GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF SIGNS - GOTS

VERSION 4.0

Release Date: 19.01.2026
Effective date: 01.08.2026

Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH
Rotebühlstr. 102 · 70178 Stuttgart · Germany

www.global-standard.org

© Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH 2026

All rights are reserved. Commercial use is prohibited and protected by copyright. Written permission by GOTS/ Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH is required for the reproduction of any content in this document either in part or whole.

Imprint

Global Standard
gemeinnützige (non-Profit) GmbH
Rotebühlstr. 102
70178 Stuttgart
Germany

Contact

implementation@global-standard.org

Stuttgart, 19.01.2026

Conditions for the Use of Signs - GOTS (CUS-GOTS), released on 19 January 2026

Intellectual property and copyright

All rights are reserved. Commercial use is prohibited and protected by copyright of Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH. Written permission by Global Standard Gemeinnützige GmbH is required for the reproduction of any content in this document, either in part or whole.

Disclaimer

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is a voluntary standard and is not intended to replace any legal or regulatory requirements of any country.

How to read this document

The following verbs are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, or capabilities in this document:

- “shall” indicates a mandatory requirement
- “should” indicates a recommendation
- “may” indicates a permission
- “can” indicates a possibility or capability

Availability of documents:

The “Conditions for the Use of Signs - GOTS”, reference documents, and any further relevant public information as released by Global Standard gGmbH are available for public download on www.global-standard.org

About Global Standard

Global Standard is the non-profit that manages the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), which is the world's leading standard for organic textile certification. Global Standard is on a mission to ensure the highest level of social and environmental impact in textile value chains through voluntary sustainability standards and related activities and believes in a world where all textiles are produced in accordance with the principles of health, ecology, fairness and care to enhance people’s lives and the environment. For more information, visit www.global-standard.org.

About Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), managed by non-profit Global Standard, is the world's leading standard for organic textile certification. It sets strict environmental and social criteria for the entire textile value chain, from the harvesting of raw materials to the finished product. GOTS certification ensures the integrity of finished organic textiles and provides comprehensive solutions for the industry and assurance to consumers worldwide. The rules and tools of GOTS certification help businesses comply with legal regulations while empowering them to further exceed requirements. As a non-profit, Global Standard maintains low fees[1] to support its work, ensuring the continued development of GOTS.

For questions or comments on this document, please contact (implementation@global-standard.org).

[1] Please consult Global Standard website for any fees and charges.

Contents

1 Introduction 4
1.1 Background 4
1.2 Objectives and Scope 4
1.3 Definitions 5
1.4 Legal Compliance and Misuse Penalties 8
2 General Requirements for all Users 8
2.1 Accurate and Clear Use of GOTS Signs 8
2.2 Design and Wording Specifications 9
3 User Specific Requirements 12
3.1 Certified Entities 12
3.2 Registered Traders 12
3.3 Uncertified Entities 12
3.4 Certified Retailers 13
3.5 Uncertified Retailers 13
3.6 GOTS Approved Chemicals and Accessories 14
3.7 Approved Certification Bodies 14
4 Requirements for On-Product Application of GOTS Signs 15
4.1 Eligibility for On-Product Labelling Application of GOTS Signs 15
4.2 Authorisation for Application of GOTS Signs On-product Labelling 16
4.3 Mandatory Labelling for On-Product Applications 16
4.4 Labelling Examples for On-Product Applications 17
4.5 Use of the GOTS Signs in the GOTS-certified Supply Chain for Intermediate Products 20
5 Requirements for Off-Product Application of GOTS Signs 20
5.1 Use of GOTS Signs on Websites/Online Stores 20
5.2 Use of GOTS Signs in Digital Media 27
5.3 Use of GOTS Signs in Print Media 27
5.4 Use of GOTS Signs in Various Other Media Forms 30
5.5 Use of GOTS Signs for GOTS Approved Chemicals Inputs and Accessories 31
6 APPENDIX: Examples of correct and incorrect labelling applications. 32

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 This document, Conditions for the Use of Signs - GOTS (CUS-GOTS)[2] serves as a foundational guide within the Global Standard scheme framework, providing clear and enforceable requirements for the correct use of GOTS Signs, the GOTS logo and the wordmark “GOTS”. These conditions ensure that all stakeholders participating in the GOTS programme uphold the integrity of the Standard by applying its signs consistently across products, marketing materials, and related communications.

1.1.2 This document integrates seamlessly with other GOTS reference materials, such as the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), the Manual for the Implementation of GOTS, and implementation procedures. Together, these resources create a robust compliance ecosystem, enhancing transparency, fostering consumer trust, and protecting the credibility of GOTS-certified or approved products in global markets.

1.1.3 This document shall be effective as of 1 August 2026. Certification Bodies may implement the procedure before the effective date.

1.2 Objectives and Scope

1.2.1 The primary objective is to ensure the accurate, transparent, and consistent application of GOTS Signs, safeguarding the credibility and integrity of the GOTS certification system. By adhering to these conditions, users contribute to maintaining consumer trust and supporting the vision of Global Standards.

1.2.2 This document establishes the conditions for using GOTS Signs by all relevant stakeholders wishing to use GOTS Signs in any capacity.

1.2.3 The conditions outlined in this document apply to diverse instances where GOTS Signs may be used, whether directly on products, product packaging, marketing materials, advertisements, e-commerce, or in other forms of communication. These conditions are binding and applicable to:

- Certified Entities (3.1)
- Registered Traders (3.2)
- Uncertified Entities (3.3)
- Certified Retailers (3.4)
- Uncertified Retailers (3.5)
- GOTS Approved Chemicals and Accessories (3.6)
- Approved Certification Bodies (3.7)

1.2.4 Compliance with this document is a prerequisite for any use of GOTS Signs and is integral to achieving conformance with the GOTS certification system, as outlined in the relevant Sections in GOTS, e.g., “Reference Documents”, and “GOTS Signs and Labelling Conditions”.

[2] This document was earlier issued as Conditions for the Use of GOTS Signs, sometimes abbreviated to CUGS.

1.3 Definitions

Terms	Details
Accompanying Labelling Information	Consists of three elements in the specified order: label grade, reference to the Approved Certification Body, and the Certification Number of the Certified Entity.
Approved Certification Body and Approved Certifier	A Certification Body, having been duly accredited by an Accreditation Body and by way of signing a contract with Global Standard gGmbH has been permitted to implement the Global Organic Textile Standard over a designated geographical area and for specific scopes of the Standard. An updated list of Approved Certification Bodies and their scopes is available at Global Standard home page (link).
Certified Entity	A processor, manufacturer, trader, or retailer involved in the production, handling, or distribution of certified products (GOTS Goods) and that has been officially certified by an Approved Certification Body. Excluding “registered traders” as per Section 3.2.
Combined products	Consumer products that are normally not classified as textile fibre products but containing textile fibre components, such as prams with textile fabrics, bassinets, car seats or furniture with textile fabric upholstery.
Facility	An individual establishment or site where processing, manufacturing, trading or retailing of GOTS Goods is done. It is operated by a Certified Entity and inspected by an Approved Certifier.
Global Standard gGmbH (Global Standard gemeinnützige GmbH; Global Standard non-profit GmbH)	Mission-driven, non-profit legal entity, operating voluntary sustainability standards. Mission: to ensure the highest level of social and environmental impact in textile value chains through voluntary sustainability standards and related activities.
GOTS Approved Accessories	Accessories (e.g. buttons, lace) approved under GOTS through the issuance of GOTS Letters of Approval by a GOTS Scope 1 certifier.
GOTS Approved Chemical Inputs	Chemical inputs (colourants, textile auxiliaries) approved under GOTS through the issuance of GOTS Letters of Approval by a GOTS Scope 4 certifier.
GOTS Goods	Textile goods (finished or intermediate) produced in compliance with GOTS (and properly labelled, as applicable) by a Certified Entity and certified by an Approved Certification Body.

