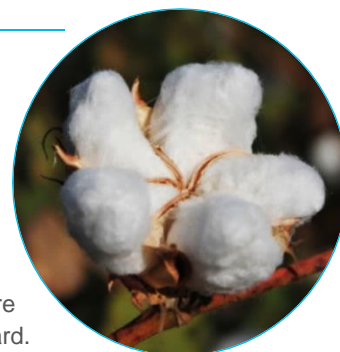


Responsible Fibre Criteria

The Fairtrade Textile Standard allows the use of “responsible fibres”¹ in textile product composition (see [requirement 5.2.3](#) on products with responsible fibres).



5.2.3 Products with responsible fibres (other than Fairtrade cotton)

Non-Fairtrade responsible fibre products may be sold under Fairtrade terms as long as the fibre and scheme behind it are included on the Fairtrade responsible fibre list and processed in a fully Fairtrade certified supply chain from ginning stage onward. The responsible fibre content rules from the approved responsible fibre scheme apply in this category.

This annex defines what Fairtrade understands as responsible fibres, whether socioeconomically or environmentally responsible, or both, and what the criteria are for considering them as such. Only fibres assured by the schemes approved by Fairtrade for responsible fibres can be used in processing under the Fairtrade Textile Standard terms.

The list of approved schemes can be found on the Fairtrade website and is periodically reviewed and updated.

For information regarding the approval process for responsible fibre schemes please contact standard-pricing@fairtrade.net

The criteria for responsible fibres that are recognized under the Fairtrade Textile Standard are guided by the following principle:

Responsible fibres are more environmentally friendly and/or socioeconomically beneficial than other comparable, common fibres with same material composition.

The following environmental or socioeconomic criteria must be met by a responsible programme or scheme, along with criteria for its management, in order to be considered a “responsible fibre” under the Fairtrade Textile Standard:

Environmental criteria

The scheme includes criteria related to the production practices of the fibre that guarantee improved management of water and other natural resources, a minimised harmful impact, protection and enhancement of biodiversity, and that avoids the use of genetically modified crops.

Socioeconomic criteria

The scheme includes criteria that guarantee the improvement of working and living conditions of the farmers and workers involved in the fibre production at farm level along the supply chain.

Management system of the scheme

The scheme has a credible assurance system, in particular proper controls regarding its claims and product traceability. The scheme has good governance through multi-stakeholder processes and is a leading body in the sector.

¹ A fibre is a natural or man-made substance that can be spun into filament, thread or rope and in a next step be woven, knitted, matted or bound.

Responsible Fibre Assessment Tool

Fairtrade evaluates fibres and schemes using an Assessment Tool which details each of the three criteria, Management, Environmental and Socioeconomic into checkpoints. A certain threshold score in each category, or combination of categories, must be met for a scheme to be used under the Textile Standard. There are two Major checkpoints under the Socioeconomic criteria which must be met in all cases. The Major Criteria are: child labour is not allowed and forced labour is not allowed. The threshold scores are:

1. A score of 6 or more **Management** Criteria must be met in all cases. Full ISEAL membership is equivalent to a score of 6 and fulfils this requirement.
2. Both **Major** checkpoints in the socioeconomic Criteria must be met in all cases: **child labour is not allowed** and **forced labour is not allowed**, must be met.
3. Either 4 **Environmental** or 4 **Socioeconomic** checkpoints must be met (including the 2 Major).
4. Or, 3 **Environmental** and 3 **Socioeconomic** checkpoints must be met (including the 2 Major).

Criteria number	Responsible Fibre Criteria
MC	<i>Management system of the scheme</i> <i>The scheme has a credible assurance system, in particular proper controls regarding its claims and product traceability. The scheme has good governance through multi-stakeholder processes and is a leading body in the sector.</i>
MC0	Full ISEAL member
MC1	Leading organization in sector
MC2	Sustainability as a primary goal, definition in-line with Fairtrade
MC3	Traceability system in place, at least documentary traceability
MC4	Credible assurance with guarantee to claims (3rd party verification)
MC5	Full audits of at least a sample of clients are carried out regularly (from every year to every 5 years depending on sector)
MC6	The overall assurance methodology and structure for the scheme are publicly available
MC7	The certificate or license defines the scope of certification and duration of validity
MC8	Allowable claims and labels contain enough information that their validity can be checked
MC9	Enough information is documented in the chain of custody assessment to enable tracing of the product and to avoid fraud in the supply chain
MC10	There is an oversight mechanism that is independent of the assurance bodies being assessed
MC11	Stakeholders have the possibility to participate in or provide formal input on the governance of the scheme

EC	<i>Environmental criteria</i> <i>The scheme includes criteria related to the production practices of the fibre that guarantee improved management of water and other natural resources, a minimised harmful impact, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and avoids the use genetically modified crops.</i>
EC1	Improved environmental conditions, with a continuous development approach
EC2	Organically grown
EC3	Restricted pesticide use
EC4	Restricted or monitored water use
EC5	Healthy soil
EC6	Systematic crop rotation
EC7	Protected natural habitats
EC8	No Genetically modified organisms
SC	<i>Socioeconomic criteria</i> <i>The scheme includes criteria that guarantee the improvement of working and living conditions of the farmers and workers involved in the fibre production at farm level of along the supply chain.</i>
SC1	Improved livelihoods for small farmers and workers
SC2	Better access for farmers to loans and technology
SC3	Better access to fair trading systems
SC4	Access to capacity building
SC5	Improved working conditions (for workers), with a continuous development approach
SC6	Child labour is not allowed (M)
SC7	Forced labour is not allowed (M)
SC8	Discrimination is not allowed