

UPDATED

TEXTILE STANDARDS & LEGISLATION

2024

A Guide to Environmental and Social Compliance



SAMPLE ABBREVIATED VERSION

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TEXTILE STANDARDS & LEGISLATION

A Guide to Environmental and Social Compliance

COMPLETELY REVISED AND UPDATED

Edited by Jack Mowbray

2024 | Ninth Edition

Supported by



TEXPERTISE
the textile business network
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YOUR KEY TO ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE+

GOTS certification is a powerful tool that helps your company comply with legal requirements and empowers you to exceed those, showcasing your commitment to people and the planet.

- **Robust, verifiable criteria:** GOTS stipulates requirements throughout the value chain for **ecological, human rights** including social criteria and **business conduct** in textile and apparel manufacturing.
- **Due Diligence Commitment:** Access guidance on implementing the criteria through due diligence processes.
- **Legislation Ready:** Benefit from regularly updated criteria and tools which provide compliance support for laws.
- **Market access:** GOTS provides a **consistent** and **global framework** and help to overcome barriers to international trade.
- **Certified Sustainability:** Ensure your sustainability claims are backed by a third-party.
- **Traceability from Farm to Final Product:** Maintain transparency, traceability and impact monitoring throughout your value chain.

Join the 14,000 GOTS-certified companies leading sustainability in textiles. Get GOTS Certified.



SCAN ME 



Formerly the Sustainable Apparel Coalition

Cascale is dedicated to driving positive change within the consumer goods industry, and **committed to the development of smart, harmonized regulations** that accelerate global sustainability.

Join us and be part of a global alliance committed to a sustainable future.

Learn more about Cascale membership and how you can contribute to promoting smart, harmonized regulations that accelerate sustainability. Scan the QR code or visit cascale.org.



The bluesign system

The bluesign system is a comprehensive approach to sustainable textile production that aims to minimise environmental impact, ensure worker safety, and promote the responsible use of resources throughout the entire textile supply chain.



What is it?

Bluesign works on the basis that effective chemicals management allows the responsible use of chemicals and minimises the risks during textile manufacture and for the end consumer. It ensures that chemicals used in textile supply chains comply to strict threshold values around ecological and toxicological properties and associated risks.

To evaluate and rate the chemical products, risk assessment software bluesign TOOL is used together with its own in-house chemical expertise.

Chemical products passing the evaluation are subsequently 'bluesign approved' and published in the web-based Finder – a positive list of commercially available textile chemical products.

Key elements

The bluesign system consists of ratings for each applied chemical product. In accordance with the specifications, complex eco-toxicological information is clearly categorised as:

- **Blue:** Chemicals meet all of the bluesign criteria and requirements.
- **Grey:** Chemicals shall only be used under certain appropriate conditions
- **Black:** Components do not meet the bluesign criteria

The bluesign system itself focuses on 3 core areas:

- **People:** occupational health and safety: protecting workers' health and safety in textile production facilities.
- **Environment:** emissions to soil prevent that soil is contaminated and waste is managed sustainably.
- **Resources:** maximising efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, and water.

The bluesign system consists of several interconnected components:

- **Input Stream Management:** this focuses on controlling the chemicals, materials, and components entering the production process.
- **Process management:** the system emphasises optimising production processes to reduce resource consumption, minimise waste, and improve overall efficiency.
- **Output stream management:** this addresses the management of emissions, effluents, and waste generated during textile production.

Criteria

The bluesign system sets strict criteria and standards for:

- **Chemical management:** through a list of approved chemicals (bluesign FINDER) and restrictions on hazardous substances.
- **Environmental performance:** guidelines for energy and water consumption, waste management, and emissions control.
- **Occupational Health and Safety:** Requirements for workplace safety.
- **Quality Assurance:** Standards for product quality and performance.

Criteria are updated regularly based on new and proposed regulation and best practise.]



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The implementation of the bluesign system involves several steps.

Firstly, there is an assessment to evaluate a company's current practices and performance against bluesign criteria leading to a 'gap analysis' that identifies areas for improvement.

An implementation plan is then developed, which results in a roadmap to meet bluesign criteria. After this is concluded there is the ongoing monitoring and optimisation of processes to make sure there is continuous improvement.

Companies that meet these bluesign criteria can then become certified as bluesign SYSTEM PARTNERS.

Roles and responsibilities

The bluesign system defines specific roles and responsibilities for three key stakeholders in the textile supply chain:

Chemical suppliers

Implement bluesign criteria in their production processes. Develop and provide chemicals that meet bluesign criteria and disclose full information about their chemical formulations for chemical assessment. Suppliers need to support downstream users in proper chemical management.

