

Sustainable Fibre Criteria

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



5.2.3 Products with sustainable fibres (other than Fairtrade cotton)

Non-Fairtrade sustainable fibre products may be sold under Fairtrade terms as long as the fibre and sustainability scheme behind it are included on the Fairtrade sustainable fibre list (Annex 2) and processed in a fully Fairtrade certified supply chain from ginning stage onward. The sustainable fibre content rules from the approved sustainable fibre scheme apply in this category.

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

The list of approved schemes can be found below and is periodically reviewed and updated.

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

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

Sustainable 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 sustainable programme or scheme, along with criteria for its management, in order to be considered a “sustainable 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.



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Fairtrade International Sustainable Fibre Criteria

The following schemes have been approved by Fairtrade International as providers of sustainable fibres under the Fairtrade Textile Standard

Scheme	Scheme description
No scheme recognised yet	