Questions and Answers

Webinars “Changes from GOTS 7.0 to GOTS 8.0” on June 10 & 11, 2026

N.B.: These questions and answers are subdivided by topic. The topics are in alphabetical order.

1. Auditing

1.1 Q: Regarding internal audits: if we have a subcontractor under our scope, should the internal auditor be part of the certified entity or of the subcontractor?

A: The Certified Entity remains finally responsible for ensuring compliance with all GOTS criteria. Because your Scope Certificate includes the assigned subcontractor and their processing steps, their operations must be part of your internal audit programme. The standard does not specify whether the internal auditor must be a direct employee of the Certified Entity or the subcontractor, but rather requires that the auditor be competent and functionally independent of the activities they assess.

1.2 Q: Regarding internal audits: should the process cover only due diligence aspects, or should it encompass all system elements, including documentation?

A: The internal audit must cover much more than just due diligence aspects; it is explicitly required to encompass the full scope of GOTS requirements and the Certified Entity’s own policies and procedures. At a minimum, it should assess applicable environmental, human rights and social, chemical, governance and traceability requirements, as well as internal procedures, due diligence commitments, the quality management system and corrective actions. The audit programme should be risk-based, documented and conducted at least annually.

1.3 Q: Will there be any support from GOTS to help sharing validated data along the supply chain? For example, sharing audit data of partners via an online platform/database if they agree (e.g. number of workers, corrective actions in progress, available grievance systems etc.)?

A: Audit reports are generally considered confidential between the entity and their CB. As a brand, you may request this information from your supply chain directly. Global Standards does not require audit reports to be shared with value chain partners at the moment. Please contact us directly about any other data that you are looking for.

1.4 Q: Will social audits by a third party (amfori, Wrap, etc.) be accepted for the social part?

A: Third-party social audits, such as amfori BSCI, WRAP or similar schemes, may be useful supporting evidence, but they are not automatically accepted as a replacement for GOTS Human Rights and Social Criteria verification.

The OECD assessment notes that GOTS does not officially recognise other third-party standards or initiatives, although auditors may screen and consider existing results from selected social auditing schemes as far as possible within GOTS verification procedures.

The final decision remains with the GOTS Approved Certification Body. They must still verify compliance with the applicable GOTS criteria, including interviews with management, confidential worker interviews, review of personnel files, contracts, payrolls, working time records and verification of corrective actions.

1.5 Q: Since the audit was mentioned: With each revision, GOTS adds more governance, due diligence and documentation requirements. How does GOTS ensure that certification remains focused on sustainability outcomes rather than administrative capacity? Is GOTS still primarily rewarding sustainable production, or is it increasingly rewarding the ability to manage complex compliance and documentation requirements?

A: Certification is essentially setting up of a working system. Audits and Inspections are means to ensure that systems are being followed. Yes, there is administration in any system because there is a need to have documented confirmation of requirements being met. Sustainable production is the underlying foundation, but in order that this is proven, there is no other way at this time without some administration.

2. Chemical Inputs

2.1 Q: Regarding the RSL/MRSL requirement changes, can you please provide the current updated limit vs the old one?

A: The GOTS Version 7.0 to 8.0 Change Log is publicly available on the Global Standards website (https://global-standards.org/downloads) under “Resources” -> “Downloads” -> “Changelogs” -> “Changelog GOTS v. 7.0 to v. 8.0”.

2.2 Q: To upgrade to version 8.0 from March 2027 onwards, do I have to use only chemicals with a new Letter of Approval 8.0?

A: Products certified to GOTS Version 8.0 must be processed using chemical products that hold a valid GOTS Version 8.0 Letter of Approval (LoA).

To determine whether the chemical products you use will be fundamentally affected by the new criteria introduced in GOTS Version 8.0, please contact your chemical supplier or the issuer of the Letter of Approval.

3. Differentiation for Special Types of CEs

3.1 Q: From what annual turnover is a company classified as a “small company”?

A: Please provide a context to this question so that we can have a substantial answer. We define 'small' traders in the Standard, for example.

3.2 Q: I missed the part about how many employees should be in one company for it to be considered “small”. Can you please clarify?

A: For the internal audit requirement, the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS 8.0 refers to Certified Entities with fewer than 100 employees as smaller entities that may use a simplified internal audit model.

3.3 Q: For Entities such as brands or traders, who just work from rented office spaces, are these environmental requirements also applicable? Since the facilities of the rented spaces are the responsibility of the landlords, these factors mostly are not handled by the brand or the trader.

A: For trading offices, the environmental requirements should be implemented in a proportionate and risk-based manner, taking into account the nature and scope of their activities.

Not all environmental criteria are necessarily applicable to every case. The relevance and level of implementation depend on the operational context and degree of environmental impact associated with the certified activities. For brands or traders working only from rented offices, production-related requirements may be documented as not applicable. They should still address relevant office activities, such as electricity use and waste, based on the data available from the landlord.

In such cases, the GOTS-approved Certification Body will provide guidance on the specific environmental requirements that are applicable within the scope of certification.