Textile manufacturers

Implement bluesign criteria in their production processes and are required to monitor and improve environmental performance and worker safety.

Apparel brands

Implement bluesign criteria. Compose bluesign certified consumer products with bluesign approved articles. Promote sustainable practices throughout their supply chain. These efforts should be communicated to consumers.

Tools and resources

The bluesign system provides various tools and resources to support implementation and include:

- bluesign TOOL: web-based application for chemical assessment.
- bluesign FINDER: a database of approved chemical products.
- bluesign GUIDE: a database of approved articles
- bluesign CUBE: a web-based platform for managing chemical inventories and assessing environmental impact.
- bluesign ACADEMY: training programs and educational resources.

Updates – 2024

The bluesign system regularly updates the system criteria to reflect the latest scientific knowledge and best practices.

The latest changes to the bluesign System Black Limits (BSBL) were published in July 2024 and the latest version 6.0 can be found if you follow the link below. Also updated in the same month were the bluesign SYSTEM SUBSTANCES LIST (BSSL), that specify consumer safety limits for chemical substances in articles and V 15.0 of the bluesign restricted substance list (RSL).

Going forward, bluesign – which is majority owned by SGS – will look to integrate digital technologies for improved data management and transparency. It could also expand system's focus to include circular economy principles and end-of-life considerations for textile products.

Outside of textiles, bluesign could extend the system's principles to other consumer product categories beyond textiles.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/27-bluesign-technologies



www.textilcolor.ch



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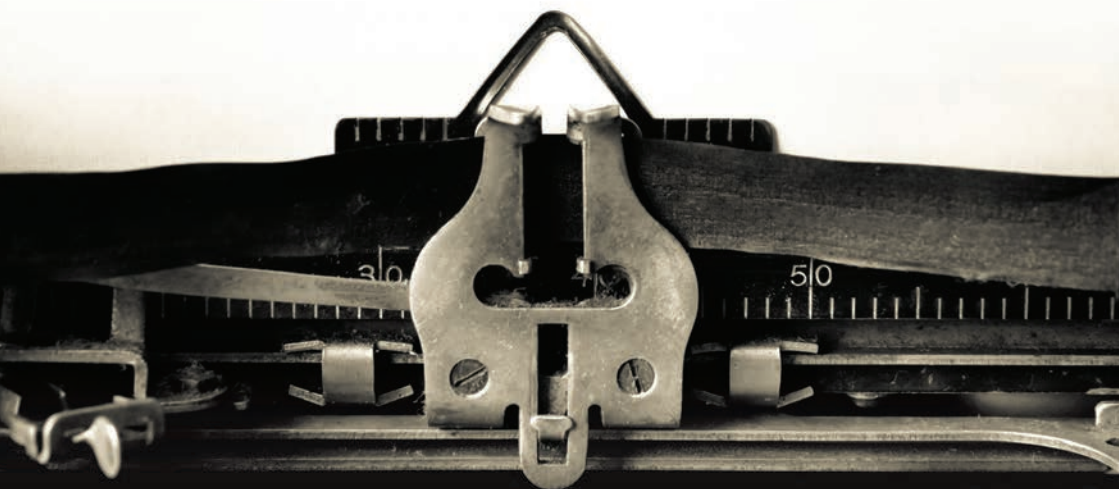
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IMPACT NUMBERS



Grüner Knopf

This standard is awarded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to textile manufacturers that pass certain social and ecological standards set by the Ministry. Known as 'Green Button' in English, it can be displayed on garments at point of sale in Germany. Version 2.0 was launched in August 2022.



What is it?

Officially launched in mid-2019, the Grüner Knopf is a voluntary certified standard so that consumers can identify socially and environmentally manufactured textiles placed on the market. Version 2.0 was launched in August 2022 and all participating companies must be (re-)certified to the new version by August 2023.

The end of the transition phase for the requirements on production processes was 31st July 2024, with exception of the production stage fibres and materials. The transition phase for this stage ends on 31st July 2026.

Key elements

Textile products marketed with the 'Green Button' label must already be certified by other credible third-party certification standards such as Blue Angel, Fairtrade, Fair Wear Foundation, Oeko-Tex Made in Green, BlueSign, Cradle to Cradle (silver), Global Organic Textile Standard, Naturtextil IVN certified BEST and the Fair Wear Foundation.

Environmental criteria revolve around hazardous substance restrictions in textile finishing and dyeing with minimum requirements for wastewater treatment and

quality as well as biodegradability of substances and levels of air pollution. The social criteria include, for example, employee rights, such as the applicable statutory minimum wage and the right to non-discrimination, as well as the prohibition of child and forced labour.

