CERTIFIED MATERIALS GUIDE

WHITE STUFF

OUR CERTIFIED MATERIALS

All of our certified materials are certified by **globally recognised bodies**. All our organic cotton is fully certified by either the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) or the Organic Content Standard (OCS).

> “All of our certified materials are certified by globally recognised bodies.”

We publish clear fabric composition percentages for all our products and use the following rules when including the word “organic” in the name of an item

“ORGANIC BLEND”
AT LEAST 50% ORGANIC FABRIC

“ORGANIC” (WITHOUT “BLEND”)
AT LEAST 70% ORGANIC FABRIC

GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD

GOTS is an excellent, reliable, international certification of organic cotton tracing the cotton from the harvesting of the raw cotton to in-store labelling. It includes both environmental standards and standards concerning workers' rights and safety.

It also includes the Oeko-Tex 100 standard. This means a guarantee that no harmful chemical substances are present in textile products (beyond strict European regulatory requirements).

> "It includes both environmental standards and standards concerning worker's rights and safety."

GOTS certified farmers always grow other crops alongside their cotton. These crops provide farming families and their communities with a more stable, accessible, abundant and diverse food supply and another source of income to the cotton crop.

Genetically modified (GM) seeds are banned in organic farming, so GOTS certified farmers are not reliant on GM companies. Instead, they save their seeds year after year and work within their environment in a long-term sustainable way.

Organic farmers only use natural methods like crop rotation to control pets and diseases, not chemical cocktails. Hazardous synthetics pesticides used in non-organic farming can damage ecosystems, poison waterways and endanger workers who can't always afford safety equipment needed to protect them.

ORGANIC COTTON STANDARD

Unlike GOTS, OCS does not include processing requirements, social, environmental, and chemical requirements. Our products with OCS certification are certified through a series of scope and chain of custody certificates. All OCS claims are approved by an authorized certification body.

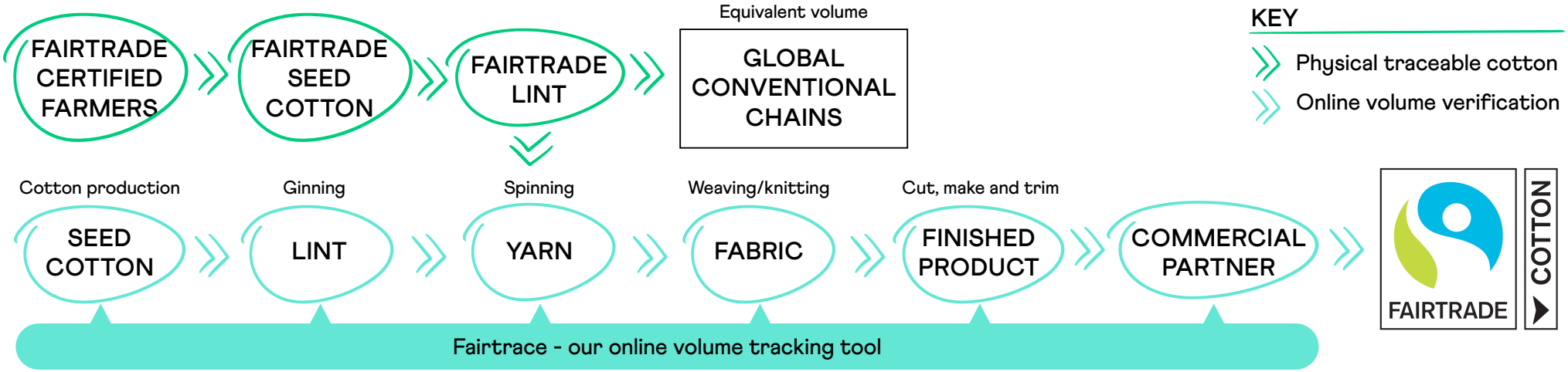
FAIRTRADE SOURCED COTTON

We are currently the largest UK fashion retailer of fairtrade sourced cotton. Our partnership with Fairtrade allows us to independently verify that farmers are paid a fairer price for their cotton. It allows us traceability to the co-operatives from which we have sourced. All transactions are tracked on a system called 'Fairtrace' which allows us to check our progress against our targets. We have annual reviews with the Fairtrade Foundation to review progress and set new targets for the following year.

We use the Fairtrade standards because people matter very much to us. Fair-trade strictly prohibits forced and child labour [as defined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) minimum age and the worst forms of child labour conventions] and are committed to fighting the root causes of labour abuses.

> "We are currently the largest UK fashion retailer of fairtrade sourced cotton."

Buying Fairtrade Sourced Cotton also means that cotton farmers can sell more of their cotton on Fairtrade terms and get a fairer deal. Through buying Fairtrade cotton in 2022 we generated £25,000 in Fairtrade Premium. In addition to earning the Fairtrade minimum price, farmers could use this Fairtrade premium fund to become more resilient to climate change, to educate their children and to improve their communities.



VISCOSE, LYOCELL AND MODAL

Viscose, lyocell and modal are all manmade cellulosic fibres derived from wood pulp. They produce soft, breathable, and compostable fabrics, much like cotton.

