

Textile Exchange

Organic Content Standard 2.0

Implementation Manual



TextileExchange
Creating Material Change



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The OCS version 2.0 replaces OCS version 1.0 and is effective as of January 1, 2016. The OCS version 1.0 was officially published on March 4, 2013. Sites certified to the OCS version 1.0 shall comply with the OCS version 2.0 by January 1, 2017.

The official language of the OCS is English. In the case of inconsistency between any translated versions, reference shall default to the English version.

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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
OCS and CCS.....	4
OCS International Working Group.....	5
How to use this Document	6
Section A – General Information	7
A1. Reference Documents.....	7
A2. Principles of OCS Certification.....	7
A2.1 Chain of Custody	7
A2.2 Applicability of the Standard.....	8
A3. OCS Claims	9
Section B – Appendix	10
B1. Tools and Resources	10
B1.1 Textile Exchange Certification Toolkit - Essential Series	10
B1.2 Questions and Additional Information.....	10



Introduction

The **Goal** of the Organic Content Standard (OCS) is to ensure trust in organic content claims.

The OCS accomplishes this goal by verifying the presence and amount of Organic Material in a final product. It provides a strong chain of custody system from the source of the organic raw material to the final product through certification. It allows for transparent, consistent, and comprehensive independent evaluation and verification of Organic Material content claims on products by an accredited third-party Certification Body (CB). As a business-to-business tool, the OCS may be used to ensure that products companies purchase actually contain Organic Material.

The Standard does not cover the certification of the raw material itself, which is verified independently of the production process certification. It also does not address processing inputs (e.g. chemicals), environmental aspects of processing (e.g. energy or water usage), social issues, safety issues, or legal compliance.

Intended users of the OCS are processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, traders, certification bodies, and organizations supporting organic raw material initiatives.

This is a voluntary standard that is not intended to replace the legal or regulatory requirements of any country. It is the responsibility of each operation to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to marketing, labor and business practices. Where local legislation and the OCS requirements conflict, the Certification Body shall contact TE to find the most practical solution. When there is confusion about the interpretation of the Standard, the first point of contact shall be the Certification Body, which will contact Textile Exchange if further clarification is needed.

Textile Exchange is an international, member-supported non-profit organization that was established in 2003 under the original name of Organic Exchange. Textile Exchange's mission is to inspire and equip people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain.

OCS and CCS

The requirements of the Content Claim Standard (CCS) are embedded in the OCS as the chain of custody aspects. Clear requirements for the use of certified organic inputs make up the remainder of the OCS. The CCS is a generic chain of custody standard being used for the chain of custody requirements for a number of standards, including the OCS, RCS, and GRS. By having a common set of requirements across these standards, we are contributing to the consistency and efficiency of the certification process.



OCS International Working Group

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How to use this Document

This document sets forth the overall requirements for compliance with the OCS. Guidance and clarifications are available in the *CCS Implementation Manual*.

In the OCS and CCS, the following verbal forms are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, or capabilities:

- “shall” indicates a requirement
- “should” indicates a recommendation
- “may” indicates a permission
- “can” indicates a possibility or capability

“Desired Outcomes” have been included to detail the intent of requirements, but they are not requirements themselves. They are designated by a blue text box; see the following example:

DESIRED OUTCOME: Example text. Why does this requirement exist?

The acronyms in the following table are used throughout the Standard:

Acronyms	
TE	Textile Exchange
OCS	Organic Content Standard
CB	Certification Body
SC	Scope Certificate
TC	Transaction Certificate



Section A – General Information

A1. Reference Documents

The following documents support the understanding and implementation of the OCS scheme. The most current versions will be available at OrganicContent.org, and all provisions made in these documents – including this one – are to be treated as binding:

- *Organic Content Standard*
- *Organic Content Standard Implementation Manual*
- *Content Claim Standard*
- *Content Claim Standard Implementation Manual*
- *OCS Logo Use and Claim Guide*
- *Accreditation and Certification Procedures for Textile Exchange Standards*
- *Policy and Template for Issuing Certificates of Compliance (Scope Certificates, SCs)*
- *Scope Certificate Template*
- *Policy and Template for Issuing Transaction Certificates (TCs)*
- *Transaction Certificate Template*
- *TE Accepted Equivalent Standards*

A2. Principles of OCS Certification

The OCS provides third-party verification of Organic Material content in a product and options for corresponding consumer-facing claims. It addresses the flow of product within and between companies, raw material verification, post-harvest processing, manufacturing, packaging and labeling, storage, handling, and shipping through the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.