Compliance with safety and health regulations in the workplace – protective clothing, for example, clean drinking water and adequate fire protection – are also specified. Version 2.0 includes even more comprehensive requirements at the raw material level and includes a total of 54 demanding social and environmental requirements overall. New changes mean that companies must, for example, promote the payment of living wages in the supply chain and extend their risk analysis to the entire supply chain.

Tighter restrictions also mean textiles must be made from 'approved fibres and materials'. Genetically modified cotton is outlawed, man-made cellulose such as viscose must come from approved forestry, and animal fibres sourced with animal husbandry rules in place. PFAS coatings are banned. So too are fur, angora and polyacrylics.

The Green Button is only awarded if both the product and the company comply with all requirements. The entire company is audited, so offering individual products is not enough.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) owns the certification which is based upon the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This makes the Grüner Knopf certification mark scheme suitable for sustainable EU public procurement.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/106-gruener-knopf

Nordic Swan Ecolabel



The non-profit Nordic ‘Swan’ Ecolabel is a voluntary licence designed to help companies make and indicate products to the consumer that are more sustainable. It is the official ecolabel for the Nordic countries with the EU Flower as its EU equivalent.

What is it?

The Nordic Swan label is an ISO 14024 Type 1 labelling system established in 1989 by the Nordic Council of Ministers. It indicates that products or services conform to strict criteria designed to promote sustainability and protect the environment.

This consumer-oriented label identifies more than 200 different product types – including textiles – and the current criteria are matched with the previous version of the EU Ecolabel standard.

The whole standard – which applies to a range of consumer goods – was most recently updated in January 2022. However, the criteria for textiles were amended to version 4.0 and valid to 30th June 2023. Incremental changes have since been made and these are all valid through to July 2026.

Some products with a valid GOTS certificate may be exempt from the requirement under certain conditions. Approved products can be labelled with the ‘Swan’ logo, which has a good degree of consumer recognition in Scandinavia.

Key elements

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel develops specific criteria for each product group using a life cycle

analysis (LCA) method, which occurs alongside inputs from stakeholders and experts. The criteria is reviewed every three to four years.

The latest version of the ‘Swan’ means that manufacturers have to consider how much microplastic is shed from synthetic textiles. This must be measured with a standardised test-method and is encouraged to be reported to the Microfibre Consortium with a goal of setting a limit value over time.

The revised requirements for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel do not allow burning or dumping of unsold clothes, and manufacturers must also report to the Ecolabel what they do with surplus products. The production sites for Nordic Swan Ecolabelled textiles must comply with the United Nations International Labour Organisation conventions.

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel team also goes on inspection visits to all production sites, no matter where they are situated in the world. Cotton must be 100% organic/recycled, although textiles for professional use may, alternatively, be made from fibre 100% certified by either BCI, Fairtrade or CmiA. Synthetic fibre must be based on either recycled or bio-based materials. Regenerated cellulose fibre must be recycled or certified sustainable, and production must involve no discharge to wastewater.

All chemicals in textile production with undesirable classifications such as ‘toxic’, ‘carcinogenic’ and ‘harmful’ to the aquatic environment are strictly prohibited.

New proposals include requirements on energy and water consumption to implement BAT practices to reduce CO₂ emissions.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/56-swan-nordic-environmental-label



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Cotton made in Africa



Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) is an independent standard for sustainable and traceable cotton. Through diversification, resource efficiency and innovative approaches, CmiA improves the living and working conditions of small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and promotes environmental protection.

What is it?

The CmiA standard aims to move cotton production in sub-Saharan Africa towards greater sustainability, both at the farms and in the first stage of processing cotton fibres in the ginneries.

This standard follows a value to business approach and activates market forces. Brands and retailers can have full visibility of their verified material in their respective supply chain through its Verification and Hard Identity Preserved Tracking System.

Key elements

CmiA aims to protect soil, water, biodiversity, the environment and climate, and excludes the use of genetically modified organisms. It reduces the negative effects of pesticides by excluding the most hazardous ones according to international regulations and by provisioning organic fertiliser. Withdrawal of ground or surface water for the irrigation of cotton is prohibited.

- CmiA is the leading standard for sustainably produced cotton from Africa, covering 30% of African cotton production.
- As of 2024, CmiA works with 21 partnering

cotton companies in 10 African countries, about 2,700 partners in the global textile supply chain and more than 60 retailers and brands that physically source CmiA verified cotton.

CmiA follows the concept of decent work developed by ILO, which provides opportunities for work that are productive and deliver a fair income; security in the workplace; social protection for families; and gender equality of opportunity and treatment.

