

## Organic Content Standard 2013

The *Organic Content Standard* (OCS) is a standard for tracking and verifying the content of organically grown materials in a final product.



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## Foreward

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Textile Exchange is an international, member-supported, non-profit organization that was established in 2003 under the original name of Organic Exchange. Textile Exchange operates internationally and is committed to the responsible expansion of both organic cotton and all other sustainable textile value chains.

In 2007 Organic Exchange developed the OE 100 and OE Blended standards to verify the organic cotton content claims on products. The standards established a system for tracking and documenting the purchase, handling and use of certified organic cotton fiber. Since then there has been a need for a broader organic standard that would support content claims for all organic inputs, not just cotton. To meet this need, Textile Exchange has developed the Organic Content Standard (OCS), based on the generic chain of custody requirements of the Content Claim Standard (CCS).

The CCS and OCS were written by Textile Exchange. The first draft of the CCS was put out for review and comment by professionals from the certification community. The final drafts of both standards were reviewed and approved by the Outdoor Industry Association Materials Traceability Working Group.

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OCS Logos were designed by Troy Tucker.

## Introduction

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The Organic Content Standard (OCS) applies to any non-food product containing 5-100% organic material. It verifies the presence and amount of organic material in a final product. It tracks the flow of a raw material from the source to the final product and this process is certified by an accredited third party. It allows for transparent, consistent and comprehensive independent evaluation and verification of organic material content claims on products. It can be used as a business-to-business tool to give companies the means to ensure that they are getting what they are paying for and selling.

The Standard does not cover the certification of the raw material itself – that will be verified independently of the production process certification. It also does not address other inputs, environmental aspects of processing (such as energy, water or chemical use), any social issues or legal compliance. The benefits of this Standard are that organic claims made on final products can be fully backed up through third party certification, transparency is increased, and consumer trust is improved. The Industry will have a clear and uniform process, leading to greater consistency, efficiency and integrity.

Intended users of the OCS are manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting organic initiatives. This is a voluntary standard that is not intended to replace the legal or regulatory requirements of any country. It is the responsibility of each operation to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to marketing, labor and business practices.

### OCS and CCS

The OCS uses the chain of custody requirements of the Content Claim Standard (CCS), combined with clear requirements for the use of certified organic inputs and rules regarding logo use and labelling claims. The CCS is a generic chain of custody standard being used for the chain of custody requirements for a number of standards, including the OCS, Recycled Content Standard (RCS) and Global Recycle Standard (GRS). By having a common set of requirements across these standards, we are contributing to the consistency and efficiency of the certification process. Once a company has been certified to the CCS requirements for one standard, this means that they meet the same chain of custody requirements for other standards based on the CCS.

## Section A - Requirements for Certification

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### A1 - Reference Documents

**A1.1** The following documents cover the full requirements of the Organic Content Standard, and are fully binding:

- Organic Content Standard
- Content Claim Standard
- Content Claim Standard Implementation Manual

### A2 - Compliance Requirements

**A2.1** The Organic Content Standard requires compliance with the requirements of the Content Claim Standard (Sections A, B, C and D), whereby the Claimed Material is defined as:

**Organic material:** any output of organic farms that have been certified by an accredited certification body to comply with:

- government organic farming regulations that have been enacted, or
- private standards that have been assessed as compliant to the IFOAM Basic Standards in the context of the IFOAM Accreditation Program.

All Organic Materials entering the supply chain must have a Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by the Certification Body (CB).

**A2.2** Buyers of the OCS product will be responsible to set any further requirements on the specific organic standard(s) to which the input material must be certified.

## Section B - Labeling

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### B1 - Labeling Language

The OCS standard applies to products that contain 5 -100% Organic Material.

Products certified to the OCS may use the terms “Made with X% Organically Grown Material” or “Contains X% Organically Grown Material,” and make reference to the OCS. ‘X’ must represent the final percentage of Organic Material by appropriate unit of measure in the finished product; ‘Material’ refers to the actual organic input (eg: cotton, coconut).

*\*Note that the OCS can be applied to individual components of a product, as long as they are each certified to the standard.*

#### B1.1 Labeling to the Organic Content Standard

If the organization chooses to label the finished products as containing Organic Material, it may make reference to the OCS and use:

- “Made with/Contains 100% Organically Grown Material” only for products that contain 100% Organic Material. The OCS 100 logo may be used.
- “Made with/Contains Organically Grown Material” for products that contain 95% or more Organic Material, as long as the remaining content is not of the same type as the Organic Material. The OCS 100 logo may be used.
- “Made with/Contains X% Organically Grown Material” for products that contain 5-95% Organic Material. There are no restrictions on the remaining content. The OCS Blended logo may be used.