3.4 Q: What if we are just a brand and not engaging in production ourselves? Is it important for us to do things like wastewater management or air emissions management if we do a CCF calculation, since we don't, for example, use any water to produce anything?

A: For trading or brand offices, the environmental requirements should be implemented in a proportionate and risk-based manner, taking into account the nature and scope of their activities.

Not all environmental criteria are necessarily applicable to every case. The relevance and level of implementation depend on the operational context and degree of environmental impact associated with the certified activities. If you are a brand with no production facilities, production-related wastewater and air-emission requirements may be documented as not applicable.

However, a CCF calculation does not replace the environmental requirements. You should still address relevant activities within your own operations, such as office energy use and waste, while the production facilities remain responsible for managing their wastewater and air emissions.

In such cases, the GOTS-approved Certification Body will provide guidance on the specific environmental requirements that are applicable within the scope of certification.

4. Due Diligence

4.1 Q: If our suppliers are GOTS-certified, why do we need to control them and do a supplier evaluation, monitoring, and risk assessment? We think this should be done by Certification Bodies during audits.

A: GOTS certification of suppliers is an important assurance tool, but it does not replace the Certified Entity’s own due diligence responsibility. Under GOTS 8.0, due diligence covers the Certified Entity’s operations, supply chain and business relationships, and must be implemented on an ongoing, risk-based basis.

Certification Bodies verify conformity through audits, but supplier evaluation, monitoring and risk assessment help the Certified Entity manage day-to-day sourcing risks, confirm valid Scope and Transaction Certificates, and respond to changes, complaints or risk indicators.

4.2 Q: Practically speaking, as a tiny brand (2 people), how do you expect us to look at our supply chain for due diligence concerns? That is why we sign up to, and pay a considerable amount to, GOTS.

A: We understand this concern, especially for very small brands. GOTS does not expect a two-person company to operate like a large multinational or to duplicate the work of Certification Bodies.

Due diligence under GOTS is risk-based and proportionate. This means using your limited resources where they matter most: know who your certified suppliers are, keep valid Scope and Transaction Certificates, maintain traceability records, and look more closely only where there are risk indicators, such as high-risk sourcing locations, subcontracting, complaints, unclear documentation or changes in suppliers.

GOTS certification provides important third-party assurance, but it does not replace your responsibility to understand and manage your own sourcing decisions. The OECD alignment assessment also confirms that GOTS due diligence is intended to be tailored to the company's specific circumstances, sourcing model, products and risk context.

4.3 Q: Does supply chain assessment also apply to suppliers outside the GOTS standard?

A: Yes, but in a risk-based and proportionate way. GOTS due diligence is not limited only to suppliers that are themselves GOTS-certified. The Manual for the Implementation of GOTS 8.0 explains that Certified Entities are expected to conduct due diligence on their own activities, their suppliers across the supply chain, and other business relationships.

This does not mean that every non-GOTS supplier must be audited like a GOTS-certified production site. It means the Certified Entity should understand where relevant risks may arise and prioritise action based on severity and likelihood. For example, non-GOTS suppliers may still be relevant where they provide accessories, packaging, logistics, services, subcontracted processes, or other inputs linked to GOTS Goods.

4.4 Q: Does the due diligence process apply only to the GOTS supply chain?

A: No. The due diligence process is broader than only the certified GOTS product supply chain.

Under GOTS, due diligence looks at the Certified Entity's own operations, supply chain and business relationships, and it should address relevant risks linked to human rights, social, environmental and governance criteria. The OECD assessment also notes that GOTS due diligence requirements apply across the full length of the applicant company's supply chain and to its own operations.

In practice, this does not mean applying the same level of assessment to every supplier. It means using a risk-based and proportionate approach: prioritise suppliers, subcontractors, materials, services or business relationships that are relevant to GOTS Goods or present higher risk.

4.5 Q: Is the GOTS Due Diligence Handbook for Auditors launched in November 2024 still aligned with the new GOTS Version 8?

A: Yes. If any update is required, we will take this up later in the year, but since the requirements have not changed from v 7.0 to v 8.0 there is no immediate need for an update.

4.6 Q: We are certified to GOTS 7.0 and we have implemented due diligence. Can you give us some guidance as to how we can improve our due diligence steps/policy?

A: Yes. If you have already implemented due diligence under GOTS 7.0, the focus should now be on strengthening and improving the system, rather than creating something entirely new. A practical approach is to review your due diligence policy and procedures against the six GOTS/OECD steps:

- Policy and responsibilities: make sure your Policy on Responsible Business Conduct clearly covers your own operations, suppliers and relevant business relationships, and assigns internal responsibilities.
- Risk assessment: update your assessment of environmental, human rights and social, chemical and governance risks, and prioritise them based on severity and likelihood.
- Action and follow-up: ensure identified risks lead to concrete prevention, mitigation or corrective actions, including supplier follow-up where relevant.
- Tracking and communication: check whether you monitor progress, document results and communicate appropriately with affected stakeholders or business partners.
- Grievance and remediation: confirm that workers and other relevant stakeholders have access to a complaints mechanism, and that the company can provide or cooperate in remedies where needed.