Additional community projects are geared towards improving the livelihoods of cotton farming communities with pragmatic and tangible support in the fields of education, gender equality, women's empowerment, and health.

The programme is committed to continuous improvement through regular self-assessments and independent verifications by external auditing bodies that guarantee the reliability of the standard and verify whether the standard's requirements are met.

Partnering production organisations (managing entities) have the clarity and support to accelerate action for climate and nature as well as social and economic benefits based on clear guidelines and impact data-driven approaches.

Through field trainings, digital learning platforms, and workshops (e.g. regional meetings), CmiA helps partners to respond to diverse challenges such as mitigating the consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss.

CmiA is owned by the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF), an internationally recognised non-profit organisation whose work is guided by experts from international NGOs and the trade sector.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/42-cotton-made-in-africa



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1. Cotton products are recyclable only in a few communities that have appropriate recycling facilities. 2. In composting tests, cotton fabric samples underwent a weight loss of approximately 50-77% after 90 days in a composting facility. *Li, Lili; Frey, Margaret; Browning, Kristie (2010). Biodegradability study on cotton and polyester fabrics. Journal of Engineered Fiber and Fabrics, 5(4), 42-53.*

Sustainable Regenerated Cellulosics

The Sustainable Regenerated Cellulosics

Content Standard

(SRCCS) formerly

known as the

Sustainable

Viscose Chain of

Custody Standard (SVCOC), was created by

Control Union Certifications (CUC) in 2020, with

backing from C&A.



What is it?

The primary objective of the voluntary SRCCS standard is to trace the origin of Man-Made Cellulosic Fibers (MMCF), to ensure they are derived from sustainably managed forests, or sourced from textile post-consumer waste. The standard also covers plant-based agro-residue inputs for pulp feedstocks.

Key elements

The latest version 3.1 of the SRCCS standard was launched in February 2024. It applies to products that contain at least 5% sustainable material, calculated as a percentage of the entire product excluding accessories and trims, and is sub-divided into two label-grades.

- A 'SRCCS' product may have a minimum of 95% and a maximum of 100% certified content, and the remaining content may be any material.

- A 'SRCCS Mix' product may have a minimum of 5% and a maximum of 94% certified content and the remaining content may be any material.

The overall goal of the SRCCS voluntary standard sets benchmarks for third-party authentication of Sustainable Regenerated Cellulosics Fibre Content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices, risk assessment and safe chemical management practices.

Its aim is to encourage and scale the uptake of 'sustainable' regenerated cellulosics fibres into a diverse range of consumer products – including textiles made from viscose and lyocell.

The SRCCS certification is applicable to all participants in the supply chain who utilise verified contents with inputs specified in Annex 1 of the standard. This includes:

- First processor, manufacturers, packaging and labelling units, storage facilities, trading and distribution – all the way to the seller in the final business-to-business transaction.
- Final products may include, but are not limited to, yarns, fabrics, garments, fashion textile accessories, handicraft, paper industry, pulp industry, home textiles and bedding products and personal care products.

Fibre/filament manufacturing facilities using cellulosic pulp as an input **are not** the part of the certification scheme, they must apply separately following the guidelines listed in Annex 2 of the standard to get their facility and products reviewed and verified under Annex 1 as verified inputs by the supply chain.

Suppliers certified to other textiles Chain of Custody Programs are still required to undergo audit and certification to verify compliance.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/175-sustainable-regenerated-cellulosics

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) provides authoritative



biodiversity data tools and guidance to help organisations act on biodiversity related risks and generates sustainable funding to support biodiversity datasets.

What is it?

IBAT is an alliance of four organisations: Birdlife International Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). It hosts and maintains three key global biodiversity datasets used for reporting purposes

Key elements

The three authoritative datasets in IBAT are used for international reporting purposes on biodiversity. For example, these feed into the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Biodiversity Targets track progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (Indicators 14 & 15), to some of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) core indicators, and other international assessments and reports including the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The three datasets hosted by IBAT include:

- **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**

Also known as the IUCN Red List, is a rich

compendium of information on threats, ecological requirements, and habitats of over 155,000 species; and on conservation actions that can be taken to reduce or prevent extinctions.

It is based on an objective system for assessing the risk of extinction of a species based on past, present, and projected threats.

- **The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)** is the most comprehensive global database of marine and terrestrial protected areas. It is a joint project between the UN Environment Programme and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is sourced from almost 500 data providers in 245 countries and territories. The WDPA is updated at the start of each month in IBAT and represents over 295,000 sites around the world.

- The third database is the **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)** which are the most important places in the world for species and their habitats. Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and irreplaceability.

