

Resources and Highlights of GOTS Version 6.0

The [Global Organic Textile Standards \(GOTS\)](#) is periodically revised every three years in order to keep pace with consumer expectations and reflect new information to maintain strong environmental and social standards for organic textile production. On March 19, 2020 GOTS published the new version — GOTS Version 6.0—that reflects outcomes of the latest [revision process](#). Unless otherwise noted, the certified entities have one year to comply with GOTS Version 6.0.

Resources:

- [GOTS Version 6.0 – Standards](#)
- [GOTS Version 6.0 – Implementation Manual](#)
- [Summary of Relevant Changes from Version 5.0 to 6.0](#)

Highlights of GOTS Version 6.0:

- **Social Criteria** are clarified and significantly expanded to ensure that forced labor is prohibited, the right to collective bargaining is respected, and work environments are free from harassment and violence (§3.1-7). Certified entities are required to calculate the **living wage** and the **wage gap** for their workers (§3.8). Clarification of social criteria extending to **migrant workers** (§3.12)
- Certified entities must have an anonymous non-discriminatory **whistleblower policy** (§5).
- Certified entities must collect information on sources of **greenhouse gas emissions** and identify means to reduce each source (§2.4.10)
- **Formulators and suppliers of chemical inputs** are required to implement appropriate and effective product stewardship practices, and to undergo on-site audits to verify environmental management system and safety criteria (§2.3.4 & 2.3.5). *These new requirements must be implemented by March 1, 2022. Formulators must have first inspection by July 1, 2022.*
- The list of prohibited **chemical inputs** is clarified and expanded to address flame retardants, glycol derivatives, siloxanes, and in-can preservatives (§2.3.1). Additional clarifications and prohibitions are identified for other processing inputs such as machine oils, synthetic fibers, and colourants (§2.4.2-8). Technical quality parameters and residue limits are clarified (§2.4.14-15).
- **Food contact textiles** are subject to new composition requirements (§6.2)
- **Mulesed wool** fibers are prohibited in GOTS goods (§2.4.9.1).
- Allowance of **virgin synthetic** fibers in GOTS sportswear, leggings, socks is reduced (§2.4.9.1).
- Only paper or cardboard **tampon applicators** are allowed, and synthetic security veils are prohibited (§6.1.2). *This new requirement must be implemented by March 1, 2022.*
- Virgin single use plastic **hangers** are prohibited in retail packaging (§2.4.12.2).
- **Retail labelling** of GOTS goods is mandatory (§1.4).