

Global ISO IWA 32:2019 Proficiency Test Initiative

Organic cotton is, in part, a claim that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not deliberately or knowingly used and that organic producers take far-reaching steps to avoid GMO contamination along the organic cotton value chain, from farmers, to spinners, to brands. To confirm that such actions have been taken, it is essential that organic cotton stakeholders can reliably test their products for the potential presence of GMO cotton.

In 2019, [Global Organic Textile Standard \(GOTS\)](#), the Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA), and [Textile Exchange](#) partnered to develop the *ISO IWA 32:2019¹ Proficiency Test Initiative* to create a common language among laboratories worldwide to screen for the potential presence of GMO cotton along the organic cotton value chain. The criteria within *ISO IWA 32:2019* provides requirements and recommendations to laboratories that perform GMO analysis in cottonseed, cotton leaf, cotton fiber, and chemically unprocessed cotton fiber-derived materials up to greige yarn and fabric. The technical process of the proficiency test was managed by Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR), the organization that acted as a project leader for the development of the *ISO IWA 32:2019* and is accredited for performing proficiency tests according to the *ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing* (not specifically in the field of GMOs).

Since the publication of *ISO IWA 32:2019*, qualitative GMO screening of cotton and textiles within the OCS supply chain has become mandatory and is to be performed by appropriately qualified testing laboratories using the *ISO IWA 32:2019* criteria. See *OCS-103 GMO Screening of Organic Cotton* for further details.

Please find below the list of laboratories that have so far been confirmed to have the necessary competence to carry out qualitative GMO testing in greige cotton products as per the *ISO IWA 32:2019* worldwide. This list is compiled based on current information available to the organizers, without prejudice, following the results of the proficiency test for qualitative cotton screening according to *ISO IWA 32:2019* organized in 2020.

As the *ISO IWA 32:2019* protocol established that GMO screening in cotton and textiles can only be reliably carried out in cottonseed, cotton leaf, cotton fiber, and chemically unprocessed

¹ *ISO IWA 32:2019 Screening of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in cotton and textiles*

cotton fiber-derived materials up to greige yarn and fabric, GMO cotton testing should not be carried out in chemically processed cotton.

Country	Laboratory Name	Contact Details
China	SGS-CSTC Standards Technical Services Co., Ltd.	Amanda-HM.Zhang@sgs.com www.sgsgroup.com.cn/agrifood
Germany	Eurofins GeneScan GmbH	gmo@eurofins.de www.eurofins.de
	Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG	eco-performance@hohenstein.de www.hohenstein.com
	Impetus GmbH & Co. Bioscience KG	l.kruse@impetus-bioscience.de www.impetus-bioscience.de
India	Bureau Veritas India Testing Services Pvt. Ltd.	lakshminarayana.lavu@bureauveritas.com , http://www.bureauveritas.co.in
	Envirocare Labs	quality@envirocare.co.in www.envirocare.co.in
	FirstSource Laboratory Solutions (Analytical Services)	visalay@firstsourcels.com
	Geo Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	laboratory@geochem.net.in www.geochem.net.in
	National Collateral Management Services Ltd.	raina.j@ncml.com www.ncml.com
	NAWaL Analytical Laboratories	ecogreen.labs@gmail.com , green_balu74@yahoo.com www.nawallabs.com
	Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	rashmi@reliablelabs.org
	TESTTEX India Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	linfo@testtex.com ,

Country	Laboratory Name	Contact Details
		labsindia@testtex.com
The Netherlands	TLR International Laboratory	info@tlr.nl www.tlr.nl
Portugal	SGS Molecular	www.sgs.pt

Are you a GMO cotton testing laboratory that implemented the ISO IWA 32:2019 reference protocol and are you now interested in joining a further proficiency test round? Do you have any questions about the global ISO IWA 32:2019 proficiency test initiative? Or do you want to update your contact details or your accreditation status against ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for GMO cotton screening? Please contact secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org.

Disclaimer: This proficiency test has been organized to obtain a one-off overview of the laboratories that can currently conduct GMO testing as per the ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol. The participating laboratories have been invited based on existing collaborations with the Global Organic Textile Standard, the Organic Cotton Accelerator, and Textile Exchange and/or that of their partners, to the best of their knowledge. The results have been made publicly available for informational purpose only. No radical business decision should be made from the results of this proficiency test regarding the current or future cooperation with laboratories that did not participate or do not appear in the short-list of laboratories that succeeded in the proficiency test.