- Finally, the IBAT tool hosts the **World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA)** is managed by BirdLife International on behalf of the KBA Partnership and is updated twice per year. See the link below to get more information.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/180-integrated-biodiversity-assessment-tool

Fairtrade Textile Standard

The Fairtrade Textile Standard is one component of the greater Fairtrade Textile Programme which aims to facilitate change in textile supply chains and related business practices.



What it applies to

This standard applies to operators employing hired workers in the textile supply chain processing Fairtrade certified cotton and/or other sustainable fibres. This includes, but is not restricted to, the ginning, spinning, weaving, knitting and cut-make-trim stages of textile production.

This standard is applicable in countries and regions where freedom of association is possible. It also applies to brand owners purchasing finished textiles who have a contract with the relevant National Fairtrade Organisation or Fairtrade International.

The standard was introduced in June 2016 and in September 2019, it was updated in terms of chemical residue testing requirements. It was due for a subsequent revision in 2024, but this has not yet been completed or published.

Requirements for companies

- All stages of production for the entire supply chain, including brands, need to establish fair, reliable and predictable contract arrangements to improve workers'

conditions. Once the entire supply chain has been certified, products may carry the Fairtrade Textile Production Mark.

- It is open to other certified sustainable fibres, in addition to Fairtrade cotton.
- All subcontractors must be registered, agree to audits and comply with labour conditions and the grievance procedures.

For workers

- The implementation of living wages within six years.
- Empowerment of workers, securing their position and status within companies.
- Worker engagement in compliance with the standard.
- Occupational health and safety.
- Conditions of employment: working hours and overtime, contracts.
- A grievance procedure.
- Training and capacity building.

For the environment

- Controlling chemical use and practices.
- Based on leading health and safety standards in the industry.
- A list of prohibited materials specific to textile production.

Who owns, operates it?

Based in Bonn, Germany, Fairtrade International is co-owned by more than 1.8 million farmers and workers who earn fairer prices and have more control over their futures.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/86-fairtrade

Social & Labor Convergence Program

The Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) provides the tools to capture accurate data about working conditions in global supply chains. This multi-stakeholder initiative replaces the need for repetitive social audits by facilitating data sharing.



What is it?

This program brings together a diverse set of stakeholders to create and implement a common tool to reduce the time and money spent on social auditing. Its aim is to redirect savings from auditing to improve working conditions and to take ownership of their own social and labour data.

It provides a single comparable data set and facilitates collaboration between supply chain stakeholders.

Key elements

The SLCP uses a Converged Assessment Framework (CAF) that supports stakeholders' efforts to improve working conditions in global supply chains. Together, they can achieve a brighter future by sharing comparable and verified high-quality data that increases transparency and eliminates audit fatigue to free up and redeploy resources.

It hooked up with the Fairwear Foundation in 2024 to allow Fairwear to use SLCP data to promote impactful human rights due diligence through its own programmes.

CAF measures working conditions in facilities developed by SLCP signatories and includes a Data Collection Tool verification methodology,

together with guidance documents. This is said to give a high-quality verified data set that has no value-judgment or scoring. It also includes details of the Accredited Hosts (AH), existing service providers that can help interpret and score data, map data to codes of conduct and formulate action plans.

Facilities have complete control of how they share their SLCP verified data via the Accredited Hosts and the Gateway, which has a public list of companies who are participating in the process. All these facilities own their data and control how it is shared.

Essentially, the Gateway is the central repository of all SLCP verified data.

There are also 'brand hosts' that have direct connections to the Gateway, and although they can receive information such as assessment status and verified data for selected facilities – this supplier data is not automatically shared.

Through these measures, the SLCP hopes to address the proliferation in social auditing that subjects manufacturers to repetitive and duplicative, resource-intensive audits multiple times a year.

More information

<https://www.textilestandards.com/standards/178-social-labor-convergence-program>

In Brief: types of EU legislation



The aims set out in the EU treaties are achieved by several types of legal act. Some are binding, others are not. Some apply to all EU countries, others to just a few member states.

Regulations

A 'regulation' is a binding legislative act that is applied in its entirety across the EU. For example, when the EU's regulation on ending roaming charges while travelling within the EU expired in 2022, the Parliament and the Council adopted a new regulation both to improve the clarity of the previous regulation and make sure a common approach on roaming charges is applied for another ten years.

Directives

A 'directive' is a legislative act that sets out a goal that EU countries must achieve. However, it is up to the individual countries to develop their own laws so they can reach these goals. One example is the EU single-use plastics directive, which reduces the impact of certain single-use plastics on the environment, for example by reducing or even banning the use of single-use plastics such as plates, straws and cups for beverages.

