Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

GOTS – Criteria for chemical inputs

World Congress on Organic Cotton, Interlaken, Session 41, 22 Sept. 2009
International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard
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# Milestones in History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>August 2002</td>
<td>Formation of the International Working Group (IWG) on Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)</td>
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<td>May 2005</td>
<td>Four parties agree on the 1st Version of the GOTS</td>
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<td>October 2006</td>
<td>Start of certification system</td>
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<td>June 2008</td>
<td>Release of Version 2.0 of GOTS</td>
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<td>Introduction of the logo &amp; release of the Labelling Guide</td>
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International Working Group (IWG)

International Association Natural Textile Industry (IVN), Germany

Soil Association (SA), England

Organic Trade Association (OTA), USA

Japan Organic Cotton Association (JOCA), Japan

- The GOTS is vested in the parties jointly
IWG / Committees

- **International Working Group (IWG):**
  - Decisive committee for all relevant organizational, structural and political issues
  - Members are one board representative of each party and the Director

- **Technical Committee (TC):**
  - Generating revisions of the standard, issuing interpretation documents, development of quality assurance system
  - Members are one expert of each party of the IWG and the Technical Director

- **Certifiers Council (CC):**
  - Advisory function with regard to all issues related to the GOTS quality assurance system; reporting its proposals to the TC
  - Members are one representative of each GOTS approved certifier and the Technical Director
Criteria - Basic principles

- Use of certified organic fibres (minimum 70% in each textile product)
- Environmental friendly processing and manufacturing systems
- Compliance with social minimum criteria

All criteria including correct fibre use, environmental friendly processing, social conditions, residue limits and quality assurance must be met for a textile that gets labelled as GOTS certified
GOTS approved Certifiers

- CCPB, Certificazione e controllo prodotti biologici, Italy
- Control Union Certifications b.v., Netherlands
- Ecocert, France
- ETKO Ekolojik Tarim Kontrol Organizasyonu Ltd Sti, Turkey
- ICEA Istituto per la Certificazione Etica e Ambientale, Italy
- IMO Institute for Marketecology, Switzerland
- OneCert Inc., USA
- Oregon Tilth, Inc., USA
- Soil Association Certification Ltd., England
GOTS Certified Facilities

- 2006: 26
- 2007: 878
- 2008: 1977
Certifiers approved to release positive lists

IMO Institute for Marketecology, Switzerland

Control Union Certifications b.v., Netherlands

ICEA Istituto per la Certificazione Etica e Ambientale, Italy

OneCert Inc., USA
Positive lists – Statistics

July 2009

- Positive lists are prepared for 179 chemical suppliers
- They contain
  - 1637 dyestuffs and prints
  - 2191 auxiliary agents

The positive lists are available to all operators participating in the GOTS certification system.
Criteria for chemical inputs

- List of explicitly prohibited and restricted substances / groups
- Restrictions for specific processing stages and fields of applications
- Basic requirements regarding oral and aquatic toxicity as well as biodegradability / eliminability (valid for preparations)
- Exclusion of chemicals where specific risk phrases are assigned to
- Residue limits for textiles must be met
Basis for assessment of chemical inputs

- MSDS prepared according to one of the following norms / directives are accepted as basic tool for assessment:
  - ANSI Z400.1-2004
  - ISO 11014-1
  - 1907/2006EEC (Reach)
  - 2001/58/EEC
  - GHS (Global Harmonised System)
- Certifiers may ask for additional information, test reports or may order lab tests on their own in order to receive missing data or to verify MSDS data
Prohibited substances

- Prohibited substances / groups:
  - Formaldehyde
  - GMOs and their enzymes
  - Heavy metals (exceptions for iron and copper)
  - Halogenated solvents and others

Preparations are prohibited if one or more of the prohibited substances are present above the concentration limit, above which the substance(s) need(s) to be declared in the MSDS.

Preparations containing prohibited substances, for which the applicable norms / directives do not provide for a duty of declaration (e.g. GM enzymes) are prohibited if they contain these substances above a concentration limit of 0,1%.
**Restricted substances**

- **Restricted substances / groups:**
  - Inputs that contribute >1% to AOX value of effluent
    For inputs with absolute AOX content >1% the applicant needs to demonstrate that permanent AOX is less than 1% (e.g. by disclosure of the chemical structure)
  - Copper restricted to blue, green and turquoise dyestuffs (< 5%)
  - QACs restricted to auxiliaries used for fixing purpose
Risk Phrases

• Substances are prohibited, if one or a combination of the following risk phrases are assigned to it:
  R 26, 27, 28, 39, 40, 45, 46, 48, 49, 60, 61, 62, 63, 68

• If those substances are part of a preparation above the concentration limit, that needs to be declared in the MSDS, the preparation is prohibited

• Substances with R51, 52, 53 are not prohibited, but under review

• For MSDS prepared according to GHS (global harmonized system) the adequate ‘hazardous statements’ are applicable
Basic assessment scheme for preparations

- **Biodegradability / Eliminability in %**
  - 0-70
  - 70-95
  - 95-100

- **Aquatic toxicity in mg/l (increasing in the direction of the arrow)**
  - 0-1
  - 1-10
  - 10-100
  - > 100

- **Permitted**
- **Prohibited**

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Revised GOTS version planned to be published in June 2010

Under review with regard to chemicals:
- Exception for copper in blue, green and turquoise dyes
- Exception for QACs for fixing purpose
- Allowance of optical brighteners
- Allowance of substances with risk phrases 51, 52 and 53
- Test methods in general (ISO, OECD, GHS norms to become reference basis wherever possible)
- General ban on chemical finishing agents ...

Beside IWG members and certifiers also stakeholders, associations and interest groups will be invited to send their comments
Thank You