

Global Standard GmbH

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Important information for companies who sell or advertise textile products certified according to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

Within the GOTS quality assurance system, operators from post harvest handling up to garment making and final packing as well as exporters and importers of articles sold, labelled or represented according to GOTS are subject to inspection by approved certification bodies as listed on www.global-standard.org (= *Approved Certifiers*) 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 they meet the respective criteria and licensing conditions of the Global Organic Textile Standard Program.

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 www.global-standard.org:

- Global Organic Textile Standard
- 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 (semi-finished) products that are labelled according to GOTS within the textile supply chain, the seller must ensure that:

- The seller holds a valid operational certificate from an *Approved Certifier*
- The intended use of the GOTS logo or other reference to GOTS certification has been released by the *Approved Certifier*
- Full records are maintained for each client that receives *GOTS Goods*, including lists of all products, their specifications and quantities

GOTS Goods sold to the end consumer

Before selling GOTS certified final products that are labelled according to GOTS for the end consumer, the seller must ensure that:

- The last operation in the textile supply chain that is obliged to participate in the certification chain holds a valid operational certificate issued by an *Approved Certifier*
 - a) If the GOTS certified products are imported from another country the importer must hold a valid certificate, unless the importer sells finally packed and labelled products directly to the end consumer without having a trade function. In this case the importer is exempt from this certification obligation and the last stage to be certified is the exporter.
 - b) If the GOTS certified products are purchased in the same country the last operation that must be certified is the final manufacturing stage, where the products are packed and labelled for the end consumer.
- The product labelling contains a reference (name and/or reference number) to the last certified stage and its *Approved Certifier*, and has been released by this *Approved Certifier*

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

For off-product application (e.g. on website, brochures etc) a commercial entity of the textile industry may use the GOTS logo or other reference to GOTS certification only in an appropriate and unambiguous context. Reference should be included to their certified operational status and/or to their correctly labelled *GOTS Goods*.

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!

Sincerely
Marcus Brügel

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Global Standard GmbH is the operating unit of the International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard, charged with executing the Global Organic Textile Standard Program.

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