

In-Conversion in the Organic Content Standard

For many years now, “in-conversion” crops (or “in-transition/transition” crops in the U.S.) have been allowed to be certified and claimed to Textile Exchange’s Organic Content Standard (OCS). However, very few instances of in-conversion material have been certified.

The goal of the OCS is to increase organic cotton agriculture production. In order to accomplish this, incentivizing farmers to make the switch from conventional cotton production requires economic incentives to do so. With this in mind, Textile Exchange is working to recognize in-conversion cotton regardless of when it was harvested during the three-year conversion period. This includes material from OCS-recognized national organic standards that do not allow claims for in-conversion material.

This is temporarily enabled by an exemption for in-conversion cotton that will last through July 31, 2021, after which time Textile Exchange will present the findings of the spring 2021 harvest to the OCS International Working Group. We will then decide whether this allowance will be a permanent part of the standard.

Textile Exchange has published a separate transaction certificate (TC) template for OCS in-conversion material, OCS-205a-V2.2 ([public PDF](#), [list of editable TC templates](#)). This template is mandatory for all sales of in-conversion material using the OCS, including material which is allowed under OCS 3.0 C1.4.

The exemption language itself can be summarized by the following:

1. Any OCS certified gin may accept cotton which is in-conversion.
2. Farmers that produce the in-conversion cotton must be in process to be certified to a standard recognized by the [IFOAM Family of Standards](#) (e.g. USDA NOP, NPOP).
3. For *year one* in-conversion cotton, the audit report for the farm will be reviewed by the gin’s OCS certification body to determine eligibility. A copy of the audit report will be provided to Textile Exchange.
4. After the first year, the gin’s certification body will provide a copy of the farm’s scope certificate to Textile Exchange.
5. The OCS logo and name (i.e. “Organic Content Standard”) are **not** allowed to be used with in-conversion cotton claims.

Year one refers to material sourced from a farm in its first year of transitioning to organic farming, when an audit has been conducted by an organic certification body. Typically there is no scope certificate issued at this stage, though this varies based on the organic standard.

In regards to the use of the OCS logo and OCS name, Textile Exchange has determined that the presence of the word “organic” in the OCS logo and name would be misleading to consumers with in-conversion material, as it has not yet met the three-year waiting period.

Brands wanting to communicate about their use of in-conversion material are encouraged to do so, but must comply with labeling laws in the country of sale. In the case of the U.S., it is not allowed to use “organic” or even “organically grown” in conjunction with the words “in-conversion” or “in-transition.”

Textile Exchange encourages all supply chain actors to immediately communicate with your suppliers and certification bodies in order to signal demand for in-conversion cotton which will result in more organic cotton fiber availability in the future.

For further questions, please contact: Assurance@TextileExchange.org.