Standard Setting Procedure

Version 2.0



GLOBAL STANDARDS

Release Date:
June 2026

Document Information

Document Revision History

This document was first released as version 1.0 in November 2021, which was specifically related to the Global Organic Textile Standard.

How to Read This Document

The following verbs are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, or capabilities in this document:

- "**shall**" indicates a mandatory requirement
- "**should**" indicates a recommendation
- "**may**" indicates a permission
- "**can**" indicates a possibility or capability

Availability of Documents:

This document, and any further relevant public information as released by Global Standards gGmbH, is available for public download on the Global Standards website

About Global Standards

Global Standards gemeinnützige GmbH is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in Germany in 2002 for the purpose of administering the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and the Global Responsible Textile Standard (GRTS).

Vision

Our vision is a world where all textiles are produced in accordance with the principles of health, ecology, fairness and care to enhance people's lives and the environment. Organic textiles are an integral part of this holistic approach.

Further information is available at www.global-standards.org.

Copyright: © 2026 by Global Standards gGmbH. All rights reserved.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 2
2 EXPLANATION OF TERMS / DEFINITIONS 3
3 STANDARD REVISION PROCEDURE 4

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Global Organic Textile Standard ("GOTS") and the Global Responsible Textile Standard ("GRTS") are voluntary sustainability standards for the processing of certified organic fibres and responsibly sourced fibres, respectively. Global Standards gGmbH ("Global Standards") is the operating unit for both standards.

1.2 Our vision is that sustainable textiles—whether organic or responsibly produced—will become a significant part of everyday life, enhancing people's lives and the environment.

1.3 Our mission is the development, implementation, verification, protection, and promotion of the Standards operated by Global Standards gGmbH. These standards stipulate requirements throughout the supply chain for both ecology and labour conditions in textile and apparel manufacturing.

1.4 GOTS requires the use of organically produced raw materials, based on farming systems that maintain and replenish soil fertility without toxic, persistent pesticides and fertilisers, with adequate animal husbandry and excluding genetic modification.

1.5 GRTS ensures the responsible sourcing and processing of textiles from conventional and other fibres.

1.6 The Standards contribute to sustainable development and actively cooperate with all relevant stakeholders.

1.7 In developing the Standards, we set strict and binding requirements regarding ecological and social parameters. In so doing, we take into consideration the need for standards that are practicable for industrial production and appropriate to a wide range of products. We define sustainable textiles as being processed with the least possible impact and residual natural and synthetic chemical inputs.

1.8 The Standards, along with their corresponding Implementation Manuals, typically undergo a revision every 3 years, and this activity is undertaken by the respective Standard Revision Committee (SRC).

1.9 Implementation Manuals for the Standards may be continuously updated between Standard revisions.

1.10 Stakeholders operating internationally with expertise in the field of organic production, responsible fibre sourcing, textile processing, textile chemistry and social criteria—representing the industry, NGOs, including labour organisations and consumer interests—shall be invited to contribute to the revision procedure.

1.11 The Standards are to be revised following a standardised revision procedure.

1.12 This document lays down the Standard Setting Procedure to be followed for revision of the Standards and their corresponding Implementation Manuals.

1.13 The Standards shall not show bias towards economic, geographic, national or governmental interests, nor shall it be a cause for restrictions in trade and shall not intentionally promote specific proprietary or patented technologies.

1.14 The Standards shall strive to retain their global character at all times. Localised interpretations may be permitted only where unavoidable, necessary and helpful. Such local interpretations shall not result in relaxation of Standard requirements where the purpose of the Standards may be compromised.

1.15 The Standards shall consider complementary and overlapping standard systems in further development, and a review shall be undertaken at the start of each revision process. (Actual complementary standards are listed in Annex A)

1.16 This document, the Standard Setting Procedure (SSP) is our Terms of Reference (ToR).

Scope: The Scope is defined in the respective Standard Versions. The geographic application is reflected in the names "Global Organic Textile Standard" and "Global Responsible Textile Standard".

Justification: The Standards define requirements which ensure the organic or responsibly-sourced status of textiles from harvesting or sourcing of raw materials through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing, all the way to labelling, in order to provide credible assurance to the consumer. The Standards are instruments to contribute towards achieving each of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address the common sustainability issues of the world. Together, they help to ensure compliance with each of the 17 goals.

GOTS was created through a harmonisation process of standards in different parts of the world, starting in 2002. Since 2006 until today, GOTS is the only comprehensive processing standard for organic textiles. GRTS extends this commitment to responsible textile production. Both standards are recognised worldwide and endorsed by major institutions.

Sustainability Outcomes: The Standards seek to achieve social, environmental and economic long-term outcomes such as better and safer living conditions for consumers and workers, reduced impact on the environment, economic growth of supply chain actors and increased confidence among customers for goods certified to the Standards.

2 EXPLANATION OF TERMS / DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Standard Setting Procedure**: The procedure for revision of the Standards as laid down in a document of the same name.

2.2 **Standards Revision Committee (SRC)**: A group of experts tasked to be the decisive committee for decisions on the revision of the Standards and their corresponding Implementation Manuals. Composition, Functions and Terms of Reference for the SRC are set in the respective standard document "Composition and Terms of Reference of the Standards Revision Committee".

2.3 **Governing Council (GC)** : The Governing Council is the body that governs the activities of the Global Standards Foundation, the body that owns the standards operating unit - Global Standards gGmbH

2.4 **Global Standards Management:** The management team of Global Standards gGmbH, currently consisting of one Managing Director.

