



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHANGE LOG

MANUAL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOTS

VERSION 8.0

THIS CHANGELOG LISTS THE MAJOR CHANGES MADE IN THE
MANUAL
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOTS
FROM VERSION 7.2 TO 1ST REVISION DRAFT OF VERSION 8.0

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| Reference from Manual 7.2 | Reference from Manual 8.0 | RELEVANT CHANGE(S) |
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| Front Page | Front page | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dates and the Version Number have been updated. |
| P.i | P.i | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The document history has been updated. |
| Table of Contents | Table of Contents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The table of contents has been reviewed and updated, including new subsections and further guidance and explanation. |
| Title, p.1 | Title, p.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The title has been updated from version 7.0 to Version 8.0. |
| 1.2.1 | 1.2.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the INTERPRETATION table, points c and d have been modified in the following manner for clarification and further strictness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. "A textile fibre product, final or intermediate, can only be certified and labelled "organic" or "made with organic material" as a whole. It is not possible to certify and label only a part or a component of a product." d. "Consumer products that are normally not classified as textile fibre products but containing textile fibre components, such as prams with textile fabrics, bassinets, car seats or furniture with textile fabric upholstery, may also be certified as a combined product. Combined products shall be labelled as per <i>Conditions for the Use of GOTS Signs</i>, as "Combined Product (name of component) certified to GOTS", ensuring no ambiguity about which component of the final product is certified. Products that are certifiable to GOTS as a whole (e.g. textile bags, cotton buds, mattresses) cannot be considered for certification as a combined product." |
| 2.2 | 2.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under Section 2.2, a new implementation text with GUIDANCE has been inserted, namely on Certification and Auditing. |
| 2.2.1 Further Guidance | 2.2.1 Further Guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new paragraph providing FURTHER GUIDANCE on first process certification has been included as follows: "Should a field-level retting process be explicitly included and considered as part of the farm organic certification, the GOTS Certifier may certify the subsequent processing stage as the first process under GOTS, on the condition that the retting process does not pose harm to the ecology." |
| 2.2.2 | 2.2.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under INTERPRETATION, point e. has been modified for consistency with appropriate cross references. |
| 2.2.5 | 2.2.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under INTERPRETATION, a new paragraph on Virtual Inspections, with a cross-referenced footnote, has been added. Under INTERPRETATION, paragraph 6 has been rephrased, adding "over GOTS Goods" for clarification. Under INTERPRETATION, a new reference has been added: "For the registration process, please follow the guidance given in the document Implementation Guidance for Registration of Traders." |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under GUIDANCE, a new paragraph has been added to elaborate on the methods and means involved in conducting remote audits <p>“ Guidance Related to Remote Audits</p> <p>Remote audits and inspection activities can be considered as either “partial”, when only some parts are conducted remotely, or “full”, when all parts are completed remotely.</p> <p>Remote audits or inspection activities may be conducted as per the direction given in one or a combination of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Off-site desktop review: When documentary evidence or data is submitted for review by a competent authority audit/inspection team to confirm required activities have been undertaken or outcomes achieved. These data could include photographic and/or pre-recorded video footage. Virtual audit: Where a competent authority uses electronic means to obtain audit evidence remotely, including video conferencing, accessing local IT systems, real-time video streaming, and evaluate it objectively in order to determine the extent of conformity to the audit criteria, just as during an on-site audit. Live video-streaming: When live video footage is streamed from an audit or inspection site guided by an auditor or inspector of the competent authority observing real-time operating conditions.” |
| 2.7.8 | 2.7.8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the GUIDANCE on “Labelling of GOTS Goods sold in retail is mandatory”, the first paragraph has been replaced by the following guidance: “In the absence of GOTS labels on retail products, no claims, advertisements, or references to GOTS shall be allowed.” |
| 3.3 | 3.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the INTERPRETATION of section 3.3 on MATERIALS IN GENERAL, a new paragraph elaborates on “Microplastic restriction for accessories”, further referring to Regulations and Guidance Documents from the EU and the OECD. |
| 4.1.1 (i) | 4.1.1 (i) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the implementation of Step 1 of the Due Diligence Management Process, 4.1.1 (i), a new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents, namely: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.2 Embedding Responsible Business Conduct (Step 1).” |
| 4.1.1 (ii) | 4.1.1 (ii) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the implementation of Step 2 of the Due Diligence Management Process, 4.1.1 (ii), two new requirements have been inserted under point 3 of the GUIDANCE: “The Certified Entity shall use multiple sources of information” and “The Certified Entity shall conduct suppliers’ assessment in a gender-sensitive manner.” A new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents, namely: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.3 Identifying and Assessing Adverse Impacts (Step 2).” |
| 4.1.1 (iii) | 4.1.1 (iii) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the implementation of Step 3 of the of the Due Diligence Management Process, 4.1.1 (iii): Under point 1 of the GUIDANCE, two new requirements have been added: “The Certified Entity shall cease actions that are causing or contributing to harm and take immediate steps to stop |