GOTS Signs	Consists of = “Logo” + “Wordmark”, registered as a certification mark. The Logo: The Wordmark: “GOTS”
Labelling Release GOTS Goods	Document approved by a GOTS Approved Certification Body. Layouts are submitted to a GOTS Approved Certification Body by a Certified Entity, detailing how the GOTS Signs will be used on-product and/or off-product application to verify compliance with Conditions for the Use of GOTS Signs. The Labelling Release for GOTS Goods is a mandatory approval process that ensures the correct use of the GOTS Signs. Similarly, Labelling Release for GOTS Approved Colourant / Textile Auxiliaries / Accessories is a mandatory approval process that ensures the correct use of the GOTS Signs.
Letter of Approval (LoA)	Official document issued by a GOTS-approved Certification Body listing the approved chemical inputs or accessories for the use in GOTS Goods.
Off-Product Application of GOTS Signs	Refers to any application of the GOTS Signs outside of direct labelling of the certified textile product. This includes, but is not limited to, business documents, online shops, newsletters, marketing and advertising materials, corporate reports, and any other medium that communicates GOTS certification or GOTS-certified products. Examples of the above can be either in the printed version or electronic format e.g. printed newsletter / electronic newsletter.
On-Product Application of GOTS Signs	GOTS Signs applied on GOTS Goods in such a way that it is visible to the buyer / consignee in the textile supply chain and to the end consumer at the time of purchase (e.g. packaging material, hangtag and/or a (care) label).
Product Listing Page (PLP)	A page in e-commerce that displays a collection of products within a specific category or search results, helping users browse and filter options to find what they’re looking for.
Product Detail Page (PDP)	A page in e-commerce that provides detailed information about a specific product, including

	descriptions, images, pricing, and a "Buy Now" or "Add to Cart" option.
Retailer's Declaration for Use of GOTS Signs	Declaration document required to be submitted to Global Standard gGmbH by uncertified retailers who wish to use the GOTS Signs for off-product usage. Retailer Declaration for the Use of GOTS Signs form is accessible on the GOTS website under Downloads sections. Directions given in the document shall be followed. For the mandatory use of the Declaration by uncertified retailers, please refer to 3.5.6.
Scope Certificate (SC)	A document issued to a Certified Entity by an Approved Certification Body which verifies the entity is in conformity with the requirements of the Standard and includes a summary of the processes and products that are permitted under the certification. It also lists the various facilities that are covered under this certification.
Certification Number	A unique number issued to Certified Entities through the Global Trace-Base (GTB) database operated by Global Standard upon issuance of their first Scope Certificate. This Certification Number shall remain a permanent identification number for each Certified Entity, regardless of any change in Certification Body and/or gaps in certification status. The GTB issues separate Certification Numbers for each certification system or standard operated by Global Standard.
Trader	Entity trading with (=buying and selling) GOTS Goods in the supply chain between the producer of the fibre and the retail merchant of the final product regardless of whether the goods are physically received or not (e.g. an import, export or wholesale trading entity). Agents who do not become proprietors of the goods and retailers only selling to the end consumer are not considered Traders.
Transaction Certificate (TC)	A document issued by a GOTS-approved Certification Body for GOTS-certified products, verifying their compliance with the Standard. It provides traceability by listing product details, shipment information and confirming integrity through volume reconciliation process.
POS (Point of Sale) Materials	Any printed, digital, or physical promotional item, display, or communication placed at the point of purchase (such as retail stores, online checkouts, or trade counters) intended to inform, advertise, or promote products to consumers at the time of purchase decision-making.

1.4 Legal Compliance and Misuse Penalties

1.4.1 The entity making claims, whose name is associated with the product, whether on the product itself, its packaging, or in any other context, bears sole responsibility and liability for such claims. The claim maker shall ensure that all packaging, labelling, and accompanying information comply fully with applicable laws, regulations, and standards. Claims or statements referencing the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) shall be accurate, current at the time of publication, and substantiated where required.

1.4.2 This document does not constitute legal advice, nor do claims or labels made under the GOTS certification system serve as legal guarantees. Global Standard gGmbH accepts no liability for the legal consequences arising from the use of its certification system or related claims.

1.4.3 It is strongly advised that claim makers seek independent legal advice to ensure compliance with consumer protection laws and labelling requirements specific to each market. Such considerations fall beyond the scope of the GOTS certification system and this document. The GOTS label on certified consumer products is not intended and shall not replace international fibre content labelling requirements mandated by regulations.

1.4.4 Global Standard gGmbH reserves the right to pursue legal remedies for any unauthorised or misleading use of the GOTS Signs in product declarations, advertisements, catalogues, or other contexts[3].

1.4.5 Certified Entities shall recognise and uphold the ownership of Global Standard gGmbH to the GOTS Signs and must not impair these rights in any way. Should a Certified Entity initiate or threaten actions to cancel or challenge the validity of the GOTS Signs, Global Standard gGmbH reserves the right to terminate the entity's rights to use the signs without prior notice.

2 General Requirements for all Users

2.1 Accurate and Clear Use of GOTS Signs

2.1.1 The GOTS Signs shall be applied on GOTS Goods in such a way that they are visible to the buyer/consignee in the textile supply chain and to the end consumer at the time of purchase. Common methods of displaying GOTS signs on products include sewn-in labels (e.g. care labels), hangtags or on the final product packaging.

2.1.2 All users shall ensure that no confusion arises between GOTS-certified and uncertified products when using GOTS Signs.

2.1.3 All references to GOTS shall be contextually accurate and shall adhere to the design and wording specifications set in this document.

2.1.4 Users shall refer to Section 4 for on-product application of GOTS Signs and Section 5 for off-product application of GOTS Signs.

[3] Global Standard shall not be liable for any additional statements or claims and reserves the right to pursue appropriate actions caused by a misrepresentation of the GOTS label

2.2 Design and Wording Specifications

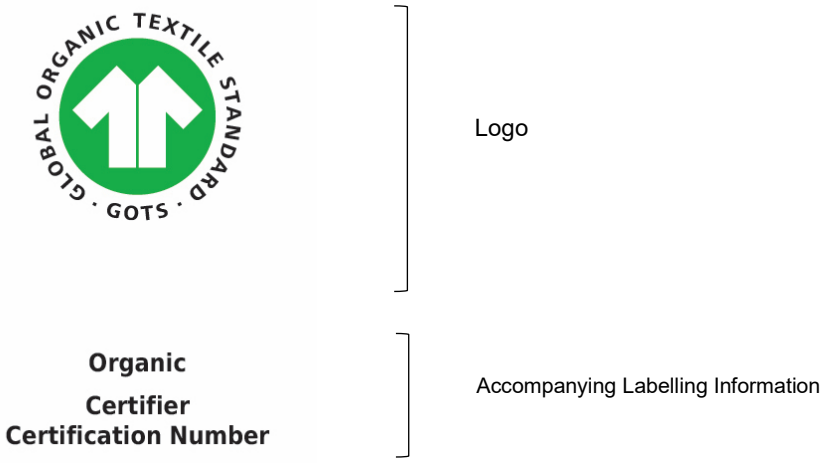
2.2.1 **The GOTS Signs** comprise two registered trademark elements: the GOTS logo and the wordmark “GOTS” as detailed in the following:

2.2.1.1 The “GOTS logo” refers to the registered pictorial mark, which includes the garment icon, the circle element, and the surrounding letters “Global Organic Textile Standard · GOTS ·”

2.2.1.2 The “wordmark” refers to the registered text-based mark that is “GOTS”.

2.2.1.3 GOTS logo shall always be displayed in a visible location, with a minimum diameter of 10 mm (approximately 0.39 inches). The proportions of the GOTS logo shall remain consistent when resizing, and the text "Global Organic Textile Standard GOTS" shall not be altered in any way.

2.2.2 **The Accompanying Labelling Information** shall include the label grade, the reference to the Approved Certification Body and the Certification Number of the Certified Entity.



2.2.3 The Accompanying Labelling Information shall include the following details:

- The label grade
- The reference to the Approved Certification Body
- The Certification Number of the Certified Entity

2.2.4 There are no specific requirements for the colour used to display the Accompanying Labelling Information (the label grade, the reference to the Approved Certification Body, and the Certification Number of the Certified Entity). However, the Accompanying Labelling Information text shall be:

- Be printed in the same colour, and
- "Frutiger Next Bold" font

2.2.5 The legibility of the Accompanying Labelling Information shall be ensured.

2.2.6 Alternative placement of the Accompanying Labelling Information:
The user may use alternative placement of the Accompanying Labelling Information but ensuring all requirements of labelling is satisfied (e.g. placing the information beside the logo). Labelling shall be placed in proximity of the GOTS product where it remains visible in direct relation to the product.

2.2.7 Design Options

2.2.7.1 Colour version

	Primary (preferred) option	Secondary option
Lettering 'Global Organic Textile Standard; GOTS'	Print: 100 % black RGB: 0 / 0 / 0 HEX: #000000 "Frutiger Next bold" font	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF "Frutiger Next bold" font
Lettering Background	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF or transparent (in the background colour of the medium), provided that the font remains legible	Print: 100 % black RGB: 0 / 0 / 0 HEX: #000000 or dark (in the background colour of the medium), provided that the font remains legible
Garment Symbol	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF
Circle Element	CMYK: 80 / 0 / 100 / 2 Pantone: 362 C (coated) HKS: 60 N (uncoated) RGB: 63 / 156 / 53 HEX: #3F9C35	CMYK: 80 / 0 / 100 / 2 Pantone: 362 C (coated) HKS: 60 N (uncoated) RGB: 63 / 156 / 53 HEX: #3F9C35

2.2.7.2 Black and White Option

Lettering 'Global Organic Textile Standard; GOTS'	Print: 100 % black RGB: 0 / 0 / 0 HEX: #000000 "Frutiger Next bold" font
Lettering Background	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF
Garment Symbol	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF
Circle Element	Print: 100 % black RGB: 0 / 0 / 0 HEX: #000000

2.2.7.3 Monochrome Option

	Primary (preferred) option	Secondary option	
		For dark coloured back-grounds where Primary option will be illegible (such as black):	For light colours where Primary option will be illegible (such as shades of green):
All elements (Lettering, garment symbol and circle element)	CMYK: 80 / 0 / 100 / 2 Pantone: 362 C (coated) HKS: 60 N (uncoated) RGB: 63 / 156 / 53 HEX: #3F9C35	Print: 100 % white RGB: 255 / 255 / 255 HEX: #FFFFFF	Print: 100 % black RGB: 0 / 0 / 0 HEX: #000000

Note 1: The Approved Certification Bodies have available template files of the GOTS Signs in different formats for their Certified Entities.

