



GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD  
ECOLOGY & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## ADVISORY CERTIFICATION OF TRADERS

In compliance with the Global Standard, certification of business-to-business (B2B) trading operations is obligatory to maintain the integrity and traceability of the certified goods. This requirement ensures that all entities within the supply chain adhere to the stringent criteria outlined by the Global Standard, thereby preserving compliance and reinforcing consumer trust in certified products. The applicable certification rules for trading structures are outlined in this document.

### 1. TRADER (B2B):

Referring to the Standard, certification of B2B operations is mandatory to maintain the integrity of GOTS Goods:

**GOTS V7.0, Section 2.2:**

*“Processors, manufacturers, and traders of GOTS Goods shall become GOTS Certified Entities.”*

*“Certification shall be based on an on-site annual inspection cycle, including possible additional unannounced inspections based on a risk assessment of the operations.”*

Off-site (remote, virtual) auditing format is an alleviation provided for the inspection of traders under certain conditions:

**Manual for the Implementation of GOTS, V7.2, Section 2.2.5:**

*“Remote inspections shall only be carried out for traders which do not have or subcontract any processing or manufacturing activities...”*

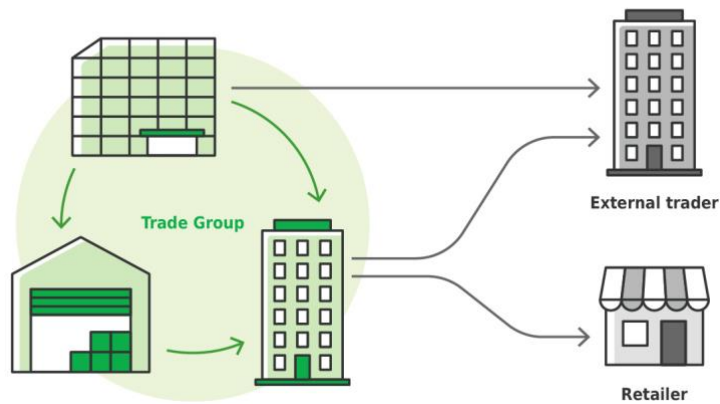
*“On-site visits need to take place at least every third year of granted certification. Every 3rd year of granted certification is to be interpreted as an on-site visit in the first year and every third year thereafter, that is Year 1- Year 3 - Year 6.”*

### 2. TRADER GROUP (B2B):

Trade groups, often structured as parent companies, commonly adopt operational structures that involve the internal movement of acquired goods among their wholly owned subsidiaries. In these group structures, the certified products may be sold or transferred between these subsidiaries before being offered to external traders or retailers. This structure is designed exclusively for the sole purpose of trading certified goods.

Trade Groups with the aforementioned structure and activities are provided with the following certification alleviations that facilitate a common certification for the group instead of individual

certification of the individual B2B units. This exemption applies only if the trader group is involved with the final consumer-ready certified goods.



*A trader group with fully owned B2B subsidiaries that engage in internal B2B activities before selling certified goods to external parties.*

### 3. LABELLING AND CLAIMS:

Any claim, advertisement, or reference to GOTS can only be made if the final retail product bears the complete GOTS labelling.

### 4. IMPLEMENTATION

Immediate.