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| | | <p>existing adverse impacts in its own operations” and “The Certified Entity shall consult international standards and guidance when developing preventive measures.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under point 2, some rephrasing has been done for clarifications. A timeline for the mitigation plan has been requested, and the recommendation on using leverage to influence a supplier to prevent or mitigate impacts has been changed to a requirement. • A new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents, namely: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.4, Cease, Prevent and Mitigate Adverse Impacts (Step 3).” |
| 4.1.1 (iv) | 4.1.1 (iv) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the implementation of Step 4 of the Due Diligence Management Process, 4.1.1 (iv), some GUIDANCE paragraph wording has been updated and modified for better clarity and consistency. • A new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents has been added: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.5 Tracking Implementation and Results (Step 4).” |
| 4.1.1 (v) | 4.1.1 (v) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the implementation of Step 5 of the Due Diligence Management Process, 4.1.1 (v), three new guiding requirements have been added under points 1 and 2: “The Certified Entity’s communications shall be in a form and frequency reflecting its human rights impacts,” • “The Certified Entity’s communications shall provide sufficient information to evaluate the adequacy of its response to human rights impacts within the Certified Entity’s operations and supply chain,” and • “The Certified Entity shall communicate with its workers, trade unions, and representative organisations of the workers’ own choosing.” • A new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents has been added: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.5 Communicating How Impacts Are Addressed (Step 5).” |
| 4.1.1 (vi) | 4.1.1 (vi) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the implementation of Step 6 of the Due Diligence Management Process, 4.1.1 (vi), some additional GUIDANCE is provided under point 1: “An operational-level grievance mechanism is a formalised means through which individuals or groups can raise concerns about the impact a Certified Entity has on them – including, but not exclusively, on their human rights – and can seek remedy,” and “The Certified Entity’s grievance mechanism shall not undermine the role of local grievance mechanisms, including judicial and non-judicial mechanisms and the role of trade unions in addressing labour disputes.” • A new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents has been added: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.7 Provide or Cooperate in Remediation where Appropriate (Step 6).” |
| N/A | 4.1.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on implementing 4.1.5 has been added to the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS 8.0. • A new reference of one of GOTS’s pillared documents has been added: “GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Certified Entities, v.1.1, released on 23 September 2024, See Section 4.2.2 Strengthening Management Systems.” |