3 User Specific Requirements

3.1 Certified Entities

3.1.1 This section outlines the general requirements for Certified Entities, which include processors, manufacturers, and traders.

3.1.2 For specific requirements applicable to certified retailers, refer to Section 3.4.

3.1.3 Certified Entities shall ensure they are certified by a GOTS Approved Certification Body.

3.1.4 Certified Entities shall keep full records for each client that receives GOTS Goods, including lists of all products, their specifications and quantities and shall make this information available for inspection by the Approved Certification Body.

3.1.5 Certified Entities shall obtain a "Labelling Release for GOTS Goods" from their Approved Certification Body before applying GOTS Signs.

3.1.6 The GOTS Signs shall always be used as specified in Section 2 of this document.

3.1.7 Certified Entities selling GOTS Goods (whether semi-finished or finished) within the supply chain shall ensure that the buyer holds a valid GOTS Scope Certificate, provided the buyer is an entity required to be mandatorily certified (e.g. manufacturer, processor, Trader[4]) in accordance with GOTS criteria[5].

3.2 Registered Traders

3.2.1 Traders whose annual turnover from GOTS-Goods is below €20,000 are exempt from certification obligation, provided they do not engage in activities such as repacking, relabelling, or any other forms of processing. Such traders engaged in the trading activity of GOTS Goods, whose annual turnover from certified goods is below €20,000 shall register with a GOTS Approved Certification Body.

3.2.2 Since Registered Traders are not certified they cannot apply for labelling release of GOTS Goods. They may ask their suppliers to share a copy of their form, ‘Labelling Release for GOTS Goods‘.

3.2.3 Registration Number cannot replace Certification Number on the GOTS Label.

3.3 Uncertified Entities

3.3.1 Uncertified processors, manufacturers, Traders shall not use GOTS Signs or make any claims referring to GOTS.

[4] GOTS requires Traders to obtain certification. However, based on their annual turnover of GOTS-certified goods, a „’registration’ is required instead of certification. Traders are exempt from certification provided that their annual turnover from GOTS-certified goods does not exceed €20,000, and that they do not engage in activities such as repacking, relabelling, or any other forms of processing of these GOTS-certified products. However, such traders are required to be registered through a GOTS Approved Certification Body. See Section 3.2 in this document.

[5] Section 2.2.1 in GOTS Standard “Processors, manufacturers, and traders of GOTS Goods shall become GOTS Certified Entities.”

3.3.2 A product can be labelled or referenced as GOTS-certified only if the entire processing supply chain of the GOTS Good is certified, including all stages through the final product and encompassing the B2B trade level.

3.3.3 Uncertified processors, manufacturers, Traders supplying semi-finished (e.g. yarn) GOTS Goods cannot label, advertise, present or (re)sell these input materials further as certified products.

3.4 Certified Retailers

3.4.1 In cases where the labelling on GOTS Goods includes the certified retailer's information – Certification Number and the reference to the certifier - the certified retailer shall request, receive and maintain Transaction Certificates for the shipment of such goods.

3.4.2 In cases where the labelling on the GOTS Good includes the information of the immediate supplier or manufacturer – Certification Number and reference to the certifier - the certified retailer may request, receive and maintain Transaction Certificates for the shipment of such goods.

3.4.3 Certified Retailers shall display complete GOTS labelling on products to reference GOTS in product-level claims.

3.4.4 Certified Retailers shall ensure that GOTS-certified goods sold in retail are labelled and advertised correctly.

3.4.5 For on-product application of the GOTS Signs, specifications in Section 4 shall always be followed.

3.4.6 For off-product applications of the GOTS Signs and claims, specifications and exemptions given in Section 5 shall always be followed.

3.4.7 If Certified Retailers provide label designs, they shall obtain approval using the "Labelling Release for GOTS Goods" form through their certified supplier and the responsible Certification Body.

3.5 Uncertified Retailers

3.5.1 Uncertified Retailers may request and obtain Transaction Certificates for the shipment of GOTS-certified goods from their certified supplier.

3.5.2 Uncertified retailers shall display complete GOTS labelling on products to reference GOTS in product-level claims.

3.5.3 The use of GOTS Signs on GOTS goods sold at retail is mandatory to ensure compliance with product-level claims and to be able to reference GOTS.

3.5.4 Uncertified Retailers shall ensure that GOTS-certified goods sold in retail are labelled and advertised correctly.

3.5.5 For on-product application of the GOTS Signs, specifications in Section 4 shall always be followed.

3.5.6 For the off-product application of the GOTS Signs and claims, uncertified retailers shall read, sign and email the “Retailer’s Declaration for the Use of GOTS Signs”[6] to Global Standard.

3.5.7 For off-product applications of the GOTS Signs and claims, specifications given in Section 5 shall always be followed.

3.6 GOTS Approved Chemicals and Accessories

3.6.1 Producers, suppliers or traders of chemicals shall obtain official approval by securing a GOTS Letter of Approval (LoA) from a GOTS Scope 4 Certification Body prior to promoting their products as "GOTS approved” or, more specifically, as “GOTS approved inputs” (dyestuff, washing agent etc.).

3.6.2 Producers, suppliers or traders of accessories (e.g. sewing thread, button) can obtain official approval by securing a GOTS Letter of Approval (LoA) from a GOTS Scope 1 Certification Body prior to promoting their products as "GOTS approved” or, more specifically, as “GOTS approved accessories".

3.6.3 For the correct use of GOTS Signs for Approved Chemical Inputs and Accessories, refer to Section 5.5.

3.6.4 GOTS-approved chemical inputs or accessories shall not be presented, labelled, or marketed as "GOTS certified".

3.6.5 Producers, suppliers or traders of GOTS-approved chemical inputs or accessories shall limit the use of GOTS Signs to advertising and informative purposes only (e.g. on booths, websites, catalogues, see section Sections 5.3.8 and 5.4.5.).

3.6.6 Producers, suppliers or traders of GOTS-approved chemical inputs or accessories shall not use the GOTS Signs directly on approved products, product packaging, product technical specifications or Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

3.6.7 Producers, suppliers or traders of GOTS-approved chemical inputs can only use GOTS Signs for those products listed on the GOTS Positive List and contained in a valid GOTS Letter of Approval.

3.7 Approved Certification Bodies

3.7.1 Approved Certification Bodies shall use GOTS Signs on GOTS Scope Certificates and Transaction Certificates in accordance with the corresponding GOTS procedures and templates.

3.7.2 Approved Certification Bodies shall review and approve all intended uses of GOTS Signs by all Certified Entities, both on-product and off-product uses, via the "Labelling Release for GOTS Goods" form and "Labelling Release for GOTS Approved Colourants / Textile Auxiliaries / Accessories " form.

3.7.3 Approved Certification Bodies may use GOTS Signs on their websites and other advertising materials (flyers, brochures, digital media, email signatures, etc.) as a GOTS approved Certification Body.

[6] Retailer Declaration for the Use of GOTS Signs form is accessible on the GOTS website under the Downloads sections.

4 Requirements for On-Product Application of GOTS Signs

4.1 Eligibility for On-Product Labelling Application of GOTS Signs

4.1.1 As a precondition, the use of GOTS Signs on-product shall be permitted only if all processors, manufacturers, and Traders involved in the supply chain of the GOTS Good shall be certified and hold a valid GOTS Scope Certificate.

4.1.1.1 (Re)packing, (re)labelling activities shall be considered processing steps that require mandatory certification.

4.1.1.2 Cutting GOTS-certified fabric before sale to either a final or to another business entity is a processing activity and shall be certified.

Example 1:

An online vendor purchases GOTS-certified organic cotton fabric in large rolls. The vendor cuts the fabric into smaller pieces (e.g., 1 meter or 2-meter pieces) and sells it online to other businesses or to end users. Since cutting is a processing activity, the vendor must be GOTS-certified to sell cut fabric as GOTS. Therefore, the seller must have GOTS certification for this step to legally label or market the fabric as GOTS-certified.

4.1.2 Misrepresentation of GOTS certification based on the partial certification shall not be permitted:

4.1.2.1 If GOTS certification applies only to intermediate materials (e.g., yarn, fabric) of a final textile product, then the product cannot bear GOTS Signs, and no claims or reference can be given to GOTS (e.g. no link to GOTS website).

