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| **Consultation Document for Fairtrade Stakeholders**Textile Standard limited and urgent review  |
| Consultation Period |  March 2024 |
| Project Manager | Kerstin Cron, Standards Unit |

# PART 1 Introduction

## 1. Context

The full review of the [Fairtrade Textile Standard](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/TextileStandard_EN.pdf) is due since 2021. The last revision of the standard took place in 2016. This project however is a limited and urgent review, which focusses on filling gaps in the current Fairtrade Textile Standard with the [Green Button 2.0](https://gruener-knopf.de/en/standard-20) for supply chains where recognition by the [Green Button](https://gruener-knopf.de/en) is relevant.

## 2. Background

As a member of the ISEAL, Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International is required to review its standards once in five years.

For the commercialization of Fairtrade Textile products in Germany, it is essential that the Fairtrade Textile Production mark is recognized by the Green Button (GB), the government-run certification label for sustainable textiles in Germany. As proof of sustainable production, the Green Button accepts certification labels that meet the credibility criteria of the German federal government and have evaluated the required social and environmental requirements in the supply chain. The Green Button started in 2019 with an introductory phase which was further developed between 2020 and 2021 resulting in the current version of Green Button 2.0. In addition to the expansion of the existing environmental requirements for bleaching and dyeing as well as requirements for social and working conditions during cutting and sewing, the Green Button 2.0 now also includes requirements for the sustainable extraction of raw materials.

After a careful benchmark with the revised Green Button 2.0 requirements and the Fairtrade Textile Standard, a few gaps, mostly in environmental requirements, were identified. Fairtrade is planning a full review of the Textile Standard starting in Q4 2024, however changes in the standard to fill these gaps would come too late for the end of the transition phase for the GB requirements on 31st July 2024. Thus, this is considered a limited review to fill relevant gaps in the Fairtrade Textile Standard for the recognition by the Green Button 2.0. The environmental section of the Standard will be revisited during the full review of the Standard starting in Q4 2024.

The consultation document has one section. This section deals with wet processing.

# 3. Objectives:

Consider filling gaps in the current Fairtrade Textile Standard with the [Green Button 2.0](https://gruener-knopf.de/en/standard-20) for supply chains where recognition by the [Green Button](https://gruener-knopf.de/en) is relevant.

# 4. Project and Process Information

The complete project assignment is available [here](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/Project-Assignment-Textile-Standard-Limited-Review.pdf).

The schedule of the Textile Standard review is given below:

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| Consultation | Feb-March 2024 |
| Analysis of proposals and feedback | March 2024 |
| Standards Committee decision | March 2024 |
| Publication and implementation | Q2 2024 |

**Stakeholders in the consultation**

Workers and Worker Representatives, licensees and retailers, Producer Networks, National Fairtrade Organizations, Fairtrade International, and FLOCERT.

## 5. Confidentiality

All information we receive from respondents will be treated with care and kept confidential. Results of this consultation will only be communicated in aggregated form. All feedback will be analysed and used to draw up the final proposal. However, when analysing the data we need to know which responses are from workers, traders, licensees, etc. so we kindly ask you to also record the name of your organisation or company below.

**Please take as much space as you need to respond to the questions.**

# PART 2 Draft Standard Consultations

This consultation is divided into the following sections:

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[1. Wet processing 5](#_Toc159578968)

[2. General comments/ feedback 7](#_Toc159578970)

# Information about you and your organization

Please complete the information below:

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| **Q0.1** **Please provide us with information about you and your organization so that we can analyse the data precisely and contact you for clarifications if needed. The results of the survey will only be presented in an aggregated form and all respondents’ information will be kept confidential.**Name of your organization      Your name      Your email      Country      FLO ID      **Q0.2** **Are your responses based on your own personal opinion or is it a collective opinion representing your organization?**[ ] Individual opinion[ ] Collective opinion representing my organization/company**Q0.3** **What is your gender? (Note: this is for data analysis purposes only)**We want to be aware of how many non-binary, women and men do participate in the consultation and we find it important to hear the views from all.[ ] Non-binary[ ] Female[ ] Male[ ] Prefer not to indicate**Q0.4 What is your main responsibility in the supply chain?** [ ] Producer[ ] Worker[ ] Exporter[ ] Importer[ ] Processor[ ] Distributor[ ] Retailer[ ] Licensee[ ] Other (e.g. PN, NFO, FLOCERT, FI, NGO, Researcher, Government agency, etc):      **Q0.5** W**hich is your main product? Please select one product.****If you produce/trade multiple products, please select the last option and provide more information in the comment box.**[ ] ready-made/finished products[ ] yarn[ ] fabric[ ] Other or multiple products (please specify here):       |