Decisions

A 'decision' is binding on those to whom it is addressed (e.g. an EU country or an individual company) and is directly applicable. For example, the Council issued a decision on allowing Croatia to adopt the euro on 1 January 2023. The decision related to that country only.

Recommendations

A 'recommendation' is not binding. When the Commission issued a recommendation that EU countries' media service providers improve their ownership transparency and safeguard their editorial independence, this did not have any legal consequences. A recommendation allows the institutions to make their views known and to suggest a line of action without imposing any legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed.

Opinions

An 'opinion' is an instrument that allows the institutions to make a statement in a non-binding way, in other words without imposing any legal obligation on those to whom it is addressed. An opinion is not binding. It can be issued by the main EU institutions (Commission, Council, Parliament), the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee. While laws are being made, the committees give opinions from their specific regional or economic and social viewpoint. For example, the European Economic and Social Committee issued an opinion on the Commission's Next Generation EU's small and medium-sized enterprises strategy.

https://commission.europa.eu/index_en

Circular Economy Action Plan

Adopted by the European Commission in March 2020, the Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) is one of the main building blocks of the European Green Deal.



This action plan aims to alleviate the EU's transition to a circular economy while at the same time reducing pressure on natural resources as well as creating sustainable growth and jobs.

It's required to achieve the EU's 2050 climate neutrality target and to halt biodiversity loss.

What is it?

The CEAP applies to various initiatives along the entire life cycle of products. It targets how products are designed, promotes circular economy processes, encourages sustainable consumption, and aims to ensure that waste is prevented, and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible.

There is a major focus on resource-intensive sectors with high circularity potential such as electronics, vehicles, plastics, construction, packaging, and textiles – despite this being classified as a 'light manufacturing industry'.

This action plan introduces both legislative and non-legislative measures targeting areas where action at the EU level brings real added value to the circular economy.

Key elements

This CEAP aims to provide a future-oriented agenda for achieving a cleaner and more competitive Europe in co-creation with economic actors, consumers, citizens, and civil society organisations.

When it comes to textiles it will develop a set

of actions to make textiles more durable, repairable, reusable, and recyclable and also includes the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles. It will tackle fast fashion, and textile waste and respect worker rights and reflects the more recent agreement on banning the destruction of unsold clothing and footwear. It also comes with the EU Green Claims Directive in a bid to make sure companies substantiate their environmental claims using robust, science based and verifiable methods.

The Commission will implement a total of 35 concrete actions listed in the action plan.

It aims to accelerate the transformational change required by the European Green Deal, while building on the circular economy actions that it has already implemented since 2015. This plan will ensure that the regulatory framework is streamlined.

This product policy framework will be progressively rolled out, while key product value chains will be addressed as a matter of priority. Further measures will be put in place to reduce waste and ensure that the EU has a well-functioning internal market for high quality secondary raw materials. The capacity of the EU to take responsibility for its waste will be also strengthened.

In 2023, the Commission revised the circular economy monitoring framework, previously adopted in 2018. The revision adds new indicators on material footprint, resource productivity and consumption footprint. It supports the EU's circular economy and climate neutrality ambitions.

More information

<https://www.textilestandards.com/standards/140-circular-economy-action-plan>

EU Deforestation Regulation

The EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/1115) is aimed at reducing the impact of the European Union’s contribution to global deforestation and forest degradation through its consumption and production of certain commodities and products.



What is it?

The new Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products mandates that all relevant products, listed in the Annex of the regulation, must be deforestation-free to be placed on the EU market or exported from Member States.

To facilitate compliance, the EU will provide guidelines and support mechanisms, including a multi-stakeholder platform and an observatory on deforestation and forest degradation to help businesses, public entities, and consumers access information on supply chains and monitor changes in global forest cover.

Key elements

At first glance, EUDR doesn’t seem to affect the textile industry, but upon further examination, when looking closer within the relevant commodity of wood – “other articles of wood” can be seen.

This includes “Pulp and paper of Chapters 47 and 48 of the Combined Nomenclature”, with the exception of “bamboo-based and recovered (waste and scrap) products”. Here, “Pulps of fibres derived from recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard or of other fibrous cellulosic material” and “Wood pulp obtained by a

combination of mechanical and chemical pulping processes” are covered. Both of these categories capture dissolving wood pulp used for making viscose textile fibres and nonwoven goods.

The regulation says products must also comply with the laws of the country of production concerning land use rights, environmental protection, forest management, biodiversity conservation, labour rights, human rights, and other relevant regulations.