4.1.2.2 If only a specific component (e.g. lining) of a final textile product (e.g. jacket), then the final product cannot bear GOTS Signs, and no claim or reference can be given to GOTS (e.g. no link to GOTS website).

4.1.2.3 If only some steps of processing (e.g. only spinning, only weaving) and trading chain of a product are certified to GOTS, then the product cannot bear GOTS Signs and no claims or reference can be given to GOTS (e.g. no link to GOTS website).

Example 2:

A garment manufacturer is supplied GOTS-certified fabric, but the garment manufacturer is not GOTS certified. The final garment cannot carry a GOTS label or be marketed as GOTS-certified.

a. A jacket is manufactured using a GOTS-certified organic cotton lining, but the outer material (shell) is not GOTS-certified. The seller of the jacket cannot use GOTS signs, or make claim that the jacket is GOTS-certified.

b. A Certified Entity sources GOTS-certified fabric for T-shirts but involves uncertified traders and dyehouses. The T-shirt cannot be labelled with GOTS signs or be advertised as a GOTS-certified product.

4.2 Authorisation for Application of GOTS Signs On-product Labelling

4.2.1 Use of the GOTS Signs shall only be permitted with explicit approval through the “Labelling Release for GOTS Goods” issued by an Approved Certification Body.

4.2.2 Buyers of GOTS Goods who are required to participate in the GOTS certification scheme, as outlined in GOTS criteria[7], but are not certified themselves shall not present, advertise or (re)sell certified products using GOTS Signs - whether further processed or not.

4.3 Mandatory Labelling for On-Product Applications

4.3.1 Final GOTS Goods shall carry complete and accurate labelling.

4.3.2 Labelling of GOTS Goods shall always include the following mandatory elements:

a. The GOTS logo (see 2.2.1.1)

b. The accompanying labelling information (see 2.2.1.3):

- The label grade
- The reference to the Approved Certification Body
- The Certification Number of the Certified Entity

4.3.3 The term “Global Organic Textile Standard” shall always and only be used in English.

4.3.4 The Label Grade: The applicable grades shall be displayed, based on percentage of the certified content as outlined in GOTS[8]. In case the certified material is “in-conversion” this shall be specified:

- "organic" or "organic in-conversion"
- "made with (x%)[9] organic materials" or "made with (x%) organic in-conversion materials".

4.3.5 Instead of ‘organic’ or ‘organic in-conversion’, the equivalent terms in the language of the country in which the goods are sold may be used.

4.3.6 The Certification Number of the certified entity shall be displayed on the labelling of a certified good.

4.3.7 In cases where the retailer is not certified, the Certification Number displayed on the labelling shall be that of the last certified entity involved with the certified goods.

4.3.8 The GOTS Signs shall be applied on GOTS Goods in such a way that it is visible to the buyer / consignee along the certified supply chain and to the end consumer at the time of purchase.

4.3.9 GOTS on-product signs can be placed on the product in the form of sewn-in label, care label, hangtag and/or print on the product packaging.

[7] See section 2.2.1 in GOTS Standard

[8] See section 2.7.5 and section 2.7.6 in GOTS Standard

[9] Percentage is an optional detail and if not specified shall be removed.

4.4 Labelling Examples for On-Product Applications

4.4.1 GOTS establishes two labelling grades based on the verified percentage of certified organic material in a product: “Organic” and “Made with organic materials”

4.4.2 In cases where organic in-conversion fibres are used, the labelling grade shall explicitly specify the material status in accordance with the standard.

4.4.3 "Organic" or "Organic in-conversion" label grades shall contain no less than 95% (≥ 95%) certified fibre content (excluding Accessories)

4.4.4 "Made with (x%) organic materials" or "Made with (x%) Organic in-conversion materials" label grades shall contain no less than 70% (≥70%) certified fibre content (excluding Accessories)

4.4.5 GOTS Goods which are eligible for “Organic” label grade under GOTS certification shall be marked as follows:

- Labelling Example 1

Using 95 - 100% organic fibres

or

Using 95 - 100% organic in-conversion fibres

4.4.6 GOTS Goods which are eligible for “made with organic materials” label grade under GOTS certification shall be marked as follows:

- Labelling Example 2

Using 70 - 94% organic fibres

or

Using 70 - 94% organic in-conversion fibres

*May be omitted

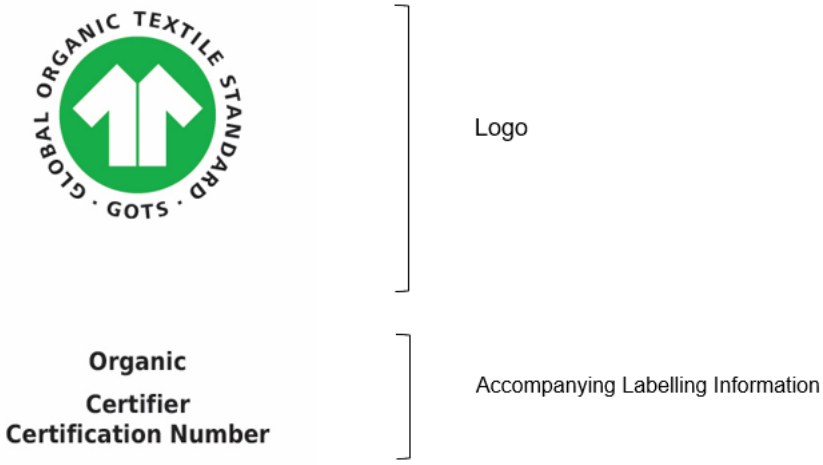
4.4.7 For Combined Products with specific certified components (as defined in Section 1.3) shall be marked as follows:

- Labelling Example 3

*May be omitted

4.5 Use of the GOTS Signs in the GOTS-certified Supply Chain for Intermediate Products

4.5.1 Certified processors may apply GOTS Signs (logo, wordmark) as well as accompanying labelling information) on intermediate products (e.g., yarn packs, fabric rolls) within the supply chain for identification and segregation. This allowance is limited to products that are transferred between certified supply chain partners and does not extend to consumer-facing labelling.



5 Requirements for Off-Product Application of GOTS Signs

5.1 Use of GOTS Signs on Websites/Online Stores

5.1.1 References to product-level GOTS Signs may be displayed on websites or online stores only if the product is fully certified and includes complete on-product labelling.

5.1.2 A website / online store that sells both GOTS certified and uncertified goods shall display the GOTS Signs only on the product detail page(s) where the product is fully certified and carries a GOTS label.

5.1.3 On a product listing page where only a certain number of products are GOTS certified, the GOTS Signs shall only be placed next to these certified products. See example number 5.

5.1.4 All information displayed on websites/online stores shall accurately reflect the on-product labelling details.

5.1.5 Uncertified and unlabelled products shall not be presented in any manner that could imply an association with GOTS Signs or certification.

5.1.6 For Product Listing Pages the following requirements shall be followed for displaying the GOTS logo (as described in 2.2.1.1):

- The GOTS logo shall be displayed exclusively in direct association with the certified product,
- The product detail page for each listed product shall contain the complete accompanying labelling information (label grade, a reference to the Certification Body, the Certification Number of the Certified Entity, as described in Section 2.2.1.3).

5.1.7 For Product Detail Pages, GOTS Signs (the logo and the wordmark), may be used as long as the final product is GOTS-certified and carries complete and correct GOTS labelling.

5.1.8 On product detail pages, whenever a statement or claim is made regarding GOTS (e.g., “GOTS certified product”), the use of the GOTS Sign shall be displayed.

5.1.9 The GOTS Signs shall be displayed clearly and only in association with certified products, including the accompanying labelling information (label grade, a reference to Certification Body, the Certification Number of the Certified Entity).

5.1.10 Product detail pages may display the organic fibre content in the accompanying labelling information e.g., “98% Organic material”; “95% Organic wool fibre”, even if the on-product labelling does not specify the percentage.

