Soil Association Certification Limited

Guide to textiles input approval

Introduction: who are we?

Soil Association Certification Ltd is the largest organic certification body in the UK, with almost 30 years experience. We operate a rigorous system, and our trusted symbol ensures high confidence in the integrity of products approved by us. As a not-for-profit business, any surplus income we make is gift-aided to the Soil Association charity to raise awareness, develop and safeguard the entire organic sector.

The Soil Association played a leading role in the development of the Global Organic Textile Standards (GOTS) and is ¼ owner of Global Standard GmbH which manages the GOTS standards.

Approval of chemical inputs for textiles to GOTS with us offers you:

- ✓ the Soil Association approved symbol*
- ✓ a dedicated certification officer to guide you through approval
- ✓ a not-for-profit, practical approval service
- ✓ no extra charge for support

About approval of inputs to GOTS

We're accredited to independently approve inputs for chemical manufacturers for use in GOTS-certified products and supply chains, and release lists of approved inputs on positive lists (scope 4). These lists are distributed to around 3000 GOTS certified businesses worldwide annually, and available on request for SACL licensees. There are already over 6000 inputs approved to GOTS worldwide, which are used in the conventional and organic textile industries. Please note, this scheme concerns the approval of chemical inputs for use in organic textile processing against GOTS and is not an organic certification scheme.

For further information about GOTS please see www.global-standard.org.

GOTS requirements for inputs

Any input submitted for assessment will be assessed for compliance against the relevant GOTS standards and accompanying manual:

1. Basis for assessment and MSDS requirements (GOTS and manual 2.3.3)
2. Legal requirements (GOTS and manual 2.3.1)
3. Named prohibited and restricted inputs (GOTS and manual 2.3.1)
4. Requirements relating to hazards and toxicity for all inputs (GOTS and manual 2.3.2)
5. Parameters for all preparations relating to biodegradability, eliminability, bioaccumulativity (GOTS and manual 2.3.2)
6. Specific requirements/exceptions for process undertaken (GOTS and manual 2.4) including spinning, sizing and weaving/knitting, non-woven manufacture, pre-treatment stages (wet processing), dyeing, printing and finishing.

***Marketing your inputs as Soil Association Approved**

Any labels, brochures or web content which mentions GOTS the Soil Association or features the approved symbol, must be reviewed and approved by your certification officer.

The 'Soil Association Approved' logo may be used in accordance with Soil Association Standard 2.2.24 (as below) and on the stipulation that it is business to business and is not on product being sold to the end consumer. This is not an organic scheme so you must not market your products as organic.

Soil Association organic standard 2.2.24 – the approved product symbol You may use the approved product symbol on non-organic products such as salt and agricultural inputs certified under our approved products scheme. You may not use the Soil Association organic symbol on these products. Please ask us if you would like further information on this scheme. For further guidance on the use of this symbol, please refer to Soil Association standard 2.2. available at www.soilassociation.org

Please note, the GOTS logo must not be used in association with approved chemical inputs as it is for use only in relation to certified organic textiles.

The approval process

1	THE STANDARDS Read the relevant GOTS standards
2	THE APPLICATION PACK Return the application form, fully completed MSDSs and contracts, and pay fees
3	YOUR CERTIFICATION OFFICER Your dedicated certification officer will review your application
4	PRODUCT ASSESSMENT A senior technical officer will assess your MSDSs against GOTS, and may request further information if necessary
5	MARKETING MATERIAL REVIEW If your input meets GOTS, your certification officer will review any labels, brochures or web content which mentions GOTS or the Soil Association, or features the approved symbol.
6	PRODUCT APPROVAL – *CONGRATULATIONS!* Once your input(s) and marketing material have been approved, you will receive an approval document and schedule listed the approved product(s).
7	ANNUAL RENEWAL One year after approval, we'll send you a 'confirmation declaration' for you to confirm your product has not changed. If it has changed, we will need further information from you before we can renew your approval.

SACL reserves the right to inspect the manufacturer's premises at any time upon suspicion of serious non-compliance or fraud.

Fees

Our fees are highly competitive, and we don't charge extras for technical support extra submissions of information. Contact us for a full fee sheet.

Need more guidance? Contact us on 0117 914 2406 or goorganic@soilassociation.org