GOTS Goods' is downloadable [http://www.global-standard.org/images/stories/selling\\_gots\\_goods-info\\_sheet-09may2011.pdf](http://www.global-standard.org/images/stories/selling_gots_goods-info_sheet-09may2011.pdf)
- GOTS FAQ page answers brand and retailers most frequent questions: <http://www.global-standard.org/information-centre/faqs.html>

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## GOTS



More than 3000 companies and facilities around the world are certified to GOTS.

For more information, please see [www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org) or contact

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