

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

**Comprehensive rules for ecological
and socially responsible textile
production**



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International Working Group on Global Organic Textile Standard

Basic Features



- **Organic Fibres**
The Standard requires the use of certified organic fibres.
- **Environmental and Social Criteria**
The Standard provides both demanding environmental and social criteria.
- **All Processing Stages**
The Standard's criteria are applicable to all stages of the whole processing supply chain
- **Independent Certification**
All operations of the GOTS processing and trading chain must be certified based on on-site inspections and products must meet residue limits

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

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 appointed by 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

GOTS approved Certifiers - part 1 -



bio.inspecta, Switzerland



CCPB, Certificazione e controllo prodotti biologici, Italy



Ceres, Germany



Control Union Certifications, Netherlands



Ecocert Greenlife, France



ETKO Ekolojik Tarim Kontrol Organizasyonu, Turkey



ICEA Istituto per la Certificazione Etica e Ambientale, Italy

GOTS approved Certifiers - part 2 -



IMO Institute for Marketecology, Switzerland



Letis, Argentina



OIA Organizacion Internacional Agropecuaria, Argentina



OneCert, USA



Oregon Tilth, USA



Soil Association Certification, England

Harmonisation process



Basic Key criteria for fiber use



Organic Fibers

- **Minimum of 70% certified organic fibers**
- **Certification according to recognised organic production standards**
(such as Regulation EC 834/2007 or USDA NOP)

Additional Fibers

- **Natural Fibres**
- **Maximum of 10% synthetic or regenerated fibers**
(respective max. 25% for socks, leggings and sportswear)

Criteria for processing



- **General criteria for all processing stages**
(e.g. separation, record keeping, environmental policy, social criteria)
- **General ban on harmful substances in all processing stages**
(e.g. formaldehyde, toxic heavy metals, GMOs)
- **General criteria for the assessment of chemical inputs**
(meeting limits on human and environmental (aquatic, fauna, flora and soil) toxicity as well as on biodegradability / -eliminability)
- **Specific criteria for the different processing stages** (e.g. functional waste water treatment plant for wet processing plants, limitations on materials for accessories and finishing methods)

Minimum social criteria

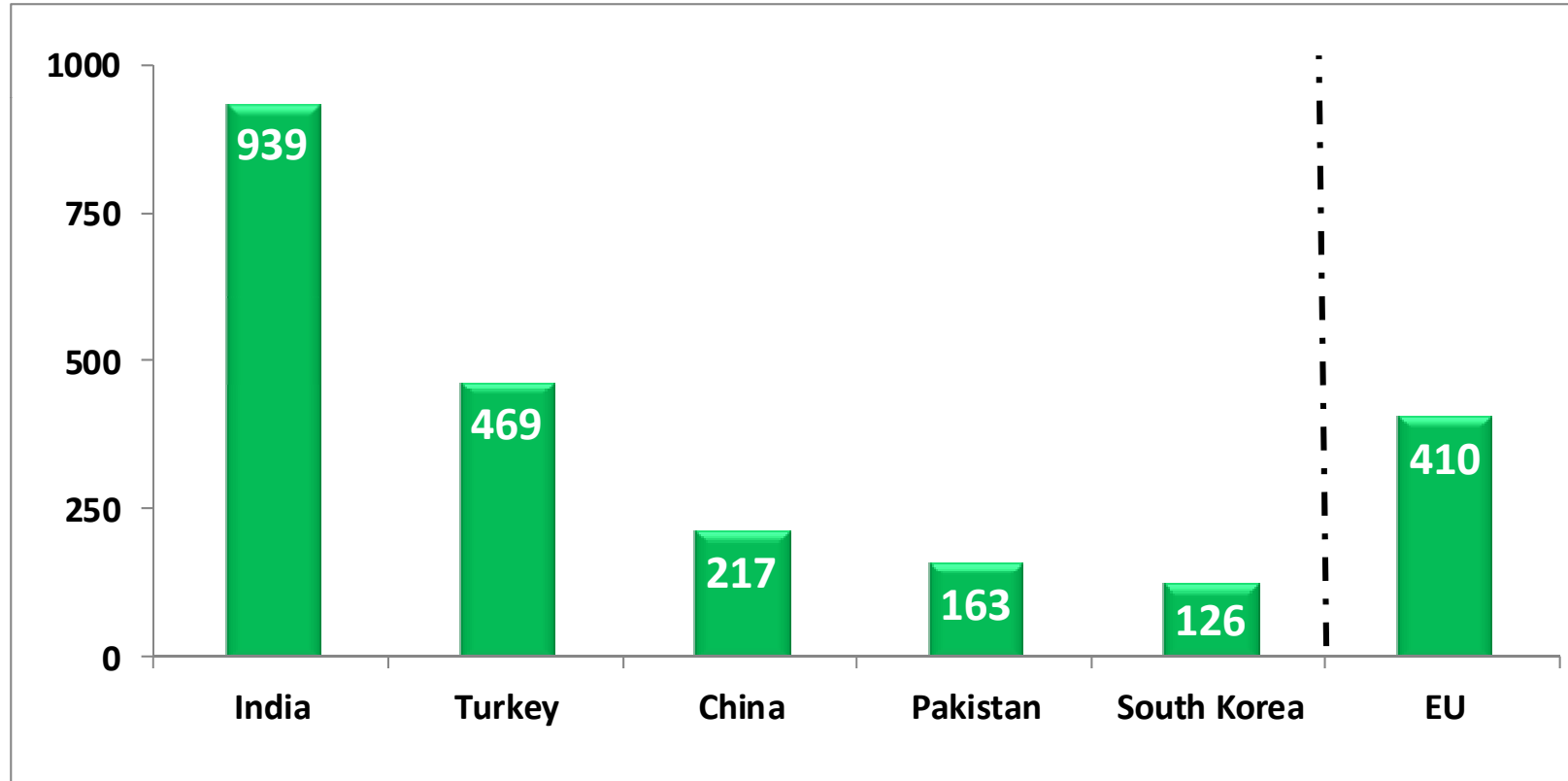


- **Meeting social minimum criteria based on the ILO key norms is compulsory for all processing and manufacturing stages. The requirements include e.g.:**
 - **No child labor**
 - **Payment of living wages**
 - **Working hours must not be excessive**
 - **Safe and hygienic working conditions**
 - **No discrimination, no harsh or inhumane treatment**
- **Operators must establish social compliance management tools that support the implementation and monitoring of the social minimum criteria**

Certified facilities by country in 2010



2754 certified facilities in 54 countries



Latest Development



- **Assignment of Regional Representatives in major sales markets**
- **Introduction of an informational film on GOTS**
- **Release of GOTS Version 3.0 following an intense revision procedure including a multi stakeholder input process**
- **Policy memorandum of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) dated 20th May 2011:**

Clarifies that the use of the term 'organic' in the labeling of textile products requires third party certification and explicitly recognises GOTS and its label grade 'organic':

“Textile products that are produced in accordance with the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) may be sold as organic in the U.S.”