



Organic Content Standard 3.0

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Organic Content Standard 3.0

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The OCS 3.0 replaces OCS 2.0 and is effective as of March 01, 2020. All audits conducted after February 28, 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. 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
Organic Content Standard 3.0, released March 2020



Contents

Introduction	4
About the Organic Content Standard	4
About Textile Exchange	4
Acknowledgements	5
How to Use This Document	5
Section A – General Information	6
A1. References	6
Section B – Principles of OCS Certification	7
B1. Scope	7
B2. Claims	7
B3. First Processor Certification	8
B4. Supply Chain Certification	8
Section C – Verification of Organically Grown Material	9
C1. Verification of Input Material	9
C2. Material-specific requirements	9
Section D – Chain of Custody	10
D1. Chain of Custody Criteria	10
D2. Technical Specification of Input Material	10
Appendix A – Definitions	11



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 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 following the requirements of Textile Exchange's Content Claim Standard (CCS). For more information or to apply for certification, please visit: 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 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 (IWG) that worked to review, research, discuss, and approve the revision of the Organic Content Standard.

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

How to Use This Document

This document sets forth the overall requirements for conformity with the OCS. Guidance and supporting documents are available at TextileExchange.org/Integrity.

In the OCS, the following terms 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.

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

A1.1.3 *OCS-201 OCS 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 OCS applies to supply chain sites of products not intended for consumption as food for humans or animals.
- B1.4** The OCS applies to products that contain at least 5% *organically grown material*, calculated as a percentage of the entire product excluding *accessories* and *trims*.

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. The product is certified up through the seller in the last business-to-business transaction;
 - b. For use of the OCS 100 logo, the product shall not contain certified and non-certified content of the same material type;
 - c. All artwork and language meet the requirements of *OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide*;
 - d. Approval of final artwork has been obtained from an authorized certification body through a label release form; and
 - 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 *OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide*.

B3. First Processor Certification

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

Section C: Verification of Organically Grown Material

Section D: Chain of Custody

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 C – Verification of Organically Grown Material



Desired outcome: Allowable organically grown material input is defined and verified.

C1. Verification of Input Material

- C1.1** The first processor shall have a system in place to verify that all organically grown material inputs come from a farm certified by an accredited certification body to comply with one or more of the following:
- USDA National Organic Program (NOP),
 - Regulation (EC) 834/2007 & EU 2018/848, or
 - Any other organic standard that is approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards.
- C1.2** All organically grown material entering the supply chain shall have a valid scope certificate of the farm, issued by an accredited certification body.
- C1.3** All organically grown material entering the supply chain shall have a valid transaction certificate issued by an accredited certification body and shall consider scope certificates of the farm in case of non-availability of transaction certificate.
- C1.4** “*In-conversion*” organically grown material may be accepted as *OCS material* if the applicable farming standard permits such certification.

C2. Material-specific requirements

- C2.1** If the organization's organically grown material inputs include organic cotton, the organization shall cooperate with and conduct GMO testing for the organic cotton in accordance with *OCS-103 GMO Screening of Organic Cotton*.
- C2.2** The first processor or OCS certified sites shall only accept organic wool as an input if it is non-*mulesed* or from a farm with *ceased mulesing* status.



Section D – Chain of Custody



Desired outcome: The integrity of organically grown material is maintained through to the final consumer.

D1. Chain of Custody Criteria

- D1.1** The organization shall conform 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.” In the case of contradiction with the CCS, the OCS requirements supersedes that of the CCS.
 - D1.1.2** “Claimed material,” as defined in the CCS, refers to OCS material for the OCS, which is defined in Section C1.
 - D1.1.3** Additional inputs may be accepted as OCS material as defined in *ASR-106 Accepted Equivalent Standards*.

D2. Technical Specification of Input Material

- D2.1** The organization shall maintain records of technical specifications for all OCS materials – including organic raw material inputs on file.



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.

Ceased Mulesing: Wool from sheep where *mulesing* has ceased on the property. No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed. No purchased sheep are mulesed.

First processor: The certified *organization* that performs the first point of product transformation following the harvest or collection of the raw material. For OCS, this refers to the earliest processing stage following the farm (the gin, for cotton).

In-Conversion: The establishment of an organic management system and building of soil fertility requires an interim period, known as the conversion period. While the conversion period may not always be of sufficient duration to improve soil fertility and for re-establishing the balance of the ecosystem, it is the period in which all the actions required to reach these goals are started.

Mulesing: Removal of wool-bearing strips of skin from between the hind legs of sheep (the “breech” area) in an effort to avoid problems of fly strike.

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

Organically Grown 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 & EU 2018/848, or any other organic standard that is approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards.

Organization: A legal entity which is *certified* to or in the process of becoming certified to the OCS. A scope certificate is held by an organization, and an organization has one or more sites.

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.

Transitional: See *in-conversion*.