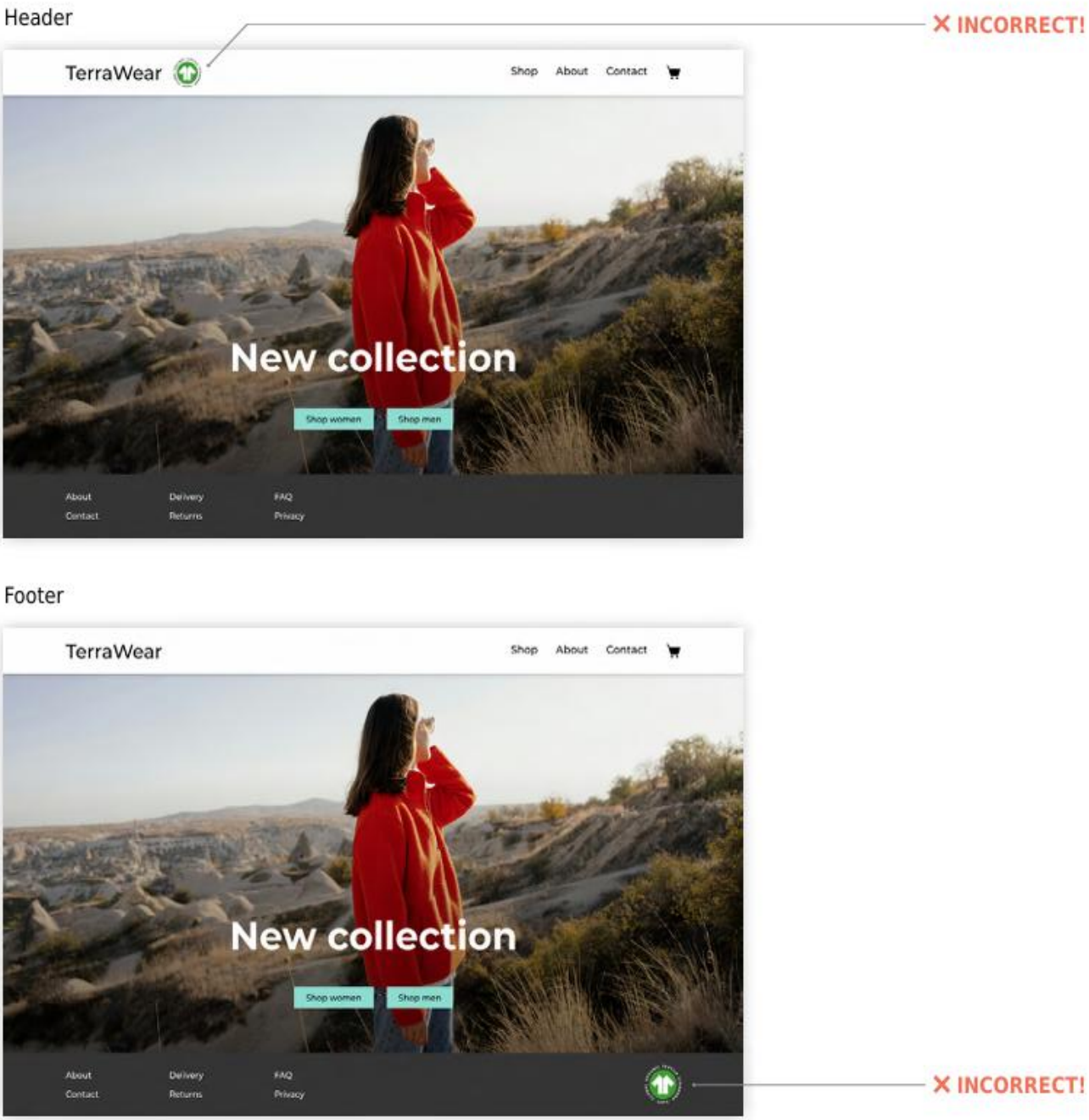
5.1.11 For the product detail page, in the case of a certified retailer, the reference to their Certification Body and Certification Number may be omitted for each certified product, provided that the certified retailer ensures that this information is clearly communicated and easily accessible on their official website.

5.1.12 GOTS Signs (the logo and the wordmark) in headers and footers shall not be used on the webpages (see example number 4).

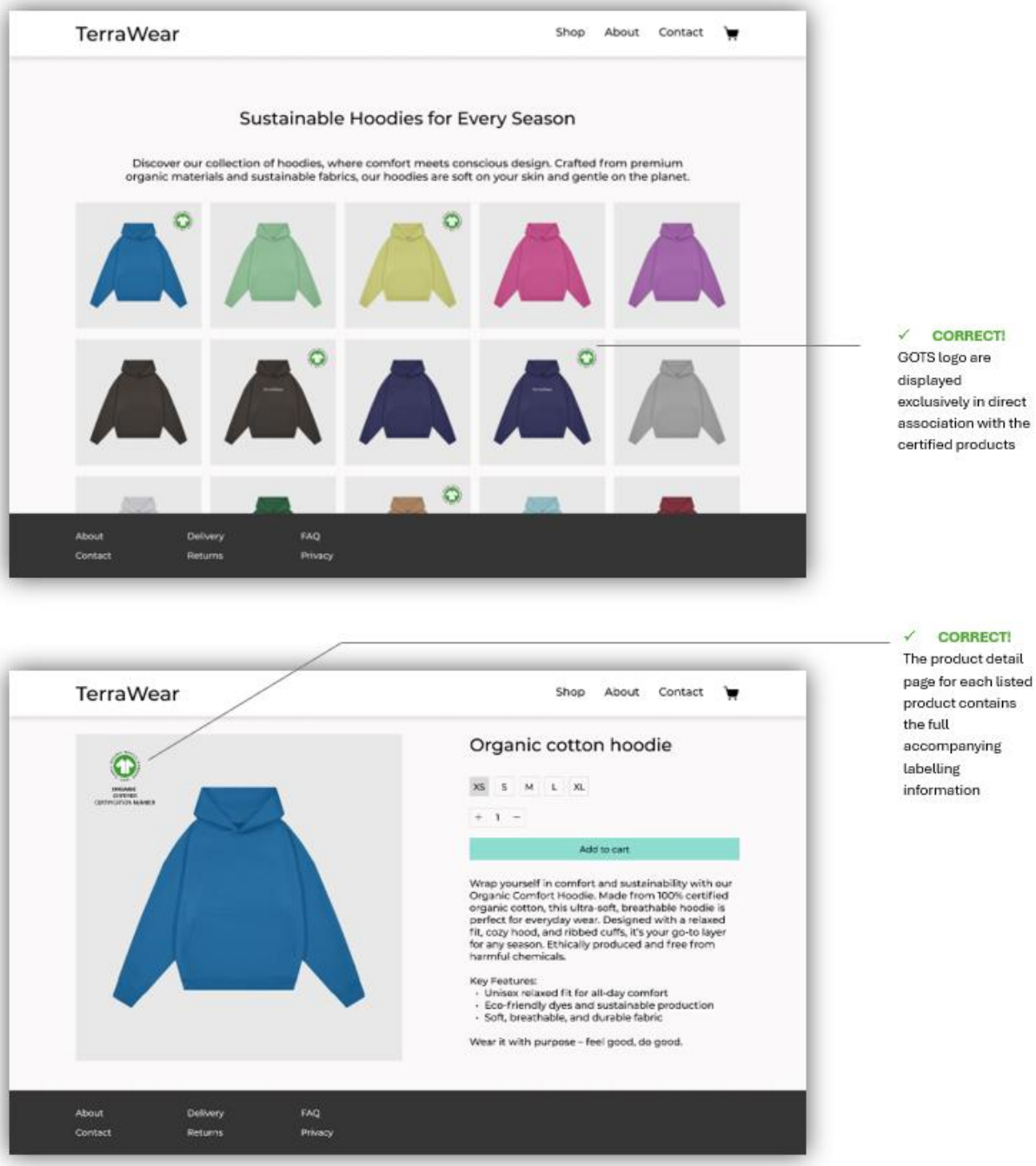
5.1.13 GOTS logo (as described in 2.2.1.1) on landing pages, company information pages, and similar contexts may be used, provided that the following criteria are met:

- A correct and accurate statement describing GOTS scheme shall be included
- An explanatory statement such as "We offer GOTS-certified products, which are labelled separately" shall be provided to ensure clarity
- The GOTS logo (2.2.1.1), shall be displayed together with a reference to the Certification Body and Certification Number of the certified entity

- Labelling Example 4.

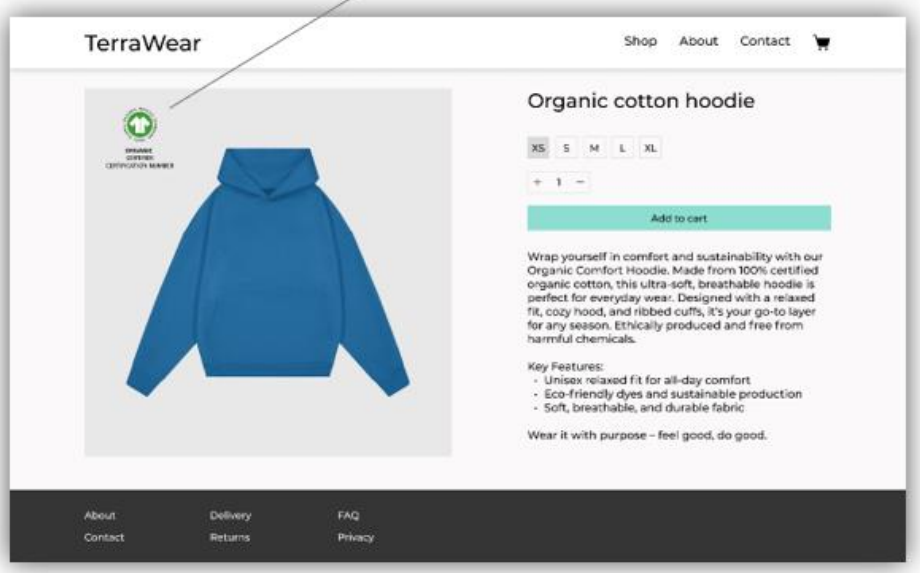


- Labelling Example 5.

