



**Notification:** 2201  
**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
**Category:** Update to the Australia Organic Standard (ACOS) 2021v1  
**Title:** Natural Fibres/Textiles

---

### **Background**

AOL wish to provide textiles products to consumers where environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing practices are used in all facets of the operation. Organic production is based on a system of farming that maintains and replenishes soil fertility without the use of toxic, persistent pesticides or synthetic fertilisers. In addition, it includes welfare standards for animal husbandry and prohibits genetically modified organisms. To further encourage organic production for natural fibres, a certified market for this must be encouraged. Certain products like nappies and sanitary pads, require more than 5% plastic components to be functional. Hence, for textile products, the Australian Certified Organic Bud logo can be used to guide consumers to more sustainable products. The use of the Bud is limited to cases where  $\geq 70\%$  of the textile product is composed of organic natural fibre with the percentage (%) clearly marked on packaging to differentiate products.

---

### **Point 6.5**

**Delete:** All other processing requirements of this Standard shall be complied with for wool, cotton and similar fibre processing, including environmental aspects of processing facilities, with reuse and/or further processing of by-products where appropriate.

### **Replace with:**

#### **10. ACOS Non-Food**

AOL wish to provide an organic certification category for non-food products where environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing practices are used in all facets of the operation.

### **Scope**

#### **Textiles**

This standard allows:

- a) The recognition of fully finished textiles and sanitary/hygiene products certified under a recognised organic textile standard.
- b) The recognition of certified organic natural fibres and/or approved inputs (including colourants, textile auxiliaries and accessories) from a recognised organic textile standard that may be assembled to create a finished product within an ACOS certified facility using approved processing methods.



## **Definitions**

**Additional fibre:** Materials that may be mixed with the organic fibres in fabric or used in certain details of the product. See Annex 1 for the full list of permitted non-organic fibres to compliment the functionality of organic textile products.

**Accessories:** Items added to supplement textile products for required functional or fashionable reasons. This includes borders, buckles, buttons and press-studs, cords, edgings, elastic bands and yarns, embroidery yarns, fasteners and closing systems, adhesive tapes used for fusing, hatbands, laces, linings, inlays, interface, labels, interlinings, pockets, seam bindings, sewing threads, shoulder pads, padding for undergarments, trims, zippers.

**Food contact textiles:** Products that are intended to come into prolonged contact with, are already in contact with, or can be reasonably expected to come into contact with food or water intended for human consumption under normal conditions of use.

**Clinically invasive products:** Products that penetrate the body through the skin, typically in the context of a wound or surgical procedures. This includes surgical swabs and gauze swabs.

**Natural fibre:** Fibres from animal or plant origin that can be used in fabric production such as wool, linen (flax), cotton, silk, bamboo, jute, hemp and cashmere.

**Personal textile products:** Physically invasive products, clinically invasive products and topical products.

**Physically invasive products:** Products that penetrate inside the body through a natural or artificial orifice. This may be the whole product or in part and includes tampons, ear buds and dental rolls.

**Recognised organic textile standard:** Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) (<https://global-standard.org/>).

**Topical products:** Products that don't penetrate body cavities or open wounds. This includes cotton wool, sanitary towels, bandages, nappies, gauze, cotton tissue, island dressings, wound strips, sticking plasters and gauze dressings.

### **10.1 Natural fibres and textiles**

The requirements below are additional to the other requirements laid out in the Australian Certified Organic Standard (this standard) with reference to the agricultural production for the natural fibre components of textiles. It is recognised that for certain products like nappies and sanitary pads, more than 5% non-natural organic fibres or accessories are required to be sufficiently practical, safe and functional. The processing and certification of textile components and finished products is in accordance with a recognised organic textile standard.

#### **Product composition**

10.1.1 All natural fibre components used must be certified organic or organic in conversion.

10.1.2 All additional fibre components used to prepare finished textile products must be listed within Annex 1 of this standard.

10.1.3 All colourants and textile auxiliaries used to prepare finished textile products must be approved under a recognised organic textile standard.