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| 4.3.1.2 | 4.3.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per GOTS 8.0, 4.3.1 requirement has been modified: “ Certified Entities shall establish a written Environmental and Chemical Management Policy that is appropriate to the nature and scale of their business ” The INTERPRETATION section has been fully redrafted in line with updates and for greater clarity: “Non-processing Certified Entities (e.g., B2B offices) should address the environmental topics appropriate to the nature of their business, e.g., GHG emissions caused by their own activities, e.g., office lighting, as well as emissions released in their supply chain. Such a written environmental policy of non-processing entities shall include emission calculation approaches and also include emission reduction targets, for instance, through sustainable purchasing of office equipment.” |
| 4.3.1.1 | 4.3.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per GOTS 8.0, 4.3.2 wording under INTERPRETATION has been improved for better clarity. |
| 4.3.2.4 | 4.3.11.8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FURTHER GUIDANCE on “Wastewater analyses and sludge analyses shall be performed periodically at normal operating capacity and the results shall be documented ” has been provided as follows: “Where internal ETPs are used, the latest version of ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals) Wastewater Guidelines should be followed. Where external ETPs are fully or partially used, all applicable national and local legal wastewater requirements shall not be lower than GOTS limits for discharged wastewater.” |
| 4.3.2.4 | 4.3.2.4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under FURTHER GUIDANCE, clearer provisions have been provided, and paragraphs have been rephrased to clarify the relationship between recommendations and requirements. |
| 4.4.1.3 | 4.4.1.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under INTERPRETATION, providing the lists of international human rights instruments further to guide Certified Entities, the following Conventions and Recommendations have been added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN General Assembly, International Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, 1577, UNTS 3 (1990), Arts. 28(1) et seq., 32 R097 – Protection of Workers’ Health Recommendation, 1953 (No. 97) C120 – Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964 (No. 120) C148 –Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977 (No. 148) C174 – Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174) R181 – Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Recommendation, 1993 (No. 181) C187 – Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006, (No. 187) R205 – Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, 2017 (No. 205) |
| 4.4.2 | 4.4.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further GUIDANCE is provided on Forced Labour with two additional requirements, with the aim to ensure that no forced labour occurs, and to better align with the OECD Guidelines on this human rights issue. This includes the wording of “...zero-tolerance policy for forced labour...” |
| 4.4.3 | 4.4.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under GUIDANCE, the first requirement has been rephrased for better clarity. |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further, GUIDANCE is provided with two additional requirements to better align with the OECD guidelines and ensure better protection of the Rights of the Child. |
| 4.4.6 | 4.4.6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further, the GUIDANCE includes two additional requirements: “The Certified Entity shall establish a clear policy prohibiting anti-worker practices in its own operations and across its supply chain” and “The Certified Entity shall consider a description of anti-union policies and practices as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector.” This is to better align with OECD guidance documents. A new reference has been added: OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector (2018), pp. 146-151 |
| 4.4.7.1 | 4.4.7.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under GUIDANCE, a new requirement has been added, referring to an important ILO Code of Practice in relation to the GOTS scope: The Certified Entity shall, to the extent possible, follow the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Textiles, Clothing, Leather, and Footwear Industries. An additional guiding requirement has been added: “The Certified Entity shall provide for or co-operate in remediation where appropriate.” A new reference has been added, namely: C121 - Employment Injury Benefits Convention, 1964 (No. 121) |
| N/A | 4.4.7.16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.4.7.16 is now a new subsection under OHS of GOTS 8.0 on emergency responses to climate-induced hazards and worker well-being. Further guidance is provided on different types of preventive measures and identifiable hazards, depending on the Certified Entity’s location and activities. Several references and reports provide further detailed explanations and tools to use in such cases. |
| N/A | 4.4.7.17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.4.7.17 is now a new subsection under OHS of GOTS 8.0 on climate mitigation and worker’s well-being. Further GUIDANCE and INTERPRETATION have been provided, with proper references from various international and intergovernmental organisations. It provides a template example of creating a climate mitigation plan and further information regarding the various environmental risks that may affect workers. |
| 4.4.8.2 | 4.4.8.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under GUIDANCE, a new requirement has been added: “The Certified Entity shall establish a clear policy ensuring that remuneration is paid in accordance with applicable laws and international standards on wages for all workers in its own operations and across its supply chain.” |
| 4.4.9 | 4.4.9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under GUIDANCE, within the first paragraph, the wording “...for industrial production...” has been added for greater clarity. Cross references have been updated, given the various changes within GOTS 8.0. |



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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Guiding requirement has been added, namely: “The Certified Entity shall consider factors that may drive excessive working hours at manufacturing as provided in the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector” to better align with the OECD guidelines. |
| 5.1.1 | 5.1.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GUIDANCE on Quality Management System (QMS) has been expanded. |
| 5.2 | 5.2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the GUIDANCE, some phrases have been reformulated for better clarity and consistency. New reference test methods for Qualitative GMO screening of cotton in the GOTS supply chain have been added namely ISO 5354 -1 and ISO 5354-2. A footnote further explains these references. |
| 5.2.7 and 5.2.8 | 5.2.7 and 5.2.8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first paragraph under INTERPRETATION has been reformulated to become a requirement by replacing “should” with “shall”. Also, a new requirement has been added namely: “Similarly, additional fibres shall not compromise the pesticide limits in table 5.2.7 after blending with organic fibres.” |
| N/A | 5.3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per GOTS 8.0, a new Section has been added, namely 5.3, “Circularity Principles of GOTS Goods.” A new GUIDANCE and REFERENCES has been provided on the principles . |
| Copyright | Copyright | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The date in the Copyright has been updated. |
| Footer | Footer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The dates and the version of the document have been updated throughout the whole document. |