

GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

01st March 2012



Important information for companies who sell or advertise GOTS Goods

Within the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) quality assurance system, all processors, manufacturers and traders in the supply chain of textile goods sold, labelled or represented according to GOTS (=GOTS Goods) are subject to inspection by *Approved Certifiers* (as listed on <http://www.global-standard.org/certification/approved-certification-bodies.html>) in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer.

Accordingly, anyone who sells, labels or represents any textile product so as to use the (trademark registered) GOTS label or other reference to GOTS certification must first ensure that the respective criteria and licensing conditions of the Global Organic Textile Standard Program are met.

These criteria and licensing conditions are found in the following official documents published by the International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard, which are publically available at <http://www.global-standard.org/information-centre/downloads.html>:

- Global Organic Textile Standard, Version 3.0
- Manual for the Implementation of the Global Organic Textile Standard
- Licensing and Labelling Guide

GOTS Goods sold within the supply chain

Before selling GOTS certified and labelled (semi-)finished products within the textile supply chain, the seller must ensure that:

- The seller holds a valid conformity certificate from an *Approved Certifier*. This requirement is valid for all processors and manufactures as well as for traders with a B2B trade activity (e.g. as importer, exporter or wholesaler). Only traders having an annual turnover of less than 5000€ with GOTS Goods who do not (re)pack or (re)label them are exempt from the certification obligation. However they must register with an *Approved Certifier* and must inform the same immediately after their annual turnover exceeds 5000€.
- The intended GOTS labelling / reference to GOTS certification has been released by the *Approved Certifier*

GOTS Goods sold to the end consumer

Before selling GOTS certified and labelled final products to the end consumer, the retailer must ensure that:

- The last operation in the textile supply chain that is obliged to participate in the certification chain holds a valid conformity certificate issued by an *Approved Certifier*:
 - a) If the retailer does also have a B2B trade activity (e.g. sale to other retailers) and/or (re)packs or (re)labels the GOTS Goods, the retailer must be certified. The same conditions for the certification of traders as detailed above apply.
 - b) If the retailer does not have a B2B trade activity and does not (re)pack or (re)label the GOTS Goods, the retailer is exempt from the certification obligation. In this case the retailer must assure that its seller of the ready packed and labelled GOTS Goods is certified.
- The product labelling contains a reference (name and/or reference number) to the last certified stage and to its *Approved Certifier*, and has been released by this *Approved Certifier*

In each case only a GOTS certified entity may apply GOTS labelling to a product.

Use of GOTS logo or reference to GOTS certification for informative and/or advertising purposes

For off-product application (e.g. on websites, in brochures) a seller of GOTS Goods may use the GOTS logo or other reference to GOTS certification in an appropriate and unambiguous context only. Reference should be included to their certified operational status and/or to their correctly labelled GOTS Goods. In particular retailers may only use the GOTS logo or other reference to GOTS certification in such context if the products sold carry the GOTS logo as part of a complete and correct labelling.

Companies who sell GOTS Goods within the textile supply chain are requested to forward this information sheet to their respective buyers in order to ensure that all stages of the supply chain are aware of the requirement to comply with the criteria and conditions of the Global Organic Textile Standard Program.

Many thanks to everybody for the participation in the GOTS program and the cooperation in this field!

International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard

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