GOTS 8.0 follows the same six-step due diligence approach and expects it to be risk-based, proportionate and continuously improved. So the key improvement is to make due diligence a living management process: regularly reviewed, linked to sourcing decisions, supported by records, and updated when risks, suppliers or operations change.

4.7 Q. I only work with certified suppliers. Do I need to additionally verify them through due diligence?

A: Certified suppliers reduce the level of due diligence needed, but they do not remove the Certified Entity's responsibility to monitor its supply chain on a risk-based basis. You should still carry out basic due diligence checks, such as verifying valid Scope Certificates and Transaction Certificates, confirming that the certified scope covers the goods and activities purchased, keeping traceability records, and following up if there are risk indicators, complaints, subcontracting, expired certificates or inconsistencies in documentation.

4.8 Q: Our suppliers and sub-contractors are GOTS-certified. Do we also have to verify them through due diligence?

A: Due diligence criteria still apply, but in a proportionate and non-duplicative way. If your suppliers and subcontractors are GOTS-certified, their certification is already an important part of your due diligence. You are not expected to repeat the Certification Body's audit.

However, you should still carry out basic risk-based checks, such as verifying valid Scope Certificates and Transaction Certificates, confirming that the certified scope covers the goods and activities purchased, keeping traceability records, and following up where there are risk indicators, complaints, expired certificates, subcontracting changes or documentation inconsistencies.

4.9 Q: How does GOTS define a zero-tolerance issue? If a brand were to identify this in their supply chain, what is the recommendation for responsible remediation of the issue?

A: Zero tolerance means zero tolerance for the abuse, not zero responsibility for remediation. The priority is to stop the harm, protect workers, provide or cooperate in remedy, and only disengage responsibly if remediation is not possible or the supplier refuses to act.

GOTS uses the term "zero-tolerance policy" specifically in relation to forced labour. Under the Manual for GOTS 8.0, the Certified Entity shall adopt a zero-tolerance policy for forced labour in its own operations and supply chain, and implement a management system to prevent all forms of forced labour in line with ILO Conventions No. 29 and No. 105.

If a brand identifies such an issue in its supply chain, the response should be immediate, worker-centred and remedial. This means protecting affected workers, stopping the harmful practice, informing the relevant supplier and Certification Body where GOTS certification is involved, investigating the root cause, and ensuring remedy. Remedy may include actions such as return of retained identity documents, repayment of withheld wages or recruitment fees, safe access to grievance mechanisms, and follow-up to prevent recurrence. The GOTS auditor guidance specifically refers to accessible and confidential grievance mechanisms, restitution of withheld wages, release of retained identity documents and follow-up measures.

4.10 Q: Regarding due diligence, are we required to conduct audits on our suppliers, such as cotton suppliers or packaging suppliers?

A: No, GOTS does not require you to automatically conduct audits on every supplier. Under GOTS 8.0, due diligence is risk-based. This means you should first identify and prioritise the most significant risks in your own operations and supply chain, based on severity and likelihood.

5. Emissions Management

5.1 Q: Regarding emissions: if there is a unit that does not have any boilers or machines, would the auditor override this requirement?

A: Boilers and machines are just some examples. If the facility has no relevant air emission sources, the auditor can record the requirement as not applicable based on the facility's actual activities. However, the facility should still document this assessment. For GHG emissions, purchased electricity may still need to be considered under Scope 2.

5.2 Q: Regarding emissions management: should converters and traders also develop an emissions improvement plan, even if they do not have internal processes that consume energy?

A: Yes, but the plan should be proportionate to their activities. If there are no production-related emissions, converters and traders can focus on relevant sources such as office electricity, warehousing and transportation. Any non-applicable sources should be documented accordingly.

5.3 Q: About air emissions: Must I have a training session?

A: A separate training session specifically on air emissions is not mandatory.

However, relevant staff should understand the applicable procedures, and any training provided should be documented. Local legal requirements should also be followed where relevant.

5.4 Q: I understand the new topics; however, for some of them we need detailed requirements. Will you share an updated new version as a guideline or some sort of check list?

A: Yes. The GOTS Manual provides further implementation details (e.g. recommended emission factors, tools, etc), and an additional GHG Emission Guideline is currently under development.

It will provide more practical guidance for Certified Entities and Certification Bodies. Further supporting tools, such as templates or checklists, may also be shared once finalised.

5.5 Q: Please clarify the sentence, "If no legal requirements exist, an internal strategy and declaration are still required". Can you please clarify and give examples of what type of declaration is needed? Will this be applicable for micro and small companies?

A: If no local air emissions requirements apply, the Certified Entity should provide a simple written declaration confirming this.

It should also briefly identify any relevant emission sources and explain how they are managed.

This applies to micro and small companies as well, but the approach should be proportionate to their activities.