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| Wet processingIntent: Stakeholders certified against the [Fairtrade Textile Standard](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/TextileStandard_EN.pdf) may be interested in the [Green Button 2.0](https://gruener-knopf.de/en) recognition as well, in case they are active in the German market. With the suggested requirements in this section, Fairtrade seeks to offer certified and interested parties an option to comply with these criteria.The [Green Button [Gruener Knopf]](https://gruener-knopf.de/en) is a German government-run certification label for sustainable textiles. It is a certification label that systematically evaluates whether companies take responsibility for respecting human rights and environmental standards in their supply chains.[[1]](#footnote-1)1.1 Certification accepted by Green Button 2.0 for wet processing**Background:** The [Green Button 2.0](https://gruener-knopf.de/en/standard-20) puts forward environmental criteria for the wet processing stage which are currently not included in the [Fairtrade Textile Standard](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/TextileStandard_EN.pdf). **Outcomes:** Operators certified under the Fairtrade Textile Standard can be certified under the Green Button 2.0 in combination with a valid certification which is acceptable by the scheme.**1.1a NEW Applicable to factories carrying out wet processing: Certification accepted by Green Button for wet processing**

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| **Core** | You have a valid certification that is accepted for[**Green Button 2.0**](https://gruener-knopf.de/en/standard-20) for wet processing. If production takes place within the framework of the Green Button, the wet processor proves that the Green Button 2.0 criteria were complied with during the production of the product. You can find a list of recognised certification labels [**here**](https://gruener-knopf.de/en/downloads)**.**  |
| **Year 0** |
| **Guidance:** Only **applicable** to wet processing factories that produce products to be labelled under the German [Gruener Knopf/ Green Button](https://gruener-knopf.de/en). |

**Rationale:** For Fairtrade Textile products in Germany, it is essential that the Fairtrade Textile Production label is recognized by the Green Button, the government-run certification label for sustainable textiles in Germany.**Outcomes:** Ready-made/ finished products can be labelled with Green Button 2.0 if all criteria including wet processing are complied with.**Q.1.1.a Do you agree/ disagree with the proposal?**[ ] Strongly agree[ ] Undecided[ ] Disagree[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know**Please explain your rationale in case you partially agree or don’t agree:**     **1.1b NEW Applicable to CMT factories: Informing wet processing supplier**

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| **Core** | If you produce ready-made/finished products to be labelled under the German [**Green Button 2.0**](https://gruener-knopf.de/en/standard-20) for and do not carry out the wet processing yourself, you inform your wet processing supplier that the final product is to be labelled under Gruener Knopf in a written form and thereby the above requirement becomes relevant for them. |
| **Year 0** |
| **Guidance:** Only **applicable** to CMTs factories who produce ready-made/finished products to be labelled under the German [Gruener Knopf/ Green Button](https://gruener-knopf.de/en). |

**Rationale:** In case certified operators do not carry out wet processing themselves, it can still be ensured that criteria put forward by the Green Button 2.0 are met.**Outcomes:** Ready-made/ finished products can be labelled with Green Button 2.0 if all criteria including wet processing are complied with.**Q.1.1.b Do you agree/ disagree with the proposal?**[ ] Strongly agree[ ] Undecided[ ] Disagree[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know**Please explain your rationale in case you partially agree or don’t agree:**     **If you would like to make any suggestions on this topic, or you already implement this step in your due diligence procedure and would like to share your experience, please use this comment box:** |

# General comments/ feedback

In this section you are invited to provide additional feedback on any of the requirements in the [Fairtrade Textile Standard](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/TextileStandard_EN.pdf) or provide general comments. If you are referring to a particular requirement, please include the requirement number where possible and your comments.

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| **Topic/ requirement number** | **Comments/ feedback** |
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If you need some more information before commenting on this document do not hesitate to contact standards-pricing@fairtrade.net

1. <https://gruener-knopf.de/en>, 16 February 2024 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)