- 10.1.4 All accessories used to prepare finished textile products must be approved under a recognised organic textile standard.
- 10.1.5 Processing methods used in the preparation of finished textile products shall be biological, physical and/or mechanical in nature.
- 10.1.6 Onus is on the certified operator to ensure their products consist of the highest percentage organic natural fibre possible.

**Derogation 10.1.1**

Operators shall only use non-organic natural fibre where evidence is provided to the certification body (CB) clearly demonstrating all the below requirements:

- a) organic alternatives are not commercially available from at least three regular suppliers,
- b) the justified need of this specific non-organic natural fibre in the product,
- c) a non-GMO statement.

**Additional requirements for specific product categories**

- 10.1.7 Textiles that come into direct contact with food must be 100% certified organic natural fibre. No printing is allowed on the food side to prevent risk of chemical transfer through material into food.
- 10.1.8 Food contact textiles and personal care textiles must be totally chlorine free.
- 10.1.9 Physically invasive products and clinically invasive products must be composed of a minimum of 95% certified organic natural fibre.
- 10.1.10 Topical products may contain additional fibre components (up to a total of 30%) when required for commercial reasons. In such cases, applications supported by relevant technical documentation will be considered by the CB.

**Derogation 10.1.9**

For physically and clinically invasive products, additional fibre components are not allowed without evidence to CB it is required to meet certain legal medical requirements.

**Labelling requirements**

- 10.1.11 Except where otherwise specified in this standard, textile products must contain at least 70% certified organic natural fibre (mass excluding accessories) in order to use the Bud logo.
- 10.1.12 Where 100% of the components are of certified organic natural fibre (including accessories), reference may be made to “100% Organic” on the label.
- 10.1.13 Where a minimum of 95% of the components (mass excluding accessories) are of certified organic natural fibre, reference may be made to “Organic” on the label. Up to 5% of the fibre content of the product may be composed of allowed additional fibre materials in Annex 1.
- 10.1.14 Where a minimum of 70% of the components (mass excluding accessories) are of certified organic natural fibre, reference may be made to “Made with (X%) Organic” on the label. Up to 30% of the fibre content of the product may be composed of allowed additional fibre in Annex 1.
- 10.1.15 Where less than 70% of components are certified organic natural fibre, no reference to organic may be made on the label. Labelling or marketing material references to organic components shall appear in the same colour and with an identical style and size of lettering as the other components in the product ingredients list.
- 10.1.16 Components shall be listed on label and shall be listed in the order of concentration, clearly noting and differentiating certified organic natural fibres and non-certified components.
- 10.1.17 For products composed of between 70% and less than 100% organic natural fibre, the total percentage (%) (mass excluding accessories) of organic natural fibre components must be clearly defined on the packaging.



10.1.18 The requirements listed above also apply to any products sold, labelled or marketed as “In Conversion to Organic”, with the exception that in-conversion ingredients are used in the place of “Organic”.

10.1.19 Onus is on the operator to ensure that all legal regulatory and other label requirements are met in regard to labelling and packaging.

**Annex 1: Additional fibre materials allowed for the non-organic component of textiles.**

Requirements	Allowed Additional Fibre
Only under derogation	Non-GMO conventional natural plant or animal fibres
Individually or in combination as a total mass of up to 30%	Lyocell or protein-based fibres derived from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non-GMO sources</li> <li>• certified organic raw materials</li> <li>• pre- or post-consumer waste</li> <li>• raw materials certified according to a program that verifies compliance with sustainable management principles</li> </ul>
Individually or in combination as a total mass of up to 30%	Recycled synthetic (polymer) fibres from pre- or post-consumer waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyester</li> <li>• polyamide</li> <li>• polypropylene</li> <li>• elastomultiester (elasterell-p)</li> <li>• polyurethane (elastane)</li> </ul>
Individually or in combination as a total mass of up to 30%	PLA (polylactic acid) fibre produced from non-GMO bio-mass sources
Individually or in combination as a total mass of up to 10%	Non- GMO Regenerated fibres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lyocell</li> <li>• viscose</li> <li>• modal</li> </ul> Virgin synthetic (polymer) fibres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• polyamide</li> <li>• polypropylene</li> <li>• elastomultiester (elasterell-p)</li> <li>• polyurethane (elastane)</li> </ul> Stainless steel fibres and mineral fibres

**END**