5.6 Q: Could you please clarify whether the GHG management requirements under GOTS 8.0 apply to certified traders that do not handle or store any physical products? If so, are they only required to account for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, or is Scope 3 reporting also expected? Additionally, does GOTS require the GHG emissions report to be prepared or verified in accordance with ISO 14064, and is third-party verification or certification of the GHG report mandatory?

A: Yes. The GHG requirements also apply to certified traders without physical handling or storage activities, but the approach should be proportionate.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions must be calculated annually where applicable.

For Scope 3, traders should identify and prioritise the most relevant categories and improve data quality over time. A full Scope 3 calculation is not mandatory at the beginning.

The calculation should align with a recognised framework, such as the GHG Protocol or ISO 14064. Third-party verification or certification is not mandatory.

5.7 Q: Could you please clarify what the GHG Guideline scheduled for release in Q3 will specifically include? Will it be a calculation tool that automatically calculates GHG emissions based on input data such as energy or resource consumption, or will it be a guidance document?

A: The GHG Guideline will mainly be a practical guidance document. It will explain the minimum requirements, calculation steps, data sources and evidence needed.

Supporting templates or checklists may also be provided. It is not intended to be a fully automated calculation tool.

6. External Certifications

6.1 Q: Regarding GHG, our GHG assessment has been done and verified by HIGG FEM. Does this assessment need to be audited or verified by any certified party or Certification Body also?

A: Your verified Higg FEM assessment may be used as supporting evidence, provided it covers the relevant GOTS requirements.

The Certification Body will review the available documentation during the GOTS audit, but a separate GHG certification is not mandatory at the current stage.

7. Fibre Composition

7.1 Q: Regarding the lining requirement of 70% certified organic fibres: can you clarify whether it should be GOTS-certified, or whether certification to other programs such as OCS is accepted, too?

A: The requirement for lining materials containing textile fibres is that they contain at least 70% certified organic or organic in-conversion fibres. While GOTS certification is one means of verifying compliance with this requirement, certification under the Organic Content Standard (OCS), as a recognised certification system for organic fibres, is also acceptable for demonstrating conformity.

7.2 Q: Does the lining need to be GOTS-certified or is OCS accepted?

A: The requirement for lining materials containing textile fibres is that they contain at least 70% certified organic or organic in-conversion fibres. The rest (30%) can be chosen from the allowed fibres list in GOTS, without limit. While GOTS certification is one means of verifying compliance with this requirement, certification under the Organic Content Standard (OCS), as a recognised certification system for organic fibres, is also acceptable for demonstrating conformity.

7.3 Q: Regarding the change from GOTS 7.0 to 8.0, PVA appears to have moved to "controlled use." Does this mean PVA is now permitted for zero-twist towel production, and if so, what are the specific conditions and limitations for compliance?

A: The specific exemption described was developed following a public revision input and was requested and assessed exclusively for use in spinning technology/manufacturing. It is therefore limited to this processing context. Where PVA is applied at the weaving stage or on yarns/woven structures, and a recycling/recovery system is in place that achieves an equivalent recovery rate, please contact Global Standards for explicit confirmation regarding the applicability of any exemption.

Such requests should include a technical description of the process and the recycling/recovery technology used.

7.4 Q: Entire Microfiber is not a problem since it may be bio-degradable. Requirements should focus on a microplastic shedding limit both in manufacturing and in home care.

A: From a GOTS perspective, this statement is partly correct but oversimplifies the issue and risks misinterpretation. While it is true that not all microfiber is inherently problematic in the same way as persistent microplastics, the key concern is not only biodegradability in principle, but actual environmental release pathways, degradation conditions, and exposure timing. Even if a fibre is technically biodegradable, this does not automatically mean it is environmentally harmless, since degradation depends on several factors.

7.5 Q: Good that durability is added. How will PFAS & Durability be ensured - by testing every certified order, or another method?

A. For Durability testings please refer to Section 5.2.6 TECHNICAL QUALITY PARAMETERS, in GOTS v8.0, p.36. Please refer to the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS v8.0 for additional guidance.

For PFAS testing please refer to Section 5.2.7 LIMIT VALUES FOR RESIDUES IN GOTS GOODS, in GOTS v8.0, p.38.

7.6 Q: Is lining only allowed to be organic? What about Viscose lining?

A: The requirement for lining materials containing textile fibres is that they contain at least 70% certified organic or organic in-conversion fibres. The rest (30%) can be chosen from the allowed fibres list in GOTS, without limit. While GOTS certification is one means of verifying compliance with this requirement, certification under the Organic Content Standard (OCS), as a recognised certification system for organic fibres, is also acceptable for demonstrating conformity.

7.7 Q: Does the lining have to contain at least 70% organic fibre, or is it possible, for example, to have 100% viscose lining?

A: The requirement for lining materials containing textile fibres is that they contain at least 70% certified organic or organic in-conversion fibres. The rest (30%) can be chosen from the allowed fibres list in GOTS, without limit. While GOTS certification is one means of verifying compliance with this requirement, certification under the Organic Content Standard (OCS), as a recognised certification system for organic fibres, is also acceptable for demonstrating conformity. Viscose can be used for the remaining 30%, but it cannot be 100% viscose.

