



Verification of Non-GMO Cotton in Textile Industries

SCREENING FOR GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM (GMO) IN COTTON AND TEXTILES USING INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP AGREEMENT 32 (IWA 32)

Under global standards it is well known that the intentional use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) in cotton, and production processing, which claims to be 'organic' is not allowed. In 2019, international guidance, IWA 32, was published to standardize test procedures for laboratories screening for the presence of GMO in cotton, cotton-derived materials and organic cotton textiles.

SGS is one of the contributors to the International Workshop's development of GMO screening. The principal of IWA 32 is to isolate the DNA from cotton and/or cotton related samples using a specific testing kit, screen the GM-related DNA sequences with a quality control sample and finally to identify and report the presence of any GM elements in the sample tested.

ORGANIC COTTON MARKET GROWS 30%

In the textile industry, the number of organic cotton producers has grown rapidly since 2017, as shown in the Textile Exchange's 2020 Organic Cotton Market Report¹. According to the report, the cotton market grew by more than 30% in 2018/19 a trend that is expected to continue. The top five organic cotton producing countries are India, China, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Tajikistan which between them account for around 90% of global production.

THE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

To meet the sustainability challenge, many brands and retailers have committed to using sustainable fibers in their production. As a result, there is huge demand for organic cotton in the textile industry. At the same time, it is becoming more important that a product's organic status is independently verified. This applies throughout the supply chain, from raw cotton and cotton yarn downstream, to cotton fabric and cotton garments.

It is not just the use of GM materials that are forbidden in organic cotton. Restricted chemicals are also prohibited, at any stage of production. Chemical residues as a result of unintended byproducts or by contamination should be controlled as part of the whole production process and/or during storage. This risk can be managed through a program of chemical testing which should be included as part of standard traceability checks.

CONTACT US

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References:

¹ <https://textileexchange.org/2020-organic-cotton-market-report-ocmr-released/>