

Brief introduction to the Organic Content Standard (OCS, Version 3.0)

1. OCS ...




- ... is a **private** standard, launched in 2007 by *Textile/Organic Exchange*. The 3.0 Version is valid since March 1st, 2020.
- ... uses the chain of custody requirements of the **Content Claim Standard (CCS)**.
- ... verifies the **presence and amount of organic material in a final product** and **tracks the flow of the raw material**.
- ... does **not cover** the certification of the raw material itself, neither does it address other inputs or accessories, environmental aspects of processing, social or legal compliance issues.

2. Who and what can be certified to the OCS

- ✓ The full supply chain of the organic fibre and textile industry, from **postharvest treatment to traders** of finished products, **needs** to be certified. Retailers can be certified on voluntary basis.
- ✓ Certifiable products must contain at least 5% organic material. For example: **fibre products, yarns, fabrics, garments, fashion textile accessories (carried or worn), textile toys, home textiles, mattresses and bedding products** as well as **textile personal care products**.


3. Origin of raw materials

- ✓ Organic **fibres** can be obtained from sources certified according to internationally recognised organic standards (as Regulation **EC 834/2007, EU 2018/848, NOP**, or any standard covered by the **IFOAM** Base Standard).
- ✓ All kinds of fibres can be used, as e.g. **cotton, silk, wool, linen, hemp, polyester, elasthane**, etc.
- ✓ **Blending** allowed, then automatically label grade "**OCS Blended**" has to be used (to use label grade **OCS 100**, it is not allowed to mix organic and conventional fibre of the same material. Then automatically **OCS Blended** applies)
- ✓ Labelling options according to fibres used:

OCS	100% Organic	Minimum 95% Organic	5-95% Organic
Organic Raw Material Percentage	100%	Min. 95%	5-95%
Label Grade	OCS 100	OCS 100	OCS Blended
Logo to be used	 Made with Organically Grown Material CERES-12345	 Made with Organically Grown Material CERES-12345	 Made with X% Organically Grown Material CERES-12345
Restrictions	NA	No mixing of the same material (e.g. Blending of organic and conventional cotton)	None

4. Separation in case of companies which produce both organic and conventional

- ✓ The operator applying for OCS certification needs to set up a **good system for separating organic products from conventional**. This applies to the reception of the raw material, as well as all steps of processing, storage rooms, etc., up to sale.
- ✓ The best separation, of course, is **in space**: separate warehouses and production lines for organic.
- ✓ However, this may often not be possible; in this case, you can separate in **time**: OCS goods will be processed at the same machines as conventional, but at different times. It then has to be assured

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that relevant equipment needs to be cleaned systematically before processing OCS goods. The company has to take adequate measures to **prevent contamination** during transport, storage and production.

5. Identification

- ✓ OCS products must be **clearly identified** and **tracked** as they move through production.
- ✓ This may include, but is not limited to, **direct labelling** of OCS products, machines, storage vessels, or storage areas.
- ✓ Labels and signs must be **visible** and **understandable** by all workers operating in the area.

6. Traceability

- ✓ As a minimum, **traceability** must be assured one step back and one step fourth at each stage of the supply chain.

7. Training of Staff

- ✓ Workers need to be trained regarding the requirements of the standard (incl. documentation of the training)
- ✓ The operator shall appoint a **responsible person** for the certification

8. Documentation

- ✓ OCS units need a **functioning and comprehensible system** for documenting and identifying OCS goods.
- ✓ **Written procedures and working instructions** must be in place to ensure integrity and identity of OSC products. Wherever parallel production of organic and conventional products takes place, bags, containers, boxes with organic products have to be **labelled** at all steps through your facility in order to avoid contamination. This includes the full production at each step.
- ✓ The operator has to keep full documentation of quantity, origin and flow of goods. **Supplier certificates, way bills, reception notes, processing records, storage books, and invoices** have to be kept. All these records have to refer to the OCS condition of the product. All records need to be retained for a minimum of at least 5 years.
- ✓ OCS units need a good **book keeping** system, allowing for evaluation of quantities of purchased (raw material vs. quantities of finished product sold) in order to check **mass balance calculations**. For each production step, the records must demonstrate the balance between the inputs and the outputs containing the declared final amount of Claimed Material. All calculations are done based on the **weight of the materials** and must also take into account stock levels and rejected goods.
- ✓ Except for open raw material arriving directly from the field, only **packed or sealed** and **labelled** products must be accepted for OCS processing; unlabelled products should be returned to the supplier.
- ✓ Transport routes and transport means must be **documented**.


9. Labelling

- ✓ When an OCS logo is used, a **reference to the Certification Body** that has certified the goods (e.g. Certification Body's name and/or logo) and a reference to the **certified organization** (e.g. organization's name and/or certification number) as well as the **label grade** must be used.
- ✓ **Brands and retailers** may only have logos applied to goods that have been certified to the end of the supply chain (incl. last step of ownership).
- ✓ **Individual components of a product** may be identified as certified to the OCS only in a manner that makes it completely clear that it is only the identified component that contains organic material, and not the whole product. For example, only the upper of a shoe is made with 100% organic cotton.

Please take into account the regulations formulated by the standard regarding the usage of the logo (see <http://textileexchange.org/integrity/>)!

10. Procedure

Please note the respective document on our website.

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11. Transaction certificates (= TC)

- ✓ **Definition:** A Transaction Certificate that verifies that the goods being shipped from one organization to the next conform to a given standard.
- ✓ Certified Entities purchasing **raw organic fibres**, as well as such which purchase **OCS goods** must receive and maintain **transaction certificates (=TCs**, certificates of inspection), for the whole **quantity purchased** (in accordance with OCS criteria). As long as goods will be labelled and sold as OCS, TCs are also obliged for the whole sale (excluded are retailers).
- ✓ TCs are issued by the certification body which is in charge of the suppliers product, based on copies of invoices, packing lists and shipping documents, as well as TCs from previous suppliers. In special cases, TCs can cover several deliveries. The maximum amount of time a single TC may cover is 3 months.



Please be aware:

This is only a selection of essential requirements of OCS, meant as an introduction. The operator, of course, has to learn about and meet all the requirements of the respective standard. All other important standard-related important documents can be downloaded here: [http://textileexchange.org/integrity/!](http://textileexchange.org/integrity/)