



## Global ISO IWA 32:2019 proficiency test initiative 2023

Organic cotton is a claim that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not deliberately or knowingly used and that organic producers take far-reaching steps to avoid GMO contamination along the organic cotton value chain<sup>1</sup>, from farmers to spinners, to brands. To confirm that such steps have been taken, it is essential that organic cotton stakeholders can reliably test their products for the potential presence of GM cotton.

The ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol was developed to create a common language among laboratories worldwide to screen for the potential presence of GM cotton along the organic cotton value chain. Since its publication, qualitative GMO testing of cotton and textiles is mandatory within the GOTS and OCS supply chain and OCA's Farm programme and is to be performed by appropriately qualified testing laboratories using the ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol.

The [Global Organic Textile Standard](#), the [Organic Cotton Accelerator](#), and [Textile Exchange](#) set out the global proficiency test initiative to bring clarity regarding the laboratories that perform testing against the ISO IWA 32:2019. Please find below the list of laboratories that have been confirmed to have the necessary competence to carry out qualitative GMO testing in greige cotton products as per the ISO IWA 32:2019 worldwide. This list is compiled based on labs' satisfactory performance during the latest round of a proficiency test organized every two years.

The technical process and the performance evaluation of the proficiency test for qualitative cotton screening according to ISO IWA 32:2019 were managed by Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR), the organization that acted as a project leader for the development of the ISO IWA 32:2019 and is accredited for performing proficiency tests according to the ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing (not specifically in the field of GMOs).

As the ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol established that GMO screening in cotton and textiles can only be reliably carried out in cottonseed, cotton leaf, cotton fiber, and chemically unprocessed cotton fiber-derived materials up to greige yarn and fabric, GM cotton testing should not be carried out in chemically processed cotton.

---

<sup>1</sup> Article 4 Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Article 5 Regulation (EU) 2018/848, and IFOAM Organics International, Position Paper 'Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms', 2016

## Overview of laboratories:

Table: List of laboratories that can carry out qualitative GMO testing in greige cotton products as per the ISO IWA 32:2019 according to the global ISO IWA 32:2019 proficiency test initiative organised in 2023.

Country	Laboratory name	Contact details
BULGARIA	Laboratory of SGS Bulgaria	<a href="mailto:varnalaboratory@sgs.com">varnalaboratory@sgs.com</a>
BULGARIA	Primoris Bulgaria	<a href="mailto:info@primoris-lab.bg">info@primoris-lab.bg</a>
GERMANY	Eurofins GeneScan GmbH	<a href="mailto:gmo@eurofins.de">gmo@eurofins.de</a>
GERMANY	FoodChain ID Testing GmbH	<a href="mailto:info-muc@foodchainid.com">info-muc@foodchainid.com</a>
GERMANY	Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG	<a href="mailto:info@hohenstein.com">info@hohenstein.com</a>
GERMANY	Impetus GmbH & Co. Bioscience KG	<a href="mailto:l.kruse@impetus-bioscience.de">l.kruse@impetus-bioscience.de</a>
INDIA	NAWaL Analytical Laboratories	<a href="mailto:ecogreen.labs@gmail.com">ecogreen.labs@gmail.com</a>
INDIA	Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	<a href="mailto:quality@reliablelabs.org">quality@reliablelabs.org</a>
INDIA	SGS India Private Limited	<a href="mailto:samyak.vakil@sgs.com">samyak.vakil@sgs.com</a>
INDIA	TESTTEX INDIA LABORATORIES PVT.LTD.	<a href="mailto:labsindia@testtex.com">labsindia@testtex.com</a>
INDIA	VIRIDIAN TESTING LABORATORIES LLP	<a href="mailto:info@viridianlab.com">info@viridianlab.com</a>
ITALY	pH Labs TUV SUD group	<a href="mailto:phlabs@tuvsud.com">phlabs@tuvsud.com</a>
NETHERLANDS	TLR International Laboratory	<a href="mailto:info@tlr.nl">info@tlr.nl</a>
PAKISTAN	SGS Pakistan Pvt Ltd	<a href="mailto:sajjad.khan@sgs.com">sajjad.khan@sgs.com</a>
PORTUGAL	SGS Molecular, S.A.	<a href="mailto:molecular@sgs.com">molecular@sgs.com</a>
SPAIN	Applied Mass Spectrometry Laboratory SLU (Bureau Veritas CPS Spain)	<a href="mailto:info@ams-lab.com">info@ams-lab.com</a>
SWEDEN	Intertek ScanBi Diagnostics AB	<a href="mailto:agritech.sweden@intertek.com">agritech.sweden@intertek.com</a>
SWITZERLAND	TESTEX AG	<a href="mailto:zuerich@testtex.com">zuerich@testtex.com</a>
TAIWAN	SGS Taiwan Ltd. - Kaohsiung	<a href="https://www.sgs.com.tw/en/">https://www.sgs.com.tw/en/</a>
TAIWAN	Taiwan Food and Drug Administration	<a href="mailto:linjyang@fda.gov.tw">linjyang@fda.gov.tw</a>
TURKEY	Control Union Gozetim ve Belgelendirme Ltd. Sti.	<a href="mailto:turkey@controlunion.com">turkey@controlunion.com</a>
TURKEY	Ekoteks Laboratuvar	<a href="mailto:info@ekoteks.com">info@ekoteks.com</a>
TURKEY	INTERTEK TURKEY	<a href="mailto:2sales.turkey@intertek.com">2sales.turkey@intertek.com</a>
TURKEY	Nanolab Laboratuvarlar Grubu	<a href="mailto:info@nano-lab.com.tr">info@nano-lab.com.tr</a>
TURKEY	OXIGEN ANALIZ LABORATUVAR HIZMETLERI TICARET ANONIM SIRKETI	<a href="mailto:fatmabukin@oxigenanaliz.com">fatmabukin@oxigenanaliz.com</a>
UNITED KINGDOM	Shirley Technologies Limited	<a href="mailto:Cristina.alepuz@shirley.co.uk">Cristina.alepuz@shirley.co.uk</a>
UNITED STATES	OMIC USA Inc.	<a href="mailto:sales.us@omicusa.com">sales.us@omicusa.com</a>



Last updated on July 14, 2023 -----

Are you a GM cotton testing laboratory that implemented the ISO IWA 32:2019 reference protocol and are you now interested in joining the next proficiency test round in Q1 2025? Do you have any questions about the global ISO IWA 32:2019 proficiency test initiative 2023? Or do you want to update the organisers about your contact details or your accreditation status against ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for GM cotton screening? Please contact Mathilde Tournbize, OCA's Programme Manager (Seed and Innovation), with your query: [secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org](mailto:secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org)

**Disclaimer:** These proficiency test results have been organized to obtain an up-to-date overview of the laboratories that can currently conduct GMO testing as per the ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol. The participating laboratories have been invited based on direct applications from laboratories as well as existing collaborations with the Global Organic Textile Standard, the Organic Cotton Accelerator, and Textile Exchange and/or that of their partners, to the best of their knowledge. The results have been made publicly available for informational purpose only. No radical business decision should be made from the results of this proficiency test regarding the current or future cooperation with laboratories that did not participate or do not appear in the short-list of laboratories that succeeded in the proficiency test.