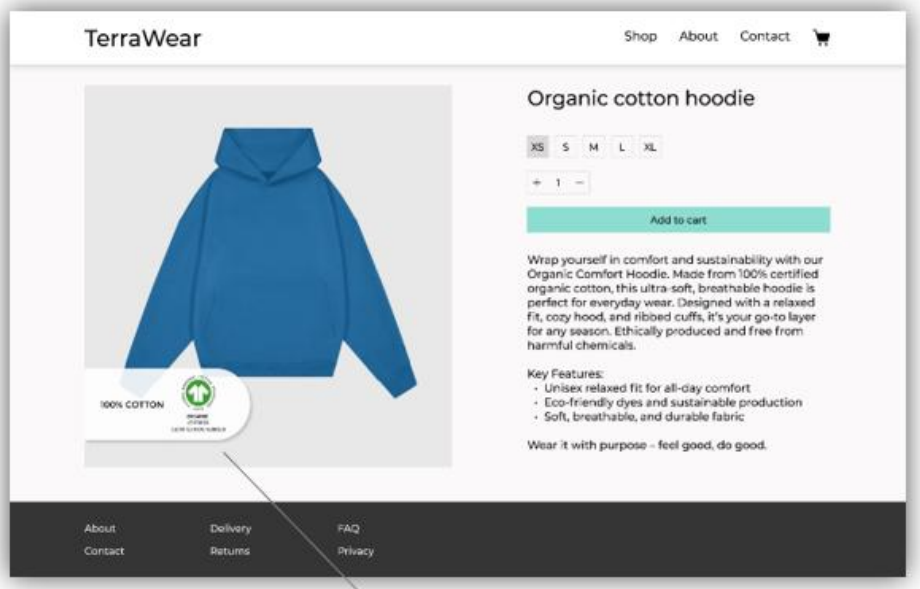


- Labelling Example 6

Product Detail page

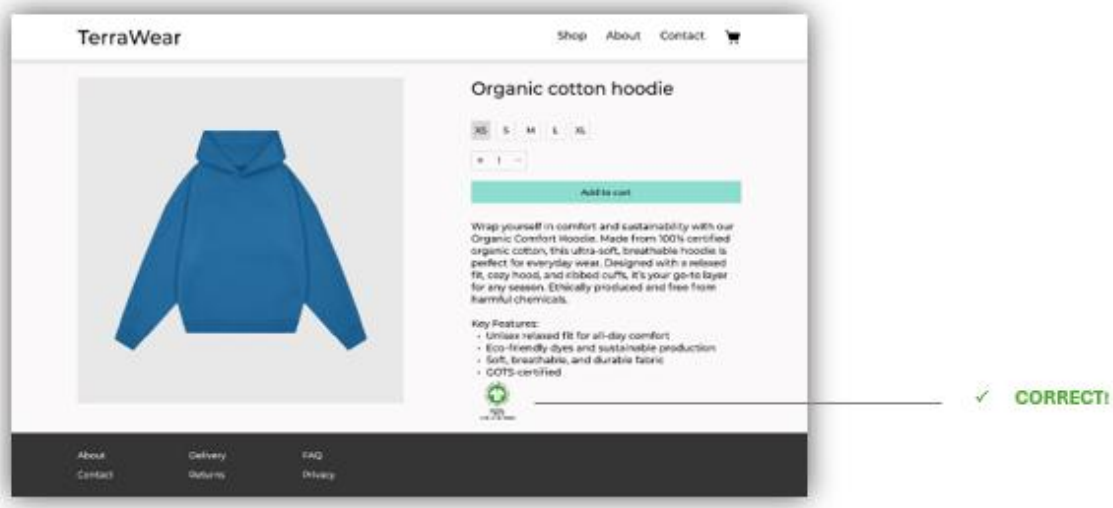


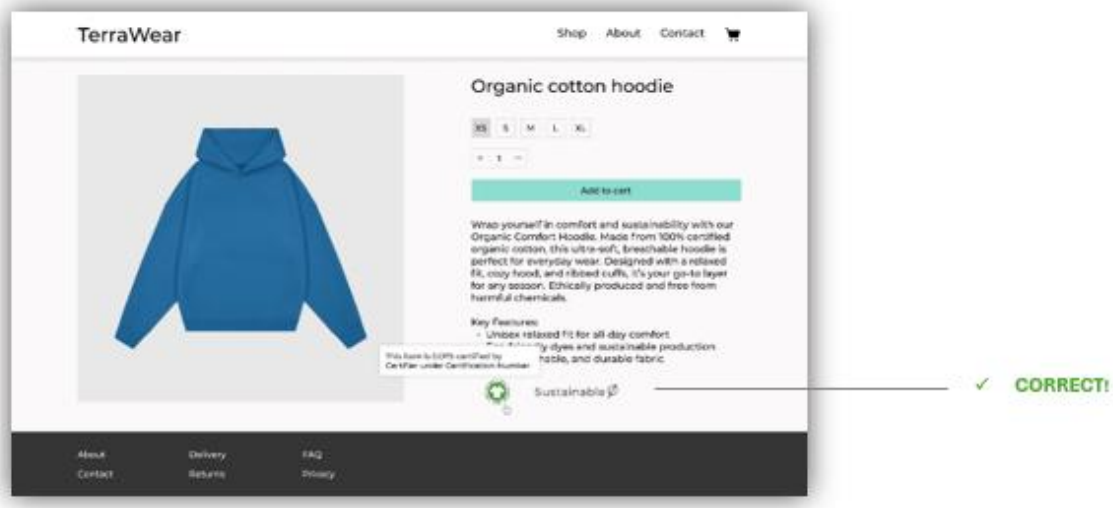
✓ **CORRECT!**
Product detail page shall display the GOTS logo and ensure that accompanying labelling information is easily accessible and clearly readable