7.8 Q: Regarding the recycled portion: a limit of “up to 30%” means that recycled polyester or recycled polyamide can be used up to 30%. Does this limit apply to each material individually, or is it a combined limit? Also, I recall that under GOTS 7.0, viscose was restricted to a maximum of 10%. Is this still the same under GOTS 8.0?

A: GOTS Version 8.0 introduced a specific exemption to the product composition rules for socks. Under this exemption, recycled synthetic fibres may be used up to 30%, compared to the previous maximum limit of 20%.

To qualify as a GOTS product, a product must contain a minimum of 70% certified organic natural fibres. Consequently, the remaining 30% may be composed of additional fibres permitted under GOTS.

As per viscose, the maximum permitted content of viscose remains 10% under GOTS Version 8.0.

For further details, please refer to Section 3.2.10, "Table – Allowed and Prohibited Additional Fibres," in GOTS Version 8.0, page 9.

7.9 Q: Does the lining of a pocket need to be made from 70% organic fibre?

A: Pocket lining is explicitly listed under the "general materials" see Section, A. "general materials", in 3.3 Accessories, 3.3.2 TABLE – ALLOWED AND PROHIBITED ACCESSORIES. Hence not affected by the composition rule defined for "B. linings for apparel"

7.10 Q: Lurex yarn is not meant with decorative glitter, right?

A: No, Lurex yarns are not considered glitters.

7.11 Q: Can you use Lurex / metallic fibres in a GOTS product, e.g. in socks or tights?

A: The use of metallic fibres in GOTS products depends on the generic fibre type rather than the commercial or trade name (e.g. Lurex®).

Please refer to Section 3.2.10, "Table – Allowed and Prohibited Additional Fibres," in GOTS Version 8.0, page 9, which specifies the generic textile fibres that are permitted or prohibited as additional fibres in GOTS products.

For example, "virgin polyester is not an allowed additional fibre under GOTS", whereas "certain metallic fibres are permitted", provided they comply with the applicable fibre composition requirements and all other relevant provisions of the GOTS Standard.

When assessing a specific product, the generic fibre composition should be reviewed against the list of allowed and prohibited additional fibres in Section 3.2.10.

7.12 Q: Is it mandatory to get the garment tested, If the garment is 80% organic cotton (shell fabric) and the lining is 20% polyester?

A: The question is not sufficiently clear, as it does not specify which type of testing is being referred to (e.g. fibre composition, chemical testing, GMO testing, etc.).

In general, a product is not exempt from testing simply because it contains 80% organic cotton. Please provide further details on the type of testing you are referring to, or contact Global Standards with additional information so that more specific guidance can be provided.

7.13 Q: I am wondering, with the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles and future textile requirements under ESPR emphasizing adding recycled content for circularity, how would that affect us? Has GOTS considered how the restrictions on blending virgin and recycled fibres of the same type may fit into these future developments?

A: The restriction on blending fibres of the same type (for example, virgin and recycled wool, same for synthetics) is primarily based on technical limitations. Current laboratory analytical methods are not able to reliably distinguish between virgin and recycled fibres when they originate from the same fibres.

Global Standards has also submitted feedback to the EU ESPR process highlighting that, in order to ensure credible and verifiable claims on recycled content, robust composition testing methods and/or traceability systems are essential. Without such mechanisms, it is not possible to substantiate claims distinguishing virgin from recycled content of the same fibre type using laboratory analysis alone.

For this reason, GOTS currently prohibits such blending where differentiation cannot be reliably verified. However, Global Standards remains open to revisiting this approach should robust and scientifically reliable verification or traceability mechanisms become available in the future.

7.14 Q: Please clarify if section 3.3.2 "Allowed and prohibited accessories" must follow 3.2.10 "Allowed and prohibited additional fibres". E.g. Virgin polyester is not allowed as an additional fibre, but is it allowed in an accessory?

A: For Accessories (Section 3.3.2, “Table – Allowed and Prohibited Accessories”), the applicable provisions are defined independently within the accessories section. The Table 3.3.2 (items 1–10) specifies the relevant allowed and prohibited materials for accessories, and Section 3.2.10 does not need to be referenced unless explicitly referenced.

Within the “A. General Materials” for accessories, virgin polyester fibre is not listed as a prohibited material.

7.15 Q: Is the dimensional stability requirement (3%) still applicable only to clothing textiles, as it was in GOTS 7.0? The specific mention is no longer there.

A: Please refer to Section 5.2.6 Technical Quality Parameters of GOTS Version 8.0 (p. 36). The note "Applicable only to the final goods" applies to the durability/robustness test requirements, including dimensional stability.

7.16 Q: Regarding PVA conditions for spinning: is this valid also for the usage of PVA during embroidery during product modification? In version 7.0, PVA is prohibited completely as we understood.

A: The PVA exemption applies only to the spinning process, as explicitly set. Any other use of PVA is not to be considered directly under this specific exemption.