## Section C - Logo Use

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### C1 - Use of OCS Logos

#### C1.1 Certification Bodies

**C1.1a** CB's are responsible for issuing OCS logos for use on goods that have been certified up to the point where the logos are applied. CB's will be required to check for proper use of the OCS logos on goods during the certification process. They are not responsible for checking on logos in the marketplace.

**C1.1b** CB's may use the OCS logos to indicate that they are accredited to certify goods to OCS standards in their marketing and public relations materials.

#### C1.2 Certified Organizations

**C1.2a** Certified Organizations may apply OCS logos only on goods certified to the OCS. Logos must be obtained from the CB that has certified their goods.

**C1.2b** Certified Organizations that hold current certification to the OCS may use the logos to indicate that they are 'Certified to produce goods to Organic Content Standard' in their marketing and public relations materials.

#### C1.3 Brands and Retailers

**C1.3a** Brands and retailers may only have logos applied to goods that have been certified to the end of the supply chain (i.e.: the last step of ownership must have been certified). Use of the logo is not mandatory.

If a brand or retailer is receiving goods then selling them on to other retailers, then the original brand or retailer must be certified if the goods are labelled with the OCS logo. For example, brand A sells to retailer B, brand A must be certified.

**C1.3b** If products are being identified as certified to the OCS, then the logo must be used, and 'Certified to OCS 100' or 'Certified to OCS Blended' may also be added. The specifications set out in sections D1 and D2 must be followed.

**C1.3c** Individual components of a product may be identified as certified to the OCS but 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.

**C1.3d** The brand or retailer is responsible to check on the labelling laws of the country or countries of sale to ensure they are meeting all legal requirements.

### C2 - Misuse of OCS Logos

Textile Exchange will pursue all legal means to stop and remedy any unauthorized or misleading use of the OCS logo. Textile Exchange will also make public any misuse of the OCS logo in order to maintain trust in the Organic Content Standard.

## Section D - Product Identification

### D1 - Identification of OCS Goods

#### D1.1 Products

All logos must follow the design specifications set out in section D2.

Logos may also be accompanied by text saying 'Certified to OCS 100' or 'Certified to OCS Blended.'

- D1.1a When an OCS logo is used, there must be a reference to the CB that has certified the goods (e.g. CB's name and/or logo) and a reference to the Certified Organization (e.g. Organization's name and/or certification number).

Example:



Made with X% Organically Grown Material  
Certified by CB's Reference Number  
Organization's Ref #



Contains % Organically Grown Material  
Certified by CB's Reference Number  
Organization's Ref #

- D1.1b The OCS logo must not be permanently printed on or affixed to any reusable packaging.

#### D1.2 Certification documents

When used on TC's, the logo must appear in the OCS color only (Pantone 355 U or #009355), and meet the design specifications set out in section D2.

#### D1.3 Marketing and Advertising

All logos must follow the design specifications set out in section D2.

## D2 - Design Specifications

### D2.1 Logo

In all cases, the logos must appear as follows, using PDF's provided directly from Textile Exchange or through the accredited CB:



### D2.2 Color

Unless otherwise noted, the logo can appear in Pantone 355 U or #009355.

### D2.3 Size

The logo must be of a size large enough to be clear and legible.

At each production step there must be documentation that is linked to the incoming goods.

## D3 - Obtaining a Logo

### D3.1 Certification Bodies

CB's that hold valid and current accreditation to the OCS may request the logos by contacting Textile Exchange.

### D3.2 Certified Organizations

Certified Organizations may request logos from the CB responsible for certification of their products.

## Section E - Appendix

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### E1 - Tools and Resources

#### E1.1 *Textile Exchange Certification Toolkit - Essential Series*

The *Certification Toolkit* has been developed to provide increased clarity for brands and retailers trying to understand how to most accurately certify their products. This tool helps to address issues around why certification is important, the essential steps, understanding certificates, pricing and labeling.

The guide is free to members of Textile Exchange, or can be purchased on its own by non-members. For more information please visit <http://www.textileexchange.org>.

#### E1.2 **Questions and Additional Information**

For questions or additional information about the OCS please contact: [integrity@TextileExchange.org](mailto:integrity@TextileExchange.org).