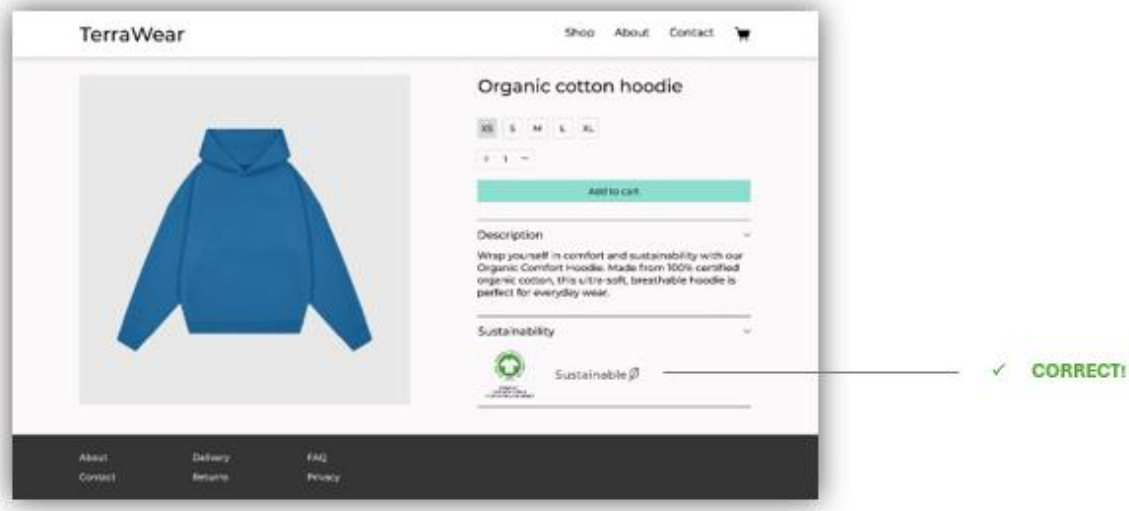


✓ **CORRECT!**

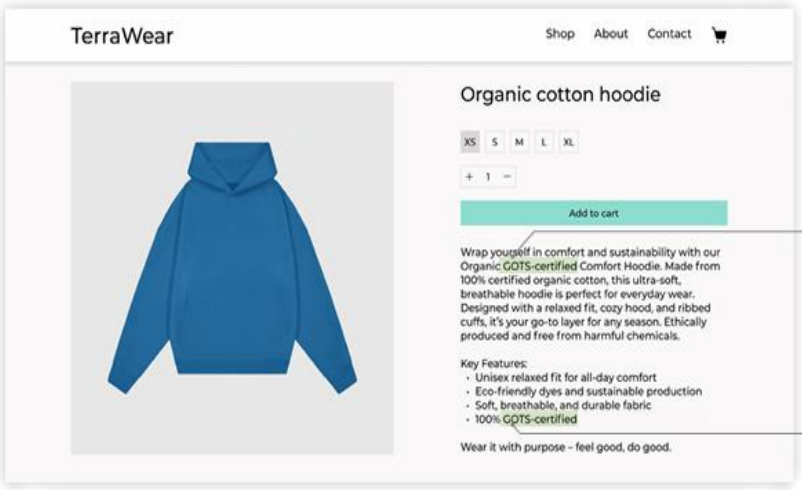
- Labelling Example 7



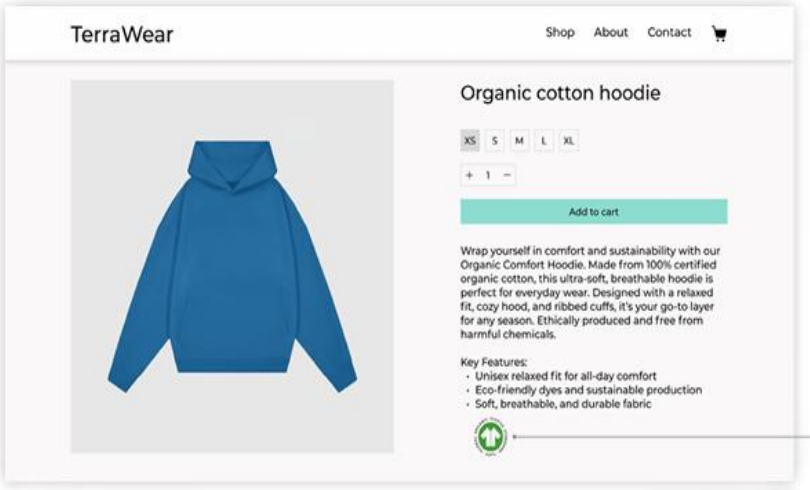




- Labelling Example 8



✕ INCORRECT!
Only claims to GOTS without correct labelling using Trademark "GOTS" without logo.



✕ INCORRECT!
Only logo use without correct labelling.

5.2 Use of GOTS Signs in Digital Media (social media, newsletters, email signatures, etc.)

5.2.1 GOTS Signs, the GOTS logo and the wordmark (as described in 2.2.1) shall be utilised in digital media solely in connection with GOTS-certified products or to represent the certified status of the entity. Such usage shall not mislead or imply certification of non-GOTS products or entities. Any claim relating to GOTS certification, whether for a product or an entity, shall be verifiable by interested parties.

5.2.2 For the promotion of GOTS-certified products in digital media (e.g., social media posts, online advertisements, newsletters), the GOTS logo may be used in the content without the Accompanying Labelling Information, provided that the product detail page or equivalent digital platform shall include all required accompanying labelling information (2.2.1.3).

5.2.3 For the representation of a certified entity's GOTS-certified status, the digital content (e.g., email signature) may include the GOTS logo provided that the reference to the Certification Body and the Certification Number of the Certified Entity is specified as accompanying labelling information.

5.2.4 Accompanying labelling information, where used in a digital content, may or may not be placed in close proximity to the GOTS logo , e.g. it may be placed as a footnote.

5.2.5 Under no circumstances shall GOTS Signs be used in a manner that could mislead or imply certification of non-GOTS products.

5.3 Use of GOTS Signs in Print Media (POS, catalogues, investor relations reports, etc.)

5.3.1 The GOTS logo shall be used in print media only when it is directly associated with GOTS-certified products, and where images of those certified products are displayed.

5.3.2 The GOTS logo may also be used in print materials such as annual reports, investor reports, and similar publications to indicate the organisation's trade in GOTS-certified goods, provided that its use does not mislead readers into assuming that all products in the organisation's portfolio are GOTS certified (where this is not the case).

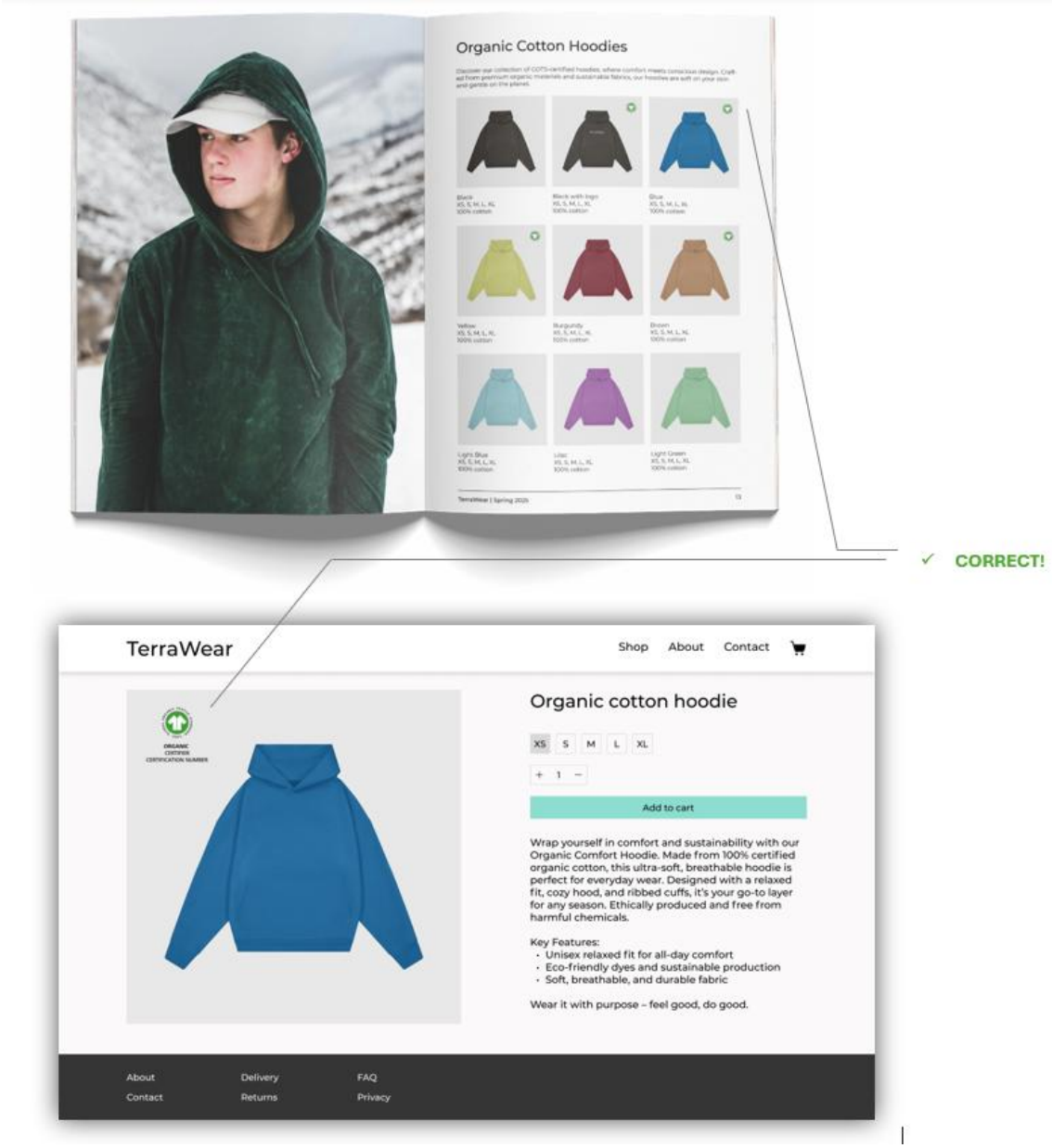
5.3.3 GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) may be included in investor relations reports to highlight the entity's GOTS certification. Such usage shall include a reference to the Certification Body and the Certification Number of the certified entity as accompanying labelling information and shall

include a statement such as: "We offer GOTS-certified products, which are labelled separately," where appropriate.

5.3.4 Each usage of the GOTS logo on print media shall be accompanied by accurate labelling information (label grade, reference to Certification Body and Certification Number of the Certified Entity, as described in Section 2.2.1.3) consistent with the on-product labelling information.

5.3.5 The accompanying labelling information (Section 2.2.1.3) may be omitted on print media provided that an accessible online channel (e.g., online store) displays the full labelling information for the specific products.

- Labelling Example 9



5.3.6 Accompanying labelling information, where used in a print media, may or may not be placed in close proximity to the GOTS logo. e.g. it may be placed as footnote.

5.3.7 If a printed catalogue contains both GOTS-certified and non-certified items, the GOTS logo shall not be used generically. A clarifying statement shall be included, such as: "We offer GOTS-certified products, which are marked individually/separately."

5.3.8 The GOTS logo (as described in 2.2.1.1) may be displayed on stationery, including business cards, letterheads, and similar printed materials, solely to signify a Certified Entity's certified status. All stationery displaying the GOTS logo shall include a reference to the Certification Body and Certification Number of the Certified Entity, as described in Section 2.2.1.3.

5.3.9 Under no circumstances shall the GOTS Signs be used in a manner that could mislead or imply certification of products or operations that are not GOTS-certified.

5.3.10 Usage of GOTS Signs on print media (e.g. catalogues) for GOTS-approved chemical or accessory products (5.5) shall be accompanied by the accurate labelling information as described in Section 5.5.3. If a printed catalogue contains both GOTS-approved and non-approved items, GOTS Signs shall not be used generically. A clarifying statement shall be included, such as: "We offer GOTS-approved products, which are marked individually/separately."

