



Textiles - Guide to Certification (OCS)

Who must be certified?

If you're processing, manufacturing, packing, labelling, trading and distributing Organic Content Standard (OCS) goods, you must apply for certification according to the OCS in order to make use of the OCS logo and benefit from certified organic claims. If your only involvement with OCS certified products is selling directly to the end consumer, you do not need certification, but it will help verify your organic credentials; if you wish to use the Soil Association logo - the UK's most widely recognised organic logo - you'll need to be certified by Soil Association Certification.

Farming projects that want to produce organic fibre cannot apply for OCS certification, but for certification to organic farming standards (s.a. EEC 834/2007 or USDA NOP) or any other organic standard that's approved in the IFOAM Family of Standards.

How long does certification take?

We advise applicants to allow between 8 and 12 weeks from the start of your application, but the more detail and more promptly you can respond, the shorter the time it takes to complete the process. Please let us know if you're working towards a specific deadline and we'll do our best to help you meet it. Please factor in an additional 3-4 weeks if your operations are outside of the UK. Your certification expiry date will be 12 months from the beginning of the application process. We'll be in touch with you ahead of your certification renewal date to take you through the renewal process.

How do I work out the cost of certification?

When you request your application pack, we'll send you a fee sheet to help calculate your fees for Year 1 and beyond. Please note: there is an application fee that only relates to Year 1 and a certified sales declaration (CSD) fee that relates annually from Year 2 onwards. If you're not UK-based, an additional cost will be incurred for inspection travel expenses. However, where possible, we'll try to organise your inspections alongside other licensee inspections in the same country, meaning the cost can be split across licensees being inspected in the same trip.

In which countries can we certify?

Please refer to the [OCS website](#) for the countries our IOAS scopes for OCS currently cover.

What do you need to know before applying for OCS certification?

This summary guide gives you an idea of what's involved in certification for organic textiles. Certification involves your operation being assessed to check that you meet the Organic Content Standard, so it's important that you've read the latest version in full (including the Content Claim Standard + Implementation Manual, OCS Implementation Manual and Logo Use Guide) and are familiar with it. You'll find this on [our website](#) and the [Textile Exchange website](#).

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.

What are the minimum certification requirements?

Fibres

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.

Suppliers

Suppliers of unprocessed organic fibres must hold organic certification to a recognised organic agriculture standard.

Direct suppliers of fibres, fabrics and products (including wholesalers and traders) must hold their own OCS scope certificate confirming the certified products and areas of activity.

Record Keeping

All operational procedures must be supported by a documented control system that enables us to trace all steps within a facility:

- Goods in – each incoming delivery needs to be recorded, including origin, purchase orders/ invoices, nature, quantities, batch codes, organic status checking and a record of the check kept
- Production/packing records (if applicable) – including what's been made, quantities, batch codes of finished products etc
- Goods out – including what was despatched, delivery notes/invoices, nature, quantities and batch codes
- Stock records – stock takes should be performed annually, at least

All invoices/delivery notes must clearly make a reference to 'OCS' on the respective certified products.

Transaction Certificates (TC)

For OCS certified companies, Transaction Certificates (TCs) are mandatory for all OCS purchases. They ensure that the products of the respective batch have been produced according to the standard.

If your customers require transaction certificates for your OCS fibres/fabrics/products, we'll issue these for you.

Separation

All stages through the supply chain must ensure that OCS materials and non-OCS materials aren't mixed. Companies that intend to process, store, etc both organic and conventional goods at the same site, will need to consider safeguards to prevent contamination, such as:

- Dedicated storage areas/equipment
- Adequate cleaning processes
- Shifts of organic and conventional production
- Clear labelling and identification along all stages of the chain

Labels

Anyone who intends to sell, label or represent any textile product with the OCS logo must first ensure that the respective criteria and licensing conditions of the Organic Content Standard Program are met according to the [Logo Use and Claims Guide](#).

	<p>The OCS 100 logo shall be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On products that contain 100% organic material, accompanied by the language <i>"Made with/Contains 100% Organically Grown Material."</i> <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On products that contain 95% or more organic material, as long as the remaining content is not of the same type as the organic material, accompanied by the language <i>"Made with/Contains Organically Grown Material."</i>
	<p>The OCS blended logo shall be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On products that contain 5% - 95% organic material, with no restrictions on the type of fibres used for the remaining content. The following language shall appear adjacent to the logo <i>"Made with/Contains X% Organically Grown Material"</i>, where 'X' is to be replaced with the actual percentage of organic material being claimed. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When multiple percentages are used, but 'X' shall be lowest of the percentages, the following language shall appear adjacent <i>"Made with/Contains a minimum of X% Organically Grown Material."</i>

When an OCS logo is used, there must be a reference to the certification body that has certified the goods (e.g. certification body's name) and a reference to the certified organisation (e.g. organisation's name and/or certification number).

