

OCS (Version 3.0)

- The Organic Content Standard (OCS) is an international, voluntary standard controlled by Textile Exchange. At first, it has been launched as OE 100 (2004) and the OE Blended (2007). The OCS Version 3.0 is released in March 2020. The next revision is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2023.
- The goal of the Organic Content Standard (OCS) is to increase organic agriculture production.
- The standard is used to verify organically grown raw materials from the farm to the final product. Uses chain of custody requirements as per Content Claim Standard (CCS V2.0)
- Does not cover the certification of the raw material itself, address other inputs or accessories, environmental aspects of processing, social or legal compliance issues.

Who can be certified –

- The full supply chain of the organic fiber and textile industry, from **post-harvest treatment to traders of finished products**, can be certified. Retailers can be certified voluntarily.
- Certifiable products must contain at least 5% organic material. For example fiber products, yarns, fabrics, garments, fashion textile accessories (carried or worn), textile toys, home textiles, mattresses, bedding products, personal care products, etc.



Origin of Raw Materials –

- OCS does not establish additional or own criteria for the production of organic raw material.
- Organic fibers can be obtained from sources certified according to internationally recognized organic standards (as Regulations EC 834/2007, USDA, NOP, or any standard covered by IFOAM Base Standard).
- All kinds of fibers can be used e. g. cotton, silk, wool, linen, hemp, polyester, elastane, etc.
- Blending is allowed as per the OCS requirement. (to use label grade OCS 100, it is not allowed to mix organic and conventional fiber of the same material and OCS Blended applies).
- Labelling options according to fibers used:

Labelling and Claim Guide –

- Before using the logo, it is mandatory to take the approval of artwork from the certification body.

Certification Widget – OCS

OCS	Minimum 95% Organic	Minimum 5% Organic
Organic Material Percentage	Raw Minimum 95-100%	5-95%
Label Grade	OCS 100	OCS Blended
Label to be used	 Made with organically grown material	 Made with X% organically grown material
Restrictions	No mixing of the same material in conventional form (e. g. Blending of organic and conventional cotton)	None

Segregation & Identification in case of companies which produce both organic and conventional –

- The operator applying for OCS certification needs to set up a good system for separating and properly identifying organic products from conventional. This applies to the reception of the raw material, as well as all steps of processing, storage rooms, etc. up to the sale.
- The best separation, of course, is in space: separate warehouses and production lines for organic.
- However, this may often not be possible; in this case, you can separate in time: OCS goods will be processed at the same machines as conventional but at different times. It then has to be assured that relevant equipment needs to be cleaned systematically before processing OCS goods. The company has to take adequate measures to prevent contamination during transport, storage, and production.
- OCS products must be identified and tracked as they move through production.
- This may include, but is not limited to, direct labelling of OCS products, machines, storage vessels, or storage areas.
- Labels and signs must be visible and understandable by all workers operating in the area.

Traceability –

- As a minimum, traceability must be assured one step back and one step forth at each stage of the supply chain.

Training of Staff –

- Workers need to be trained regarding the requirements of the standard (including documentation of the training).

→ The facility must appoint a responsible person for the certification.

Record keeping of OCS Goods –

→ OCS units need a functioning and comprehensible system for documenting and identifying OCS goods.

→ Written procedures and working instructions must be in place to ensure the integrity and identity of OCS products.

→ The operator has to keep full documentation of quantity, origin, and flow of goods, Supplier certificates, waybills, reception notes, processing records, storage books, TCs, annual volume reconciliation, and invoices have to be kept. All these records have to refer to the OCS condition of the product. All records need to be retained for a minimum of at least 5 years.

→ OCS units need a good bookkeeping system, allowing for evaluation of quantities purchased (raw material vs. quantities of the finished product sold) to check mass balance calculations. For each production step, the records must demonstrate the balance between the inputs and the outputs containing the declared final amount of Claimed Material. All calculations are done based on the weight of the materials and must also take into account stock levels and rejected goods.

→ Except for open raw material arriving directly from the field, only packed or sealed and labelled products must be accepted for OCS processing; unlabeled products should be returned to the supplier.

→ Transport routes and transport means must be documented.

Labelling –

→ When an OCS logo is used, a reference to the Certification Body that has certified the goods (e.g., Certification Body's name and/or logo) and a reference to the certified organization (e.g., organization's name and/or certification number) as well as the label grade must be used.

→ Brands and retailers may only have logos applied to goods that have been certified to the end of the supply chain (incl. last step of ownership).

→ Individual components of a product may be identified as certified to the OCS only in a manner that makes it completely clear that it is only the identified component that contains organic material, and not the whole product. For example, only the upper of a shoe is made with 100% organic cotton.

Procedure –

→ Please check the GSCS website (<https://gscsintl.com/>) for all relevant standards, procedures, and manuals.

Transaction Certificates –

- Transaction certificate verifies the goods being shipped from one organization to the next conforming to a given standard.
- Certified entities purchasing raw organic fibers, as well as such which purchase OCS goods must receive and maintain transaction certificates (=TCs, certificates of inspection), for the whole quantity purchased (per OCS criteria). As long as goods will be labelled and sold as OCS, TCs are also obliged for the wholesale (excluded are retailers).
- TCs are issued by the certification body which is in charge of the suppliers' product, based on copies of invoices, packing lists, and shipping documents, as well as TCs from previous suppliers. In special cases, TCs can cover several deliveries. The maximum amount of time a single TC may cover is 3 months.