



ORGANIC TEXTILES FROM THE FIBRE TO THE FINISHED PRODUCT

The organic textiles market is continuing to grow, led by the increasing awareness of consumers who are now informed of the risks conventional textiles pose to health and the environment.

Although the conventional textile industry remains one of the most polluting in the world, organic textile production is not subjected to any government regulations. Certain certification bodies have therefore decided to develop their own standards.

A SINGLE STANDARD: GOTS

Faced with this mass of specifications, Ecocert chose to get involved in an international approach to harmonize standards and adopt the GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard) for the inspection of organic textiles.

The standard integrates all of the textile processing stages, from the fibre to the finished product: the raw fibre must be organic farming certified and all manufacturing processes involved must be inspected.

The aim of this standard is to define requirements to ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw material, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labelling in order to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer.

Organic textiles = organic fibre + complete inspection of the manufacturing process

There can be no "organic textile" without a complete inspection of all the manufacturing stages, particularly the dyeing process which is the most harmful to health and the environment. The use of chemicals is governed by very strict criteria. Heavy metals, formaldehydes, GMO enzymes and carcinogenic amines are banned.

This production method favours the use of natural dyes and production aids of natural origin, and imposes rigorous requirements with regard to environmental discharges and harmful chemical residues contained in the finished product.



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GOTS defines two levels depending on the composition of the finished product:

• **“Organic Textiles” label**

A minimum of 95% of fibres must come from organic farming, with a maximum of 5% synthetic or artificial fibres.

• **“Textile containing organic fibres” label**

A minimum of 70% of fibres must come from organic farming, with a maximum of 10% synthetic or artificial fibres (this threshold is 25% for footwear and sportswear).

The standard is available at www.global-standard.org

GOTS certification procedure

1. Reading the Ecocert Standard on www.ecocert.com
2. Sending your application to Ecocert
3. Signing the contract and estimate
4. Validation of production aids and additives is performed by an Ecocert certification officer.
5. On site audit is performed by an Ecocert auditor
6. File is processed by your certification officer
7. Certificate is issued once the non conformities observed during the audit have been solved



The certified products can then be sold.

A service of ECOCERT Greenlife, a subsidiary of Ecocert dedicated to Ecoproducts