Concerning embroidery, please refer to the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS, SECTION 4.2.2.3 - SIZING AND WEAVING /KNITTING:

“GUIDANCE PVA (polyvinyl alcohol) shall not be used as a backing material for embroidery."

7.17 Q: Is it allowed to have a thread made of virgin polyester?

A: Assuming the question refers to sewing thread classified under A. General Materials in the Accessories section, please refer to Section 3.3.2 Table – Allowed and Prohibited Accessories of the applicable standard.

Within this table, synthetic materials are listed as permitted, and there is no explicit prohibition on the use of virgin polyester for sewing threads. Accordingly, sewing threads made of virgin polyester are considered acceptable.

8. GMO Testing

8.1 Q: Regarding GMO testing: is the requirement only for the ginner level?

A: GMO testing for cotton is used to verify the authenticity of organic-certified cotton fibres entering the GOTS system. Testing can only be conducted on greige and chemically unprocessed fibres/materials. As ginning is the first certified processing step in the GOTS supply chain and the point at which raw organic cotton fibres are received, it represents the most appropriate control point for such verification.

9. Living Wage

9.1 Q: As per GOTS v8.0, is the living wage and wage gap calculation required to be done as per the IDH-approved methodology, or can we calculate it as per the basic wage calculation using the SA8000 formula?

A: Under GOTS 8.0 Section 4.4.8.9, the Certified Entity shall use a credible Living Wage estimate annually, compare it with remuneration data, and calculate the Living Wage Gap for its workers. GOTS 8.0 Section 4.4.8.10 then requires a plan to bridge that gap.

The Manual clarifies that credible estimates are those following ILO methodology or recognised by the Roadmap on Living Wages. It also refers to use of the Salary Matrix, Anker methodology where available, or other recognised estimates such as WageIndicator.

Therefore, a basic SA8000-style wage calculation alone would not be sufficient unless it uses a credible Living Wage estimate and allows proper comparison with actual remuneration, including adjustment to a full-time working week, excluding overtime, and considering eligible bonuses and in-kind benefits.

9.2 Q: Could you specify what changes were made regarding living wage requirements, please?

A: The main change in GOTS 8.0 is that the living wage requirement is now more explicit and operational.

Under GOTS 8.0 Section 4.4.8.9, the Certified Entity shall annually use a credible Living Wage estimate, compare it with its remuneration data, and calculate the Living Wage Gap for its workers. The Manual clarifies that credible estimates should follow ILO methodology or be recognised by the Roadmap on Living Wages, with examples such as Anker methodology, the Salary Matrix and WageIndicator.

Under GOTS 8.0 Section 4.4.8.10, the Certified Entity shall also develop a plan to bridge the Living Wage Gap and pay the Living Wage to its workers. The plan should include measurable and time-bound milestones, annual progress to reduce the gap, and dialogue with a recognised trade union or elected worker representatives.

10. Recycling

10.1 Q: Please give an example of textile-to-textile recycling.

A: Textile-to-textile recycled fibres are fibres produced by recycling post-industrial or pre/post-consumer textile waste into new textile fibres, which are then used to manufacture new textile products.

At this time, GOTS is unable to provide or endorse specific commercial products. However, there are several textile-to-textile recycled fibre solutions already available on the market from different suppliers.

10.2 Q: The new requirement of using up to 30% recycled synthetics in socks increases the former quantity from version 7. If we start to get certified against version 8 earlier than March 2027, how can we deal with the percentage in socks and when can the 30% socks be in sales and will they be compliant?

A: Certified Entities that have been re-certified against GOTS Version 8.0 may start placing and selling products as GOTS 8.0-compliant socks.

Under GOTS Version 8.0, socks containing up to 20% recycled fibres remain fully acceptable, as this is within the permitted threshold.

10.3 Q: So in GOTS 8.0 it is allowed to use up to 30% post-consumer textile waste and label it as GOTS-certified?

A: Certain recycled fibres are permitted in GOTS products up to a maximum of 30%, in accordance with the applicable product composition rules.

However, reference must be made to Section 3.2.10, “Table – Allowed and Prohibited Additional Fibres,” for specific requirements applicable. For example, where recycled natural fibres are used (post/pre consumer waste), they must not originate from GMO sources.

All recycled fibre inputs must comply with the relevant provisions of GOTS, including those relating to permitted fibre types, sourcing conditions, and applicable restrictions outlined in Section 3.2.10. For specific compositions please get in touch with Global Standards.

10.4 Q: Regarding the targeted recycled content of 30% for packaging: if the organic cotton product is used for hygienic purposes, such as tampons, the standard is that no recycled packaging is used. How do you advise we proceed in this case?

A: The requirement in Section 4.3.15.3.4 is a recommendation ("should") and is a direction we would like for producers to aim for. The requirements under section 4.3.15.3 state (among others) that use of plastic material in packaging should be minimised and recycled plastic is recommended, aiming for about 35%. We would urge relevant Certified Entities to meet these recommendations to the extent possible.

11. Repair, Resale, Repurposing

11.1 Q: Circularity: What requirements do we have as a brand if we give unsaleable GOTS-certified leftovers to a service provider that does preparation for resale and resells these items?

