



## Quick Guide to the Organic Content Standard (OCS)

The **Organic Content Standard (OCS)** is an international, voluntary standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of certified organic input and chain of custody. **The primary goal of the OCS is to increase organic agriculture production.**

### Objectives of the OCS

- Provide the industry with a tool to verify the organic content of the products they purchase.
- Provide companies with a trusted tool to communicate organic content claims to the industry.
- Provide organic fiber farmers with broad access to the global organic market for their products.

### Key Points in the OCS



#### Verifying Organic Content

Only material from certified organic farms (under one of [IFOAM's Family of Standards](#)) is accepted into the OCS.

#### Chain of Custody

Certification ensures that the identity of the organic content is maintained: from the farm to the final product.

#### Credible Certification

A professional, third party certification body audits each stage in the supply chain.

#### Confident Communication

Products that meet all requirements may be labeled with the OCS logo.

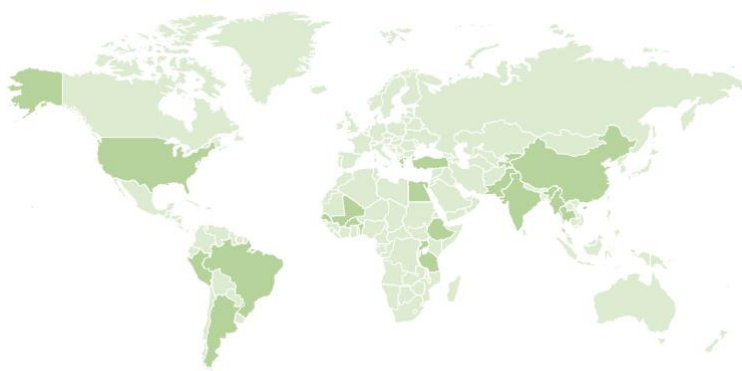
#### Stakeholder Engagement

The OCS is managed with the input of producers, suppliers, and brands and retailers from all parts of the globe.

### Adoption of the OCS

The OCS has experienced significant growth in 2019. After a number of years with a stable growth rate in the region of 6-16%, the number of certified companies increased by 47%.

In 2019, **6,294 companies** were certified to the OCS.



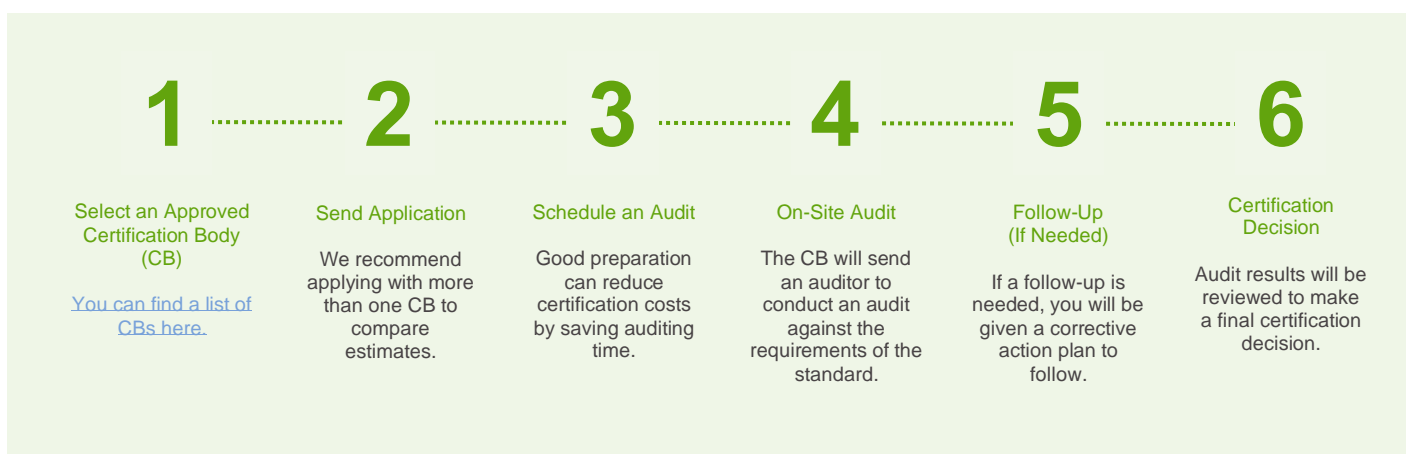
## Getting Started

- If you would like to begin sourcing certified organic content, begin asking your suppliers if they are certified to the OCS. They should be able to provide you with a scope certificate (SC) of their certification. This is the first step, but does not verify that any particular product is certified.
- Request transaction certificates (TC) from your certified suppliers to verify you are getting certified products. The TC will list the shipment details and include the name of the buyer on the document.
- The Global Organic Content Standard (GOTS) also verifies certified organic content and also includes social, environmental, and chemical requirements. GOTS supports organic product claims.

## Communicating Claims

- The OCS supports claims of organically grown content, but **not organic product claims**.
  - Example of **allowed** claim: “*This product contains 100% organically grown content.*”
  - Example of **disallowed** claim: “*The product is 100% organic.*” (This is because the OCS does not include processing requirements.)
- Before labeling products, make sure to follow all requirements in the [OCS Logo Use and Claims Guide](#).
- Products must be certified to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.
- All claims must be approved by an authorized certification body (CB).

## How to Get Certified



## Background of the OCS

The [Organic Content Standard \(OCS\)](#) was developed through an open and transparent process led by [Textile Exchange](#) and a multi-stakeholder group which included representatives from across the industry and different sectors, including animal welfare groups, industry organizations, supply chain members, brands, and area experts. All policies and procedures are based on the [ISEAL Best Practices](#), which can be found on our website.

Textile Exchange has been in existence since 2002, and plays a powerful role within the textile industry to support the understanding and use of sustainable materials and proper verification strategies. While Textile Exchange has extensive experience in standards development and ownership, we do not engage in any certification activities: all of our focus is on supporting the quality and adoption of its standards.

The staff at Textile Exchange are very accessible, and always ready to provide support to brands or companies interested in the OCS.

## Learn More or Get Involved

Contact [Standards@TextileExchange.org](mailto:Standards@TextileExchange.org) | Visit [TextileExchange.org/Integrity/](https://TextileExchange.org/Integrity/)