



ORGANIC MATERIAL SOURCING POLICY

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BACKGROUND

Marks & Spencer are committed to procuring key raw materials from more sustainable sources, with organic fibre being a vital part of this portfolio. The common aim of all organic production is to sustain the health of soils, ecosystems and people. Using ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, it avoids the use of synthetic and potentially toxic inputs associated with adverse effects¹.

All organic fibres are produced in accordance with an organic farm standard, which vary per region to demonstrate adaptation to specific regional needs. Examples include the European (EC) 834/2007 and 889/2008, and the US Department of Agriculture National Organic Program (NOP). Organic input material is traced from farm through the textile supply chain using either the Organic Content Standard (OCS), Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) or Fairtrade Organic chain of custody standards.

Organic Cotton

Organic cotton makes up less than 1% of global cotton production, according to the Textile Exchange, with the majority being grown in India and China. Whilst the global production of organic cotton is currently small, its importance in global production systems is expected to increase as the ability of organic farming systems to restore degraded soil is recognised as key in the mitigation of climate change and reversal of biodiversity loss. The crop is grown within a system that uses crop rotation, mixed cropping and low tillage to build soil fertility and protect biodiversity. It is grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, toxic pesticides or genetically modified seed (GMOs). Only approved inputs according to the organic standards must be used.

Organic Wool

Organic wool makes up less than 1% of global wool production, according to the Textile Exchange, with the majority being harvested in China, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Italy and Greece. The term organic wool relates to the way in which the material has been farmed. For wool to be certified as organic, it must be produced in accordance with organic livestock production standards. Organic livestock standards differ nationally, but in general ensure the animals:

- are reared on organic feed
- graze on organic land
- are free to pursue their natural behaviour with free range grazing
- are not routinely treated with antibiotics

Other fibres can be grown on organic farms, such as hemp, flax (linen), jute and silk, but their use is not widespread. Marks and Spencer will continue to monitor opportunities to source materials from regenerative agriculture projects.

SCOPE

This policy is applicable to all products sold in all Clothing, Home and Beauty sourced using organic material. This includes but is not limited to; Cotton, Wool, Linen, Hemp, Jute and Silk. It is optional for requirements of the policy to be applied to trims (componentry, linings, filling).

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Organic materials should be sourced in compliance with other relevant M&S raw material sourcing policies. For example, this sourcing policy has been developed to align with the existing M&S Responsible Cotton Sourcing Policy, which outlines M&S' commitment to source 100% more sustainable cotton from 2019. For additional guidance on working with chain of custody certifications, refer to the M&S Guidelines for Working with Third Party Standards

RATONALE AND OBJECTIVES

- To ensure M&S meets its commitment to improve the environmental impact of key raw materials
- To explain the principles of organic fibre – cotton, wool, linen, silk
- To set uniform principles for the inclusion of organic fibres into product that must be adhered to by all business units consistently
- To ensure due diligence is undertaken with regards to the provenance of organic fibre
- To ensure M&S can substantiate marketing claims for product with organic content in accordance with existing standards

M&S MANDATORY PRINCIPLES FOR SOURCING

1. To ensure that the fibre contained in a product is organic, all products must be Organic Content Standard (OCS), Global Organic Textiles Standard (GOTs) or Fairtrade Organic certified with full chain of custody up to Marks & Spencer (see Appendix 1 for difference between standards).

In recognition of the need to build capacity in the cultivation of organic materials, M&S also allows the sourcing of 'In-Conversion' product.

For GOTs and OCS:

- A scope certificate for the end-product manufacturer must be uploaded to PLM for contract seal approval, valid at the time of manufacture
- A transaction certificate showing shipment of goods from end-product manufacturer to M&S as the consignee must be uploaded to PLM when the product ships
- Refer to the 'M&S Guidelines for Working with Third Party Standards' for further information on working with chain of custody certifications

For Fairtrade Organic:

- Fairtrade Organic cotton must be certified through the Fairtrade Chain of Custody system, Fairtrace.

2. Blending of organic materials with their conventional equivalent is not permitted in the same product. Blending of organic material with other identity material types is not permitted in the same product.
 - For example, organic cotton cannot be blended with conventional or cotton sourced through the Better Cotton Initiative within the same product. The entire cotton content must be organic.

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- Product claims (swing tag, online, in-store décor or other marketing initiatives) can only be made if product certification with full chain of custody is in place, with respective documentation.

DEFINITIONS

Organic Textile Materials: Textile materials grown and harvested in accordance with an organic farm standard. Farm standards can vary per country or region but are all based on the principles of eliminating highly toxic substances from the environment and working holistically for the long-term benefit of people and the planetⁱⁱ.