A: It is important to define whether any physical intervention to the product occurs within circularity pathways. For example, if unsaleable products are repaired, repurposed, or cleaned, then the relevant rules apply.

However, if there is no physical intervention to the final products - for instance, unsold products are transferred or sold to service providers without any modification as they are - then this section does not apply to such cases.

11.2 Q: Repair, reuse, resell - how can a product that has been owned, used and washed by a customer still be GOTS? Without knowing what the product has been washed with, would it not be 'contaminated' with something that is not GOTS-compliant?

A: GOTS certification applies to the entire supply chain covering the sourcing, processing and manufacturing of textile products up to the point at which the finished goods are placed on the market. It provides assurance regarding the origin of organic fibres and compliance with defined environmental and social criteria during the certified production phases.

Once a product has entered use by the consumer, including washing, repair, or other forms of maintenance, it is no longer within the direct scope of GOTS certification. These use-phase activities are not controlled or assessed under GOTS requirements and therefore do not affect the validity of the product’s original certified status at the time of market placement.

Concerns regarding potential exposure to non-assessed substances during consumer use are understood in the context of circular economy models. However, such use-phase variables do not retrospectively alter or invalidate the verified compliance of the product during its certified production.

In recognition of the growing importance of circular business models such as repair, reuse and resale, GOTS is currently developing an extension of scope and associated communication framework to address these product flows more explicitly. This includes the introduction of a distinguishable approach for products re-entering the market through circular pathways, compared to newly certified products placed on the market for the first time. The aim is to enhance transparency and ensure clear differentiation while preserving the integrity of GOTS certification.

11.3 Q: Will there be any changes in the TC application process? How will GOTS ensure that TCs will be applied, as it must be done after invoices?

A: The circularity processes described are coordinated by the certified product owner, e.g. a certified brand. Hence no TC issuance is required at the moment.

12. Technical Quality Parameters

12.1 Q: how many washing cycles are mandatory for durability / robustness test requirements?

A: This requirement is outlined in the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS Version 8.0, Section 5.2.6.1, page 68.

Durability/robustness tests (F, G, H) shall be conducted following five cleaning cycles, unless a different number of washing cycles is explicitly required under an applicable regulation (e.g. ESPR) or specified for a particular product category.

12.2 Q: 5 cycles are not mentioned in the Standard!

A: This requirement is outlined in the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS Version 8.0, Section 5.2.6.1, page 68.

Durability/robustness tests (F, G, H) shall be conducted following five cleaning cycles, unless a different number of washing cycles is explicitly required under an applicable regulation (e.g. ESPR) or specified for a particular product category.

12.3 Q: Can you confirm whether the 3% dimensional stability requirement also applies to bed linen products? Given that industry standards are generally around 5%, is a specific tolerance being considered for this product category, or is the 3% threshold strictly required?

A: Please refer to Section 5.2.6 Technical Quality Parameters of GOTS Version 8.0 (p. 36). The note "Applicable only to the final goods" applies to the durability/robustness test requirements, including dimensional stability.

12.4 Q: Regarding technical quality parameters: how should products be assessed if the fabric cannot be washed, for example because it is made of 100% untreated felted wool?

A: The product's care instructions shall be taken into account when assessing compliance with the technical quality parameters. If the product is labelled as non-washable (e.g. 100% felted wool) then it should not as it will not be expected to be washed during its use.

Please also refer to Section 5.2.6 Technical Quality Parameters of GOTS Version 8.0 (p. 36). Please also note that the durability/robustness tests, requiring washing, are applicable only to the final goods.

12.5 Q: Can you please confirm the correct limit value for pesticide sum parameter in both raw cotton and finished garment made of 100% GOTS cotton?

A: Organic cotton fibres entering the GOTS supply chain are expected to show test reports with pesticides below experimental detection limits. For finished products, the Manual prescribes limits, essentially to cover any unintended contamination during the processing of the goods.

13. Traders

13.1 Q: We are a trading company, so how do we accommodate all these new requirements?

A: For trading companies, the requirements should be implemented in a proportionate and risk-based way. You are not expected to audit suppliers in the same way as a Certification Body or to duplicate factory audits.

The key steps are to maintain an up-to-date supplier list, verify valid GOTS Scope Certificates and Transaction Certificates, confirm that the certified scope covers the goods and activities purchased, keep proper traceability records, and assess whether any additional risk indicators require follow-up. GOTS also recognises a simplified approach for certain small traders. The Manual explains that traders with annual turnover from GOTS Goods below €20,000 may be exempt from full certification and instead follow a registration process with an Approved Certification Body, provided the applicable conditions are met.

If you do not have production activities or onsite air emission sources, you can document this assessment accordingly.

For GHG emissions, you should still calculate your own Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, such as office electricity, heating or company vehicles, where applicable.

For Scope 3, you can start by identifying the most relevant categories, such as purchased goods and transportation, and improve the data gradually over time.

13.2 Q: We are a trading company, but many of these requirements directly concern our producers. How can I find out which requirements directly apply to us as a trading company?