5.3.11 GOTS Approved Consultants may use the GOTS signs only in an appropriate and unambiguous context, such as for informative and advertising purposes on their stationery and visiting cards, further specified in their contract documents in the following manner.

5.3.12 Other relevant design specifications such as fonts and colours stated elsewhere in this document shall always be followed. In all cases, the lettering shall remain readable.

5.4 Use of GOTS Signs in Various Other Media Forms (Tradeshow booths and backdrops, educational publications, media reports etc.)

5.4.1 POS materials may feature GOTS Signs only if they are used to promote GOTS-certified goods. All such materials shall comply with GOTS labelling requirements and clearly distinguish certified products from non-certified ones. Where non-certified goods are also present, a clarifying statement, such as "We offer GOTS-certified products, which are marked /labelled individually/separately," shall be included.

5.4.2 GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) may be included in investor relations reports to highlight the entity's GOTS certification. Such usage shall include a reference to the Certification Body and the Certification Number of the certified entity as accompanying labelling information and shall include a statement such as: "We offer GOTS-certified products, which are labelled separately," where appropriate.

5.4.3 GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) may be used in banners, displays, and marketing materials at trade shows exclusively to promote an entity's certified status, services or certified products. In circumstances where non-certified items are also showcased, a clarifying statement, such as "We offer GOTS-certified products/services, which are marked / labelled individually/separately," shall be prominently displayed.

5.4.4 GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) may be used in banners, displays, and marketing materials by uncertified B2C retailers at trade shows exclusively to promote certified products. In circumstances where non-certified items are also showcased, a clarifying statement, such as "We offer GOTS-certified products/services, which are marked / labelled individually/separately," shall be prominently displayed.

5.4.5 GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) may be used in banners or displays at trade show booths by formulators/traders of GOTS approved chemicals or by the manufacturers of the GOTS approved accessories, exclusively to promote approved products. In circumstances where non-approved products are also showcased, a clarifying statement, such as "We offer GOTS approved chemical inputs/accessories which are indicated individually/separately", shall be prominently displayed.

5.4.6 Universities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and media entities may use GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) solely for informational and educational purposes, provided that all content accurately represents the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and its certification requirements. All usage shall be confined to non-commercial, educational contexts, such as academic presentations, NGO advocacy, or journalistic reporting, and any commercial promotion or unauthorised association shall be strictly prohibited.

5.4.7 Certified retailers may use GOTS Signs (see 2.2.1) in media communications to promote their upcoming collections, provided that the media content features items from the collection that are GOTS certified and the accompanying labelling information (a reference to the Certification Body and the Certification Number of the certified entity) shall be included in the communication to ensure transparency and compliance. This additional information may be displayed either in close proximity to the GOTS Signs or elsewhere within the media outlet, such as in a footnote or through a hyperlink directing to a website where the information belonging to the certified retailer is accessible.

5.5 Use of GOTS Signs for GOTS Approved Colourants / Textile Auxiliaries / Accessories

5.5.1 GOTS Signs, the GOTS logo and the wordmark, (as described in 2.2.1) shall not be directly used on an approved product, product packaging, product technical specifications or Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

5.5.2 GOTS Signs may only be used for off-product applications for GOTS Approved Colourants / Textile Auxiliaries / Accessories and only for advertising and informative purposes.

5.5.3 The following labelling instructions shall be followed, and the Accompanying Labelling Information shall be included in the labelling:

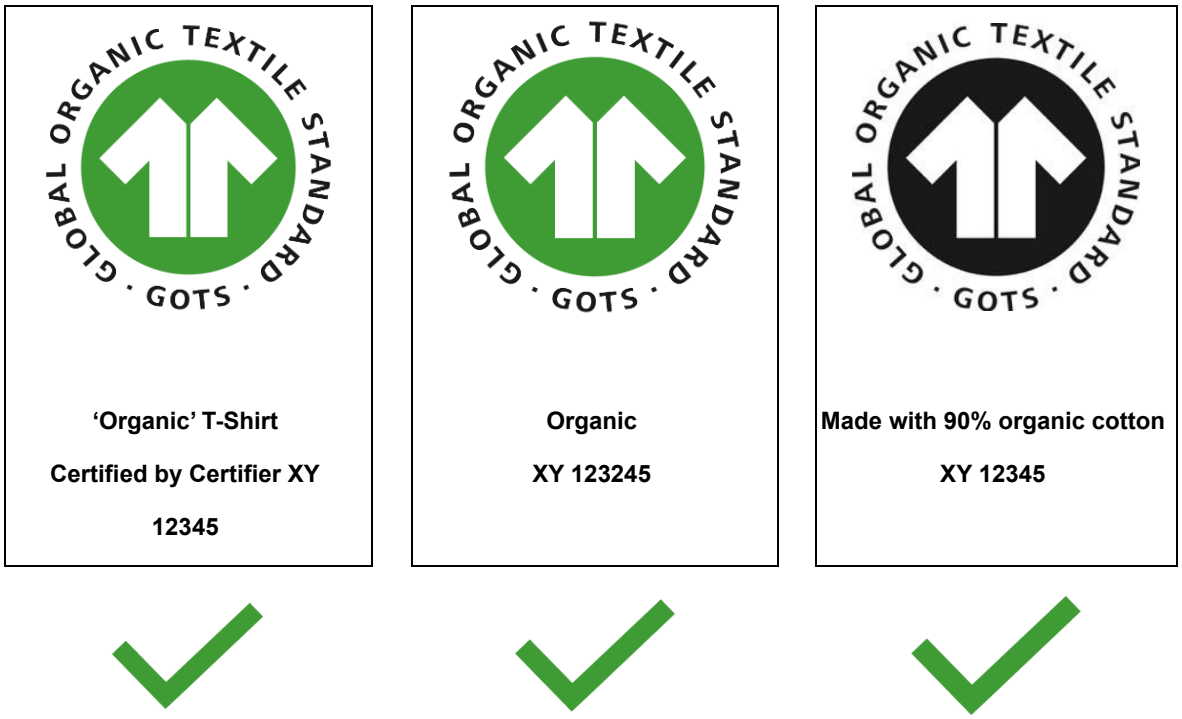
- "GOTS Approved" or "GOTS Approved Inputs" (e.g. dyestuff, washing agent) or "GOTS Approved Accessory" (e.g. sewing thread, button).
- A reference to the Certification Body that approved the product.

☐ Approval number

5.5.4 Section 3.5.7 shall be followed.

5.5.5 For off-product applications of the GOTS Signs please refer to Sections 5.3.10 and 5.4.5.

6 APPENDIX:
Examples of correct and incorrect labelling applications.



Product name can be added to the label grade

Shortest label option allowed: "certified by" and "certifier" can be removed. Reference to certifier can be part of the Certification Number.

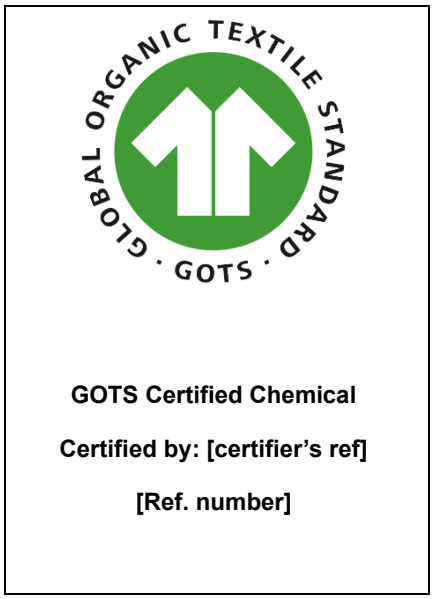
Black and White version of logo is permitted. Label grade "made with …' may have exact percentage of organic materials

‘100% Organic’ is not permitted as a label grade. Reference to certifier is missing

Text is not easily readable due to background colour

Old GOTS logo.

Label grade should be ‘Made with 70% organic cotton/materials”.



Chemical inputs or accessories are not certified to GOTS. They are “approved” under GOTS.

Supplemental Documents

Together with this document, additional documents are provided

- Labelling Release form for GOTS Goods

Labelling_Release_Fo
rm_for_GOTS_Goods

Labelling_Release_Fo
rm_for_GOTS_Goods

- Labelling Release Form for GOTS Approved Colourants / Textile Auxiliaries / Accessories

Labelling_Release_Fo
rm_for_GOTS_Approv

Labelling_Release_F
orm_for_GOTS_Appr

- Retailer Declaration for the Use of Signs - GOTS

Retailer Declaration
for the Use of Signs -

Retailer Declaration
for the Use of Signs

- Change Log - CUS-GOTS 3.1 to 4.0

Change Log -
CUS-GOTS 3.1 to 4.0.

Please note that the attachments might require the use of Adobe Acrobat Reader which can be obtained free of charge from the Adobe homepage https://get.adobe.com/reader/oTherversions/