2.5 **Standards and Implementation Manuals:** The decisive documents (in English language) which contain and explain the requirements of the Standards. The Standards are typically revised once every 3 years by their respective SRC along with the Implementation Manual. The primarily explanatory Manuals may be revised by the respective Standard Management under advice from the SC in the interim or if found necessary.

2.6 **Certifiers Council:** An advisory body formed by one member each from the approved Certification Bodies for the Standards.

2.7 **Convenor**: Person appointed by the Management to lead the Revision Process for a respective standard.

3 STANDARD REVISION PROCEDURE

The following steps shall be taken for Standard revisions:

3.1 The revision of a Standard is announced on the respective website at an appropriate time, not less than 45 days before the revision process is due to commence. This shall include an invitation for persons to express interest in being part of the SRC.

3.2 The convenor of the SRC ensures that the SRC is formed with due process and reference to the "Composition and Terms of Reference of the Standards Revision Committee", not less than 30 calendar days before commencement of the revision process.

3.3 A list of SRC members shall be made available publicly on the respective Standard website (subject to their express approval).

3.4 Proposals for the revision of the Standard and Implementation Manual may be submitted to Global Standards by any interested party before the commencement of the formal revision process.

3.5 Based on inputs, comments and suggestions over the implementation of the current version of a Standard, information on the impact of the Standards, new technological developments, changes in industry best practises, changes or new legislation, etc., the SRC convenor shall create a draft version 0.0 of the respective Standard and Manual together with explanations on the intended changes.

3.6 All draft revision versions shall be prepared keeping in mind the progressive, innovative, stringent yet practical desired outcomes of the Standards.

3.7 The draft version 0.0 shall be shared with the SRC for initial comments, if any and thereafter a draft version 1.0 created for public consultation by the SRC convenor.

3.8 The draft version 1.0 shall be published on the Global Standard website to invite public comments and inputs from stakeholders. This 1st SRC input period shall not be less than 60 calendar days.

3.9 All collated inputs would be circulated to the members of the SRC by the convenor along with initial comments, opinions and explanations.

3.10 Each individual input shall be examined and discussed by the SRC over virtual meetings organised by the convenor, and a view on each be recorded.

3.11 Should the SRC feel the need, external subject experts may be consulted on specific matters to arrive at a decision on changes to the standard.

3.12 Based on decisions taken by the SRC, the convenor shall produce a revision draft version 2.0 of the respective Standard.

3.13 The revision draft version 2.0, collated inputs from contributors along with SRC comments and taken decisions shall be placed on the respective revision blog for public review.

3.14 A 2nd public stakeholder input period is then opened for a period of 30 calendar days. If there are unresolved issues or insufficient feedback, additional rounds of public consultation shall be carried out.

3.15 The comments received from the public stakeholder consultation shall be compiled. A written synopsis of issues raised and addressed during the consultation shall be developed and shall be sent to all who submitted comments. This shall be then made publicly available for all concerned stakeholders.

3.16 New revision topics shall not be raised during the 2nd input period.

3.17 Based on submissions made during the 2nd stakeholder input period, the convenor shall schedule SRC discussions as for the 1st input period. The SRC shall, following these discussions, take decisions regarding the final revision draft of the respective Standard and Manual.

3.18 Before approval, revised or new requirements shall be validated, where appropriate, to assess their feasibility, clarity, and auditability. Validation may include pilot implementation, test audits, field testing, or other suitable methods. The results of the validation shall be considered during the final review and approval of the revised Standard.

3.19 The final revision draft of the respective Standard shall be submitted to the Global Standards Management for their opinion whether any fundamental departures from the Standard's mission and vision could arise from the new version.

3.20 Should the Management decide that a particular revision detail could compromise the Standard's position, they shall request the SRC for a review/reconsideration of such detail. A decision by the Management in this regard is final and shall be made public in connection with the publication of the revised Standard, according to 1.41.

3.21 Where necessary, the Standards may be revised between scheduled revision cycles to address urgent or unforeseen circumstances. Such interim revisions may be initiated when changes in production practices, trade conditions, market requirements, legal or regulatory frameworks, technological developments, sustainability considerations, or other material circumstances could affect the relevance, effectiveness, credibility, or implementation of the Standard. A revision between schedule revision cycles will be decided by the Global Standards management and will follow the procedure outlined in this document.

3.22 After affirmation by the Management, the new version of the respective Standard documents shall be published on the website and sent by electronic means to immediately concerned stakeholders (such as approved Certification Bodies and Accreditation Bodies).

3.23 The Standards shall set up a process to collect and record any inputs concerning the standards and the manuals on a continuous basis. These inputs shall be considered in subsequent revision processes.

3.24 The Standards shall make available the contact details of the person responsible for undertaking the tasks related to such inputs on the respective website.

3.25 For interim revisions considered necessary by the Management, the previous SRC shall be recalled, and the same process of revision shall be followed as for a routine revision. Such a revision may only include the Sections with the Standard that need change, and the SRC may decide, by majority vote, to restrict the public stakeholder input period to just one and for a shorter period, but not less than 30 days. The reasons and conditions of the urgent revision shall be published on the respective website.

3.26 Minor changes such as correcting spellings, language, misinterpretations or formatting, which do not involve a change in the requirements of the Standards, shall not require convening of the SRC and may be carried out under the directions of the Management.

3.27 Global Standards gGmbH shall keep details of all standards' development, revision procedures and records on file for a minimum of five years and make them available to stakeholders upon request. This includes the following:

- Standard Setting Procedures
- List of SRC Members
- Draft versions of the standards and respective change logs if necessary.
- Public consultation feedback and summaries.

- - - - - - - - - - - - -