Operators and traders are required to implement due diligence measures to ensure that the covered commodities and products are not associated with deforestation or forest degradation. Including collecting information such as geolocation data, quantity, and country of production. If it is determined the country of origin/production is at some risk to deforestation, a risk assessment must be carried out.

No later than 30th December 2024, the Commission must publish a list of the countries or parts thereof, that present a low or high risk. That list shall be reviewed, and updated if appropriate, as often as necessary in light of new evidence.

If the risk assessment determines a risk of deforestation, then the operators must carry out risk mitigation measures as outlined in article 11 of the regulation.

The commission is obliged to establish and subsequently shall maintain an information system which shall contain the due diligence statements made available by 30th December 2024.

More information

<https://www.textilestandards.com/standards/168-eu-deforestation-regulation>

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EU Waste Framework Directive

The Waste Framework Directive sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste



management, including definitions of waste, recycling and recovery.

Preventing waste is the preferred option, and sending waste to landfill should be the last resort.

In July 2023, and in line with The European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan, the EU drafted a new proposal for a targeted revision of the Waste Framework Directive aimed at textiles and food.

What is it?

The Waste Framework Directive lays down some basic waste management principles. It requires that waste be managed

- without endangering human health and harming the environment
- without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals
- without causing a nuisance through noise or odours
- and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest

It explains when waste ceases to be waste and becomes a secondary raw material, and how to distinguish between waste and by-products. The Directive also introduces the 'polluter pays principle' and the 'extended producer responsibility'.

Key elements

The foundation of EU waste management is the five-step "waste hierarchy", established in the Waste Framework Directive. It establishes an order of preference for managing and disposing of waste. See link opposite for more details.

Following a thorough analysis including stakeholder consultations, the Commission has proposed a targeted amendment of the Waste Framework Directive, with a focus on textiles waste. The proposal aims to bring about a more circular and sustainable management of textile waste, in line with the vision of the EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles.

Under EU rules on waste, Member States are required to set up separate collection of textiles by 1 January 2025. For this to happen, separate collection, sorting, re-use and recycling capacities within the EU have to be strengthened. This requires significant investments to build infrastructure, and to develop new technological solutions. In particular, the Commission is proposing to introduce mandatory and harmonised Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for textiles in all EU Member States.

The proposal will foster research and development in new technologies that promote circularity in the textile sector and support social enterprises involved in collection, sorting, reuse, and recycling, and will ultimately incentivise producers to design more circular products.

To reduce illegal waste shipments to non-EU countries, often disguised as intended for reuse, the Commission's proposal further clarifies the definitions of waste and reusable textiles. This will complement the proposed Regulation on waste shipments, which ensures that textile waste is only exported when there are guarantees the waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner.

More information

www.textilestandards.com/standards/150-eu-waste-directive-framework

New York Fashion Act

The Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act (Assembly Bill A8352), commonly known as the New York Fashion Act, is a proposed due diligence law that would apply to fashion and apparel companies which sell in New York State with annual revenues of at least \$100 million.



months, would face fines of up to 2% of their annual revenues.

Fashion companies would also be liable for lost wages of workers in their supply chains. Revenue from the fines would be used for the benefit of workers and communities directly injured, and environmental benefit projects.

The Bill would be enforced by the Attorney General or the Attorney General's designated administrator. It was first introduced in the 2021-2022 legislative session by New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi and Assembly member Dr Anna Kelles but has yet to be approved.

Its supporters, which include brands Stella McCartney, Patagonia and Eileen Fisher, along with unions, NGOs and other stakeholders, are still campaigning for its adoption.

What is it?

The proposed bill, which is currently with the State committee, would apply only to apparel and footwear brands and retailers which would be required to 'identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address' the adverse impacts of their global production. Although as state rather than federal legislation, it would only apply in New York, the importance of the city's economy means it would effectively make all global fashion brands accountable for human rights and environmental issues in their global supply chains.

Key elements

The Bill would require companies to map at least half of their supply chain across each tier of production back to raw material providers, identify and share negative social and environmental effects, and set targets to reduce those impacts through a legally-binding mandatory due diligence framework. Emissions reporting would have to align with the Paris Agreement and the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Standard.

Companies would also have to disclose their raw material use, work with suppliers to effectively manage their chemical use, and publish the wages paid to workers by their suppliers.

Companies failing to comply, and which do not remedy non-compliance within three

What's next?

In 2024, the Act failed to make it onto the statute book for the third year running amidst push back from powerful trade groups. However, it did make more progress, this time gaining the approval of the New York State Assembly's Ways and Means Committee, but ultimately failed to make it to a vote before the end of the state's legislative session.

