

Certification according to GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)

This info sheet aims at informing interested persons about the basic requirements of GOTS and the inspection and certification procedure of bio.inspecta.

Purpose and Scope

International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard defines the aim and the criteria as follows:

The aim of GOTS is to define world-wide recognised requirements that ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer.

Processors and manufacturers shall be enabled to export their organic fabrics and garments with one certification accepted in all major selling markets.

The standard is valid for fibre products, yarns, fabrics and clothes and covers the production, processing, manufacturing, packaging, labelling, exportation, importation and distribution of all natural fibre products. The standard does not set criteria for leather products.

GOTS covers the entire product chain from post harvest procedures to ready-made garments. bio.inspecta may inspect and certify all non-wet processing procedures such as ginning, spinning, knitting, weaving, etc. Trade, import and export may be covered as well.

The following standards are applicable for operators that wish to become certified against GOTS requirements:

- ⇒ Global Organic Textile Standard, Version 2.0
- ⇒ Licensing and Labelling Guide, Issue of 02nd June 2009

Copies of these standards are available on the GOTS website (www.global-standard.org) or from bio.inspecta upon request.

Main GOTS Requirements

The following key elements are inspected by the inspector during the on-site inspection visit:

- Fibres should be natural and have to be grown in an organic way, based on the production standards such as those laid down in the EU-Regulation 834/2007 or NOP regulations.
- Correct receipt of goods (from GOTS certified processors or fibres from certified organic production)
- Product flow plausibility
- Conformity of inputs with the GOTS criteria
- Measures implemented for ensuring separation of organic and non-organic products
- Correct labelling and packaging
- Compliance with the social criteria

How to become certified?

Operators that wish to become certified by bio.inspecta submit the completed application form including the GOTS data sheet to the bio.inspecta headquarters. After first scrutiny of the information provided, an audit date is arranged.

Operators are required to allow for inspection of all production and processing facilities. Key personnel must be available for interview and documents shall be ready for inspection. Prior to the audit visit, operators receive a detailed list of documents and information that shall be available during the on-site visit.

These are, amongst others:

- Certificates of inspection, invoices and delivery records of all receipts of organic fibres and/or textile products
- Product list
- Processing description including all ingredients
- List of suppliers, buyers and subcontractors as applicable
- Records on amounts of products received and amount of final products
- Results of residue analyses if available
- Measures for ensuring adequate separation
- Proof of compliance of social requirements such as training documents, workers contracts, safety instructions

The inspector verifies compliance of the operator's procedures with the GOTS requirements during an on-site audit. A report of all aspects and findings is issued and countersigned by the operator.

Certification is granted by the certifier who checks the inspection files as independent second person. Once all major requirements are fulfilled a certificate is issued.

Labelling of organic textile products

Products may be labelled according to the GOTS label grades. The following grades exist:

"organic" or "organic - in conversion"

95% or more of the fibres must be of certified organic (or in conversion) origin. The remaining balance up to 5% may be made of non-organic fibres including defined regenerated and synthetic fibres. Blending (= mixing the same fibre in organic and conventional quality in one product) is not permitted.

"made with x % organic materials" or "made with x % organic - in conversion materials"

70% - 95% or more of the fibres must be of certified organic (or in conversion) origin. The remaining balance up to 30% may be made of non-organic fibres. Regenerated and synthetic fibres are limited to 10% (resp. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear). Again blending is not permitted.

The GOTS logo is a registered trade mark and may only be used following the GOTS requirements. Certified operators may use the logo for products covered by the certification. The correct use of the GOTS logo is verified by the inspector.

If you wish to become certified by bio.inspecta for GOTS, please contact us at:

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