

OCS-101-V3.0-2019.09.24 - DRAFT

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The OCS 3.0 replaces OCS 2.0 and is effective as of March 1, 2020. All audits conducted after March 1, 2021 shall be conducted using OCS 3.0.

English is the official language of the Organic Content Standard. In any case of inconsistency between versions, reference shall be made to the English version.

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The OCS will undergo a revision process at least every five years. The next revision is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2023. You may submit feedback to the standard at any time; send to [Integrity@TextileExchange.org](mailto:Integrity@TextileExchange.org). Points of clarification may be incorporated into OCS guidance documents prior to 2023. More substantive feedback or suggested changes will be collected and reviewed as part of the next revision of the standard.

#### Document Revision History

OE 100 (2004) and the OE Blended (2007)  
Organic Content Standard, released March 2013  
Organic Content Standard 2.0, released January 2016

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## Introduction

### About the Organic Content Standard

The Organic Content Standard (OCS) is an international, voluntary standard that provides chain of custody verification for materials originating on a farm certified to IFOAM recognized national organic standards. The standard is used to verify organically grown raw materials from the farm to the final product.

Individual sites are certified by independent third-party certification bodies using annual audits. Material is tracked from the farm to the final product using transaction certificates, following the requirements of Textile Exchange's Content Claim Standard (CCS). For more information or to apply for certification, please visit: [TextileExchange.org/Integrity](http://TextileExchange.org/Integrity).

The goal of the Organic Content Standard (OCS) is to increase organic agriculture production.

The OCS aims to deliver this goal through three key objectives:

- Provide the industry with a tool to verify the organically grown content of the products they purchase.
- Provide companies with a trusted tool to communicate organically grown content claims to the industry.
- Provide organic fiber farmers with broad access to the global organic market for their products.

### About Textile Exchange



The Organic Content Standard is owned and managed by **Textile Exchange**. Textile Exchange is a global non-profit that works closely with our members to drive industry transformation in preferred fibers, integrity and standards and responsible supply networks. We identify and share best practices regarding farming, materials, processing, traceability and product end-of-life in order to reduce the textile industry's impact on the world's water, soil and air, and the human population.

## Acknowledgements

The Organic Content Standard would not be possible without the help of the International Working Group that worked to review, research, discuss, and approve the revision of the Organic Content. See Appendix B for a list of International Working Group Members.

We would also like to extend special acknowledgment to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) for their contribution and participating as IWG member in the development and alignment of the Organic Content Standard (OCS).

## How to Use This Document

This document sets forth the overall requirements for compliance with the OCS. Guidance and support documents are available at [TextileExchange.org/Integrity](http://TextileExchange.org/Integrity).

In the OCS, 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?*

## Section A – General Information

### A1. References

**A1.1** All certified *organizations* are subject to the requirements of the following documents. All can be found at [TextileExchange.org/Integrity](http://TextileExchange.org/Integrity).

**A1.1.1** *CCS-101 Content Claim Standard (CCS)* - The **Content Claim Standard (CCS)** is a chain of custody standard that provides companies with a tool to verify a specific input material in a final product. It requires that each organization along the supply chain take sufficient steps to ensure that the integrity and identity of the input material are preserved.

**A1.1.2** *OCS 3.0 OCS-301 Logo Use and Claims Guide* - This document describes the language and design requirements for communication related to the OCS.

**A1.1.3** *OCS 3.0 OCS-201 User Manual* – This document accompanies the standard and should be used for interpretation and guidance for users of the standard, including *first processors*, supply chain companies, brands, and retailers.

## Section B – Principles of OCS Certification

### B1. Scope

- B1.1** OCS certification applies to all supply chain sites of organically grown content: first processor, manufacturing, packaging and labeling, storage, handling, and shipping through the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.
- B1.2** The OCS may be applied globally.
- B1.3** The Standard applies only to supply chain sites of products not intended for consumption as food.
- B1.4** The Standard applies to products that contain at least 5% *OCS material*, calculated as a percentage of the entire product excluding *trims* or *accessories*.
- B1.5** The OCS applies to products that contain 5% to 100% organically grown material.