There was also one key change to the Bill this year – the separation of the environmental and worker-related parts of the proposals which was said to be purely procedural as the two elements go before different committees.

More information

<https://www.textilestandards.com/standards/153-new-york-fashion-act>

German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act

The Act on Corporate Due Diligence Obligations in Supply Chains



**Federal Ministry
for Labour and
Social Affairs**

came into force in Germany on January 1st, 2023, and requires that German enterprises to respect human rights and environmental issues in global supply chains.

What is it?

The law strengthens human rights and environmental protection in German-based companies that have global supply chains.

These obligations apply to their own business area, the actions of their contracting partners and the actions of other (indirect) suppliers. This means that the responsibility of companies no longer ends at its own factory gate but extends throughout the entire supply chain.

If enterprises fail to comply with their legal obligations, administrative fines may be imposed up to €8 million or up to 2% of annual global turnover. The fines system based on turnover applies only to firms with annual revenues of more than €400 million.

Key elements

From 2024, the German Supply Chain Act now applies to companies with at least 1,000 employees in Germany.

These companies must initially identify, assess, and prioritise supply chain risks and also hire a human rights officer. And then based on the results of this assessment, companies must then publish a policy statement and take measures to prevent or minimise violations of human rights and damage to the environment.

The Act sets out what preventive and remedial measures are necessary and includes other obligations for establishing channels for complaints from people in the supply chains and a regular documentation and reporting on supply chain management.

Specifically, the Act intends to address:

- protection against child labour, forced labour, and discrimination,
- protection against land grabbing,
- occupational health and safety,
- the right to fair wages,
- the right to form unions,
- protection against environmental violations.

The competent authority, the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control has far-reaching supervisory powers. It can, for example, enter business premises, demand information, and inspect documents as well as demand that enterprises take concrete action to fulfil their obligations and enforce this by imposing financial penalties.

The five core elements of the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights (NAP) form the basis for the due diligence obligations set out in the Act.

For further details on the Act and links to relevant documentation see the link below.

More information

<https://www.textilestandards.com/standards/158-german-supply-chain-due-diligence-act>

Designing for a Circular Economy

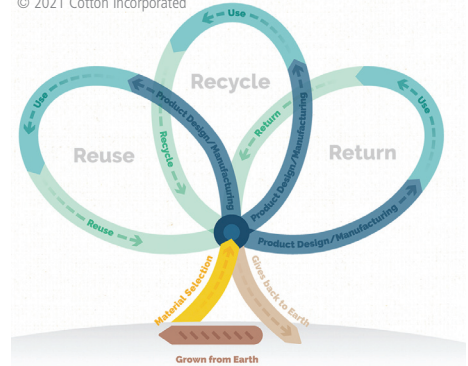
By Cotton Incorporated

Our global economy is largely built on a “take-make-waste” model, where natural resources are extracted, used, and then discarded. This economic model is exerting untenable pressure on our planet, rapidly depleting resources and poses serious long-term environmental and societal challenges needing a rapid shift towards a circular economy.

Transitioning the textile industry to a circular economy involves intricate complexities such as understanding industry standards and ensuring traceability. In this context, the expertise and research conducted by Cotton Incorporated provides indispensable insights to navigate these challenges.

Staying abreast of sustainability-related standards can be a daunting task. Michele Wallace, director of sustainability standards development at Cotton Incorporated, emphasises the importance of a common ‘language’ and metrics when transitioning to a circular economy. This is where standards like those from the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) come into play. The organisation has developed the ISO 59000 family of standards, providing comprehensive guidelines for implementing a circular economy and a roadmap for the transition.

American’s cotton producers and importers
© 2021 Cotton Incorporated



Enhancing traceability

As a renewable resource, cotton can be cultivated, created and repurposed, presenting a sustainable alternative to synthetic fibres. Incorporating sustainable practices in cotton production and processing, such as efficient water management and soil health enhancement, can support circular economy principles and the environment.

However, a circular economy also demands a comprehensive understanding of the supply chain. To this end, Cotton Incorporated developed the CottonWorks™ U.S. Cotton Traceability guide. This provides an in-depth view of the cotton supply chain, tracking its journey of from farm to finished product, enhancing transparency and accountability.

The transition to a circular economy also entails constructing a resilient and sustainable industry, which requires commitment from all stakeholders – from farmers and manufacturers to retailers and consumers.

With the right tools, knowledge, and commitment, we can transform the “take-make-waste” model into a circular one that values reuse and recycling. And in doing so, we can ensure a more sustainable and prosperous future for the textile industry and our planet.

See: <https://cottontoday.cottoninc.com/>



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