A: As a trading company, not all GOTS requirements apply to you directly - some are specifically relevant to processors, manufacturers, or other actors in the supply chain. The applicability depends on the certified scope within the GOTS system.

To clarify which requirements are relevant to your company, your chosen GOTS-approved Certification Body will be the primary point of contact. They will assess your activities and guide you on the specific sections of the standard.

13.3 Q: Are there any exemptions e.g. from air emission and water/energy use management procedures for Certified Entities that are exclusively traders, meaning they have no production facilities?

A: There is no general exemption for traders.

However, if there is no production facility, production-related requirements may be documented as not applicable. Traders should still address any relevant activities, such as office or warehouse energy use, where applicable.

13.4 Q: There are traders who only act as buying and selling agents without any product handling. how are the due diligence requirements applicable for these entities?

A: For buying and selling agents, the first point is to check whether they are actually considered Traders under GOTS. GOTS 8.0 defines a Trader as an entity that buys and sells GOTS Goods, regardless of whether the goods are physically received. However, agents that do not become proprietors of the goods are not considered Traders. Where an entity is a certified or registered Trader, due diligence still applies, but in a proportionate way. They would not normally be expected to implement production-site controls, chemical management or worker-level systems unless those activities are part of their own scope.

13.5 Q: Regarding Scope 3, what do you mean by improving data quality over time? Should a certified entity initially engage with its main suppliers to collect their data, and then progressively expand coverage to the full supply chain over the years?

A: Yes, this can be a practical approach.

Certified Entities can start by identifying the most relevant Scope 3 categories and engaging with their main suppliers. (Where primary data are not yet available, estimates or recognised secondary data may be used initially.) Over time, they should gradually improve data accuracy and expand supplier coverage.

GOTS does not expect a complete Scope 3 inventory from the beginning. And in GOTS v8.0, only Scope 1 and Scope 2 calculations are mandatory and should be completed annually.

14. Transaction Certificates and Tracking

14.1 Q: Why is GOTS not creating a centralized portal for TCs rather than different types of portals being used across different CBs?

A: Until recently, our more than 20 Certification Bodies worked across more than 20 separate systems. We are now onboarding CBs to Global Trace-Base (GTB), a central database for certification data, to address exactly this fragmentation. GTB brings relevant certification data into one controlled environment, while Certification Bodies remain responsible for certification decisions.

But the value of GTB goes beyond data storage. It helps make the chain of custody visible: who is certified, where they operate, who buys from whom, how products move through the value chain, and whether reported volumes are plausible against inputs, conversion rates, and raw material origin data.

At this stage, our focus is on ensuring that data from CB systems is properly ingested into the central application. There is currently no user interface for Certified Entities – though CE-facing functionality is expected to become part of the roadmap from 2027 onwards.

14.2 Q: In the October meeting in Lisbon, the GOTS team shared they were working on bringing visibility to the TC process mapping (all stages). Is there an update?

A: GTB (Global Trace-Base) supports high-level value chain traceability by linking certified actors, products, inputs, outputs, and locations. This allows us to see how certified products move from raw material production through the supply chain, understand the composition and origin of inputs, and check whether certified output volumes are plausible.

14.3 Q: I heard in a previous webinar that GOTS 8.0 requires companies to track the sales of products that are no longer marketed as GOTS and sold without GOTS-TCs. Is this correct, and if yes, how does this improve sustainability outcomes rather than simply increasing administrative workload?

A: This is not fully understood. Companies do not need to track sale of products outside GOTS, unless they are intentionally selling eligible goods without certification. This is necessary to ensure that volumes of material are reconciled when GOTS goods receive Transaction Certificates. Please contact us with more details or your certification body for a holistic response.

15. Transitioning to a new Version of GOTS

15.1 Q: The GOTS document "Q&A Guideline for the Transition to a new GOTS Version", V2.0 (dated: 19/04/2023) is available on the website. Can it be used for the transition to GOTS version 8.0?

A: Yes, it can.

16. Waste Management

16.1 Q: What type of evidence would GOTS need for the waste management of manufacturing textile waste? And does the responsibility for it lie with the production house or the buyer?

A: Waste management should be integrated into the company’s written Environmental Management Policy, and the entity should be able to demonstrate relevant implementation through appropriate activities, infrastructure, and documentation.

At the level of processing units, responsibility for waste management lies with the respective certified processor, which must ensure compliance with applicable environmental requirements within its own operations and scope of certification.

16.2 Q: Did I understand correctly that the collection of textile waste should be separated into organic and non-organic textiles? Is that rule applicable for brands, too?

A: This is not required unless one wants to work with recycling of waste and seek to retain its certified status.

16.3 Q: Is a ZDHC wastewater test acceptable as proof regarding compliance with the Standard?

A: Where ZDHC testing covers relevant parameters and is conducted by appropriately qualified laboratories, Certification Bodies may take the results into account as part of their overall assessment. However, acceptance remains subject to the Certification Body’s evaluation of methodology, parameter coverage, detection limits, and comparability with GOTS criteria.