Example 1:



Made with Organically Grown Cotton

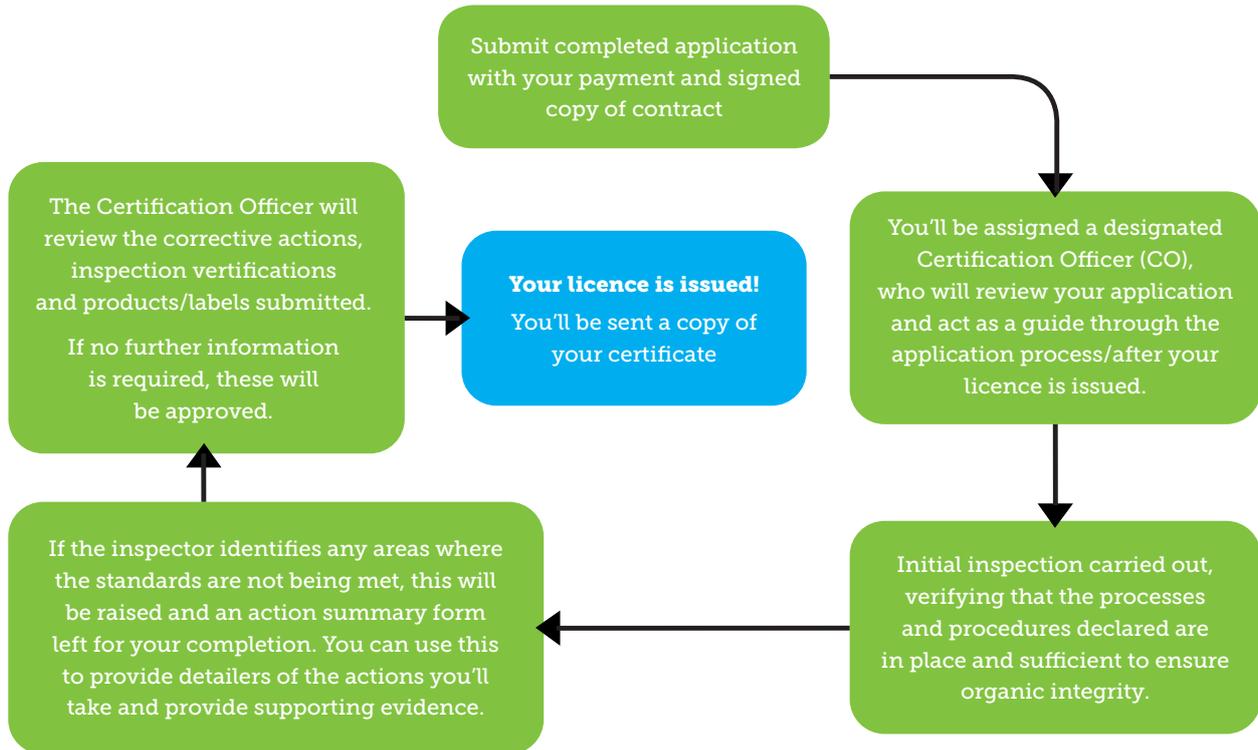
*Certified by (Certification body's name and/or logo)
(Certified organisation name or certification body's
licence number)*

Individual components of a product may be identified as certified to the OCS, but only in a manner that makes it completely clear that only the identified component contains organic content, and not the whole product. For example: *only the upper of a shoe is made with organic content, while the bottom is rubber.*

A certified organisation may use the OCS logo in marketing and public relations materials to indicate its use of the OCS, as long as it has taken steps to ensure that all statements are true, accurate and not misleading. For example: *if a retailer carries both OCS and non-OCS products, it shall not lead the consumer to assume that all products are OCS certified.*

For business to business claims of products, the OCS logo is not required e.g. on shipping labels or packing slips.

The Application Process



Please note: you're not able to sell or make reference to organic until your licence has been issued.

Once your licence has been issued:

Changes to business set up

You'll be issued with a certificate and product schedule detailing the company name, address, enterprises/activities and products that you're certified for.

If any of these are to change, you'll need to inform us as soon as possible. If the site changes, or you wish to add additional enterprises that we haven't previously inspected (e.g. if you wanted to start packing organic product), an additional inspection may be required.

Products must be approved and added to your licence before marketing. You can add products to your licence at any point during the year through your Certification Officer - there's no additional cost for doing so.

Annual inspections

We will inspect your operation each calendar year to verify that the requirements continue to be met.

Contact us

If you have any queries or need any help, please get in touch with our **Go Organic team** on **0117 914 2406** or by email at goorganic@soilassociation.org and one of the team will be happy to help.

Soil Association Certification

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