Chain of Custody: A documentation or paper trail that records the sequence of custody or control of goods or materials. The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and Organic Content Standard (OCS) are examples of standards that employ the chain of custody. Organic material grown and harvested in accordance with an organic farm standard is physically traced through every step of the supply chain using Scope and Transaction Certifications.

In-Conversion Organic: Primary producers go through three stages to becoming organic. 'In-conversion' is the status given to producers in the second year of converting to organic, when their product can be promoted but not yet at full organic status.

LABELLING AND CLAIMS

Blending organic and conventional fibres of the same type in the same product is not permitted. Blending organic fibres with other materials sourced through a sustainability standard is not permitted.

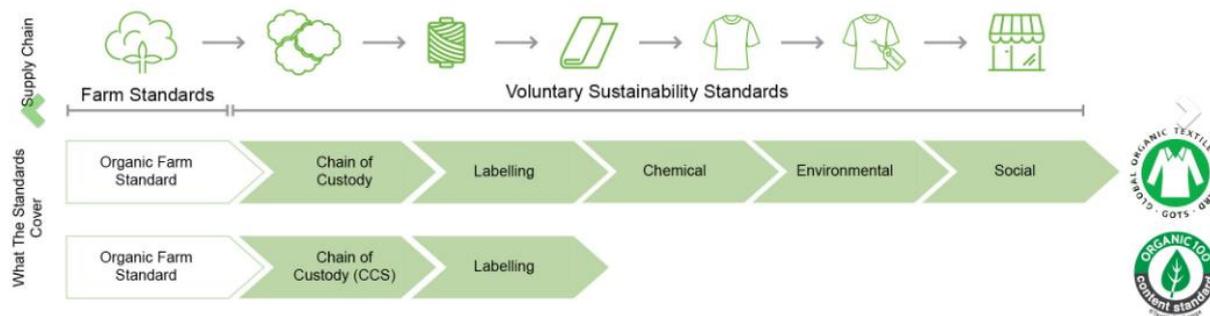
Organic material must constitute at least 30% of the product to make a product claim.

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APPENDIX 1

ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARDS

Third party standards provide Marks and Spencer with purchase assurance to substantiate any organic fibre claims. Both the Organic Content Standard (OCS), Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTs) and Fairtrade Organic Standard are recognised within this policy, further information on the standards can be found below.



Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

The Global Organic Textile Standard is a chain of custody standard that tracks the movement of organic input materials through the textile supply chain. In addition to the tracking of input material, it also has chemical, environmental and social criteria for each step of the supply chain. The use of toxic processing inputs is prohibited, including dyes and chlorine-based pre-treatments for scouring and de-scaling and requires the treatment of wastewater discharged from cleaning, dyeing and other wool processing stages. All actors in the supply chain must also comply to International Labour Organisation (ILO) criteria.

Find out more about GOTs: <https://www.global-standard.org/>

Organic Content Standard (OCS)

The Organic Content Standard (OCS) is a chain of custody standard owned by the Textile Exchange. It tracks the movement of organic input materials through the textile supply chain.

An agreement exists between the Textile Exchange and GOTS, meaning a certified organic supply chain can have a mixture of OCS and GOTS Scope certified facilities. If a supply chain is solely GOTS certified, it can be promoted as GOTS. If a supply chain is a combination of GOTS and OCS certified, it can only be labelled as OCS.

Find out more about OCS: <https://textileexchange.org/matrix/organic-ocs/>

Fairtrade Organic

Fairtrade has a mission to connect disadvantaged farmers and workers with consumers, promote fairer trading conditions and empower farmers and workers to combat poverty, strengthen their position and take control over their livesⁱⁱⁱ.

The Fairtrade standard includes the protection of workers rights and the environment, whilst companies must pay the Fairtrade Minimum Price for materials. In addition to a guaranteed price

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for their goods, farmers receive a Fairtrade Premium based on the volume of produce sold. This extra sum of money can be used to invest in improving the quality of their lives.

A significant volume of Fairtrade cotton is also certified organic. Sourcing organic cotton through Fairtrade represents an opportunity to ensure farmers receive a fair price for their investment in organic systems. Fairtrade Organic cotton must be physically traced through the Fairtrade system.

ⁱ <https://www.ifoam-eu.org/en/faq-organic-agriculture>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.soilassociation.org/organic-living/fashion-textiles/organic-cotton/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/what-is-fairtrade/what-fairtrade-does/>

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