



Certification according to GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)

This information 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:

GOTS was founded by four well-reputed organisations: [Organic Trade Association](#) (OTA, USA), [Internationaler Verband der Naturtextilwirtschaft](#) (IVN, Germany), [The Soil Association](#) (UK) and [Japan Organic Cotton Association](#) (JOCA, Japan). Two of these (IVN and JOCA) are textile industry organisations, while the other two (OTA and Soil Association) are organic organisations rooted in organic agriculture and food. Together, they hold extensive experience in promoting 'organic' and all had developed individual processing standards for organic textiles. GOTS came about from the desire to harmonise these standards so that they were internationally recognised. The GOTS organisation draws on the advice of, and input from, other relevant international stakeholder organisations and experts for regular standard updates.

GOTS covers the entire product chain from post harvest procedures to ready-made products containing organically grown fibres. bio.inspecta offers the inspection and certification for GOTS, scopes 1, 2 and 3 - trading as all processing steps – in cooperation with CERES, Happurg, Germany.

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

- Global Organic Textile Standard, Version 6.0, released 19 March 2020
- Implementation Manual 6.0,
- Licensing and Labelling Guide, Issue of 08 May 2017, updated 14 August 2018

Copies of these standards are available on the GOTS website (www.global-standard.org).

Main GOTS Requirements

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

- Fibres shall be from natural sources and organically grown, 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 requirements
- Compliance with the environmental requirements

How to become certified?

The certification process is as follows

1. Operators that wish to become certified by bio.inspecta submit the completed request for offer form in [English](#) or [German](#).
2. bio.inspecta prepares a quotation for the inspection and certification fees.
3. To confirm the quotation, the applicant signs the offer, which results in a valid contract for inspection and certification.
4. bio.inspecta submits the necessary documents and information provided by CERES to the operation and organizes the inspection.
5. The auditor will arrange and conduct the on-site audit. Key personnel as well as employees must be available for interviews and documents shall be ready for inspection. The inspector verifies compliance of the operator's procedures with the GOTS requirements during the audit. A report of all aspects and findings is issued and countersigned by the operator.
6. The documents are evaluated the certification officer at CERES. Once all major requirements are fulfilled a certificate is issued by CERES. The certificate is published on the [GOTS-Database](#).

Prior to the audit visit, operators receive the "Audit plan", 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
- Packaging Material
- Proof of compliance of social requirements such as training documents, workers contracts, safety instructions
- Environmental management handbook

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%. Again blending is not permitted.

The GOTS logo is a registered trade mark and may only be used in compliance with the GOTS requirements. Certified operators may use the logo for products covered by the certification. The correct use of the GOTS logo shall be confirmed by the certification body by issuing the "labelling Realeas".



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

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Weblinks

bio.inspecta downloads: <https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/documents>

Request for offer: https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/docs/transfer/25_1012EN.pdf

General Terms of business: <https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/general-terms-and-conditions>

Price list outside of Switzerland: <https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/en/prices>

Price list within Switzerland: <https://www.bio-inspecta.ch/de/preise>

CERES: General Information on certification with CERES:

English: <http://www.ceres-cert.com/portal/index.php?id=213&L=1>

German: <http://www.ceres-cert.com/portal/index.php?id=213&L=0>

GOTS website: <http://www.global-standard.org>