A2.1 Chain of Custody

DESIRED OUTCOME: Organic Material content integrity is maintained through to the final OCS Product.

A2.1a The OCS requires compliance with the requirements of the CCS. For application to the OCS, each reference of “CCS” in the Content Claim Standard shall be understood as “OCS” – with the exception of some labeling requirements.

A2.1b The OCS requires all Organizations to be certified beginning with post-harvest processing sites through to the seller in the final business-to-business transaction.



A2.1b MANUAL GUIDANCE:

Depending on the kind of Organic Material processed, the following examples are considered the first post-harvest processing stages that shall be OCS certified:

- Ginning for cotton*
- Retting for bast fibres
- Boiling and washing cocoons for silk
- Scouring for wools and other animal fibres (respective grading if this step is undertaken before scouring and not already covered by the organic farming certification)

*Gins shall not be certified to both GOTS and OCS. If a gin is certified to OCS and wants to be certified to GOTS, it shall contact its responsible CB to terminate its OCS Scope Certificate prior to the GOTS Scope Certificate issuance.

Non-gin Organizations certified to both the Global Organic Textile Standard and the OCS shall be certified by the same CB in order to properly reconcile organic volumes among both standards.

A2.2 Applicability of the Standard

DESIRED OUTCOME: Allowable Organic Material input is defined and verified.

A2.2a Claimed Material, as defined to in the CCS, refers to “Organic Material” in the OCS, which is defined as:

Organic Material: any output of organic farms that have been certified by an accredited certification body to comply with the USDA National Organic Program (NOP), Regulation (EC) 834/2007, or any (other) organic standard that is approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards.

A2.2a MANUAL GUIDANCE:

Testing for the presence of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in the Organic Material shall be carried out by the CB based on a risk assessment. The risk assessment shall consider the type of organic crop and the prevalence of GMO varieties in the growing region.

GMO testing on cotton shall be carried out at an early stage of the processing chain (ginning or spinning) to ensure that sufficient DNA from the plant is available in the seed or fiber material.



A2.2b The OCS allows “in-conversion” Organic Material as inputs if the applicable farming standard permits such certification. See the *OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide* for further guidance on “in-conversion” claims.

A2.2c All Organic Materials entering the supply chain shall have a Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by the Certification Body.

A2.2d The OCS may be used with any product that contains non-food Organic Material.

A2.2d MANUAL GUIDANCE:

- The OCS may not be used to support claims on food products; food products are governed by national laws.
- Food products in this context refer to those that are “intended for consumption” as agricultural food crops may have other purposes than consumption (e.g. cucumbers in shampoo).
- Any products being sold in the United States and making a reference to “organic” on the label shall have the organic materials certified to the USDA NOP standard (as per USDA policy).
- Organic fiber certification according to the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS) is not possible (as per the JAS definition).

A2.2e The OCS applies to products that contain 5% to 100% Organic Material.

A2.2f Buyers of the OCS product are responsible to set any requirements on the specific organic standards to which the input material should be certified.

A2.2f MANUAL GUIDANCE:

For example, companies selling into the United States should ensure that the input materials have been certified to the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Program standard, while for companies selling into Europe, there are no legal requirements for non-food organic products.

A3. OCS Claims

The OCS provides a consumer-facing logo and labeling language for products in order for Organizations and consumers to identify products as certified. See the *OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide* for more information.



Section B – Appendix

B1. Tools and Resources

B1.1 Textile Exchange Certification Toolkit - Essential Series

The *Certification Toolkit* has been developed to provide increased clarity for brands and retailers trying to understand how to most accurately certify their products. This tool helps to address issues around why certification is important, the essential steps, understanding certificates, pricing and labelling.

The guide is free to members of Textile Exchange, or can be purchased on its own by non-members. For more information please visit TextileExchange.org.

B1.2 Questions and Additional Information

For questions or additional information about TE Standards please contact: integrity@TextileExchange.org.