### B2. Claims

**DESIRED OUTCOME:** *Consumer-facing claims that mention the OCS are controlled in order to protect the integrity of the standard.*

- B2.1** Claims related to the OCS may be either product-specific or general (non-product specific).
  - B2.1.1** OCS products that meet all of the following criteria qualify for product-specific labelling:
    - a. Product is certified up through the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.
    - b. For use of the OCS 100 logo, the product does not contain certified and non-certified content of the same material type.
    - c. All artwork and language meet the requirements of *OCS-301 OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide*.
    - d. Approval of final artwork has been obtained from an authorized certification body through a label release form.
    - e. Only certified organizations may physically attach product-specific claims with reference to the OCS (e.g. hangtags, sewn-in labels).

**B2.1.2** Organizations that meet one or more of the following criteria may make general marketing claims (non-product specific) related to the OCS:

- a. Organizations with current certification to the OCS.
- b. Organizations that purchase certified products or products that contain certified material (verified by transaction certificates).
- c. Organizations that have made public commitments to the OCS.

**B2.1.3** All claims related to the OCS are subject to the requirements of the *OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide*.

**B2.2** Certified organizations that are physically attaching consumer-facing OCS claims shall meet the following requirements:

**B2.2.1** OCS hangtags or communication shall only be applied when a corresponding label release form has been issued by an authorized certification body, in accordance with *OCS-301 OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide*; and

### B3. First Processor Certification

**B3.1** The following sections apply to all *first processors*:

Section C –Verification of Organic Inputs

### B4. Supply Chain Certification

**B4.1** The following modules apply to all supply chain sites subject to OCS certification:

Section D – Chain of Custody

Section C2 - Specific requirements and Technical Specification of Input Material

## Section C – Verification of Organic Material Inputs

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

### C1. Verification of Input Material

- C1.1** Organic material: Any output of an organic farm that has been certified by an accredited certification body to comply with USDA National Organic Program (NOP, Regulation (EC) 834/2007, or any (other organic standard that is approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards.
- C1.2** The OCS allows “in-conversion” *OCS material* as inputs if the applicable farming standard permits such certification.
- C1.3** All organic material entering the supply chain shall have a transaction certificate (TC) issued by the certification body (CB).
- C1.4** Certification Body shall consider scope certificates (SC) of farm in case of non-availability of transaction certificate (TC).

### C2. Specific requirements and Technical Specification of Input Material

- C2.1** Segregation and Identification
  - C2.1.1** All stages through the supply chain shall be established so as to ensure that organically grown and conventional fibers are not commingled, and that organically grown fibers and OCS products are not contaminated by contact with non-organically grown material.
  - C2.1.2** All organic raw materials shall be clearly labelled and identified at all stages of the supply chain.
- C2.2** All input material shall have technical specification.

## Section D – Chain of Custody

**DESIRED OUTCOME:** *Organically grown material content integrity is maintained through to the final consumer.*

### D1. Chain of Custody Criteria

**D1.1** OCS certified organization shall comply with the requirements of the *CCS-101 Content Claim Standard* (CCS) whereby:

**D1.1.1** Each reference of “CCS” in the Content Claim Standard shall be understood as “OCS.”

**D1.1.2** In the case of contradiction with the CCS, the OCS requirement supersedes that of the CCS.

**D1.1.3** Claimed Material, as defined in the CCS, refers to *OCS material* in the OCS, which is defined in C1.1.

## Appendix A – Definitions

Refer to *TE-101 Terms and Definitions for Textile Exchange Standards and Related Documents* for definitions of terms used in these procedures. Key definitions are included below. Defined terms are shown in italics in the first usage in this document, and in some other uses for clarity.

**First Processor:** The certified Organisation that performs the first point of product transformation following the harvest or collection of the raw material.

**OCS Material:** The specific material that is being verified by the OCS as a content claim in a product which is sold.

**Organization:** A legal entity which is *certified* to or in the process of becoming certified to the OCS.

**Site:** Any geographically distinct unit within a certificate scope. Locations which are geographically distinct or have different civic addresses are considered to be separate sites (see exception for *farms*).

# Appendix B – International Working Group Members

*To be added.*