> “White Stuff are committed to using at least 90% certified sources by the end of 2024.”

As the sourcing of these fabrics can leave a significant environmental and social footprint, White Stuff are committed to using at least 90% certified sources by the end of 2024 (rising to 100% by the end of 2025).

Certified viscose, lyocell and modal comes from environmentally responsible and controlled forests via a fully traceable manufacturing process. Certified producers preserve biodiversity, while supporting critical services to local communities. They also produce less carbon than conventional, uncertified sources.

LENZING™ ECOVERO™ VISCOSE

LENZING™ ECOVERO™ viscose is White Stuff's chosen certified source for viscose. The fibres are made from wood, a natural and renewable raw material carefully sourced from responsibly managed forests. The wood taken from nature is purposefully balanced with forest growth rates, to ensure the continued availability of this valuable resource.

> "Viscose fibres generate up to 50% less emissions and use 50% less water compared to conventional fibres."

LENZING™ ECOVERO™ fibres are certified biodegradable in soil, freshwater and marine environments. Additionally, they are certified for compostability under home and industrial conditions. Since LENZING™ ECOVERO™ fibres can fully return to nature, they offer a viable alternative to synthetic fibres that can pose a risk of releasing microplastics into the environment when incorrectly disposed. Viscose fibres generate up to 50% less emissions and use 50% less water compared to conventional fibres.

The wood used as raw material for all LENZING™ ECOVERO™ fibres is sourced from controlled or certified origins meeting FSC® or PEFC standards*, following the stringent guidelines of the Lenzing Wood and Pulp Policy. For its highly responsible sourcing practices helping to protect ancient and endangered forests, Lenzing has been recognized as one of the best performing companies worldwide in Canopy's Hot Button Report in 2023.

*LENZING™ Viscose standard fibres are certified by TÜV Austria as biodegradable in soil, freshwater and marine environments, and compostable under home and industrial conditions.

*Minimum of 90% reduction, rest via carbon compensation programs.

*FSC® (FSC-C041246) or PEFC (PEFC/06-33-92) certification.

FSC® VISCOSE

FSC® stands for Forest Stewardship Council. FSC® viscose is a type of rayon fibre made from wood and other agricultural products that are regenerated as cellulose fibre. It comes from responsibly managed forests, where wood can be used without damaging the forest's biodiversity.

The FSC® certification system covers forest management and traces the wood through all stages of production and distribution.

> “FSC® viscose comes from responsibly managed forests, where wood can be used without damaging the forest's biodiversity.”

FSC® viscose is a fabric we’ve just started using for autumn/winter 2024 and we’re really excited about it.

TENCEL™ MODAL AND TENCEL™ LYOCELL

TENCEL™ Modal and TENCEL™ Lyocell fibres are made from beech wood pulp from certified, environmentally responsible and controlled forests via a fully traceable manufacturing process. TENCEL™ Modal and TENCEL™ Lyocell is biodegradable and compostable under industrial, home, soil and marine conditions and can fully return to nature. TENCEL™ Modal fibers are certified with the internationally recognized EU Ecolabel.

“Lyocell is biodegradable and compostable.”

LINEN

Linen is made from a plant called flax. White Stuff are increasing our use of European Flax™ certified linen from western Europe, notably from France and Belgium. The European Flax™ certification guarantees White Stuff traceability of linen products based on the chain of custody principle.

Each supplier in the linen value chain who handles the certified linen material is certified, right up to the last business-to-business transaction. Customers can see the European Flax™ logo on products grown in Europe.

> “In our spring/summer 24 range, 90% of the linen was European Flax™ certified.”

Linen craves carbon dioxide as it grows, is 100% biodegradable, recyclable and compostable. It takes very little water to grow flax in Europe due to the climate. Linen takes lots of water or chemicals during the retting (fibre breakdown) process to make the flax plant into yarn to knit or weave into White Stuff linen products. In our spring/summer 24 range, 90% of the linen was European Flax™ certified.

LEATHER

“100% of White Stuff leather footwear bags and belts will be certified by the LWG by the end of 2024.”

White Stuff are proud to be members of the Leather Working Group (LWG) which is the leading global standard driving excellence in leather production, including best practise in animal welfare, social responsibility, chemical management, traceability and reduced environmental impacts. 100% of White Stuff leather footwear, bags and belts will be certified by the LWG by the end of 2024.

Launched in 2005, LWG’s flagship audit certification assesses the environmental performance and compliance of leather manufacturing facilities (also known as tanneries). This standard is used to assess leather manufacturers on the following aspects:

- Water and energy usage
- Solid waste and effluent management
- Air and noise emissions
- Traceability
- Health and safety
- Chemical management

WOOL

White Stuff is scope certified to use the Textile Exchange Responsible Wool Standards:

Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)
Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)
Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)

RWS, RMS, and RAS are all international voluntary standards that focus on animal welfare, land management and social welfare on farms and use a chain of custody from farm to final product. Throughout the supply chain the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare must be met.

The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare must be followed to ensure access to sufficient feed and water suited to the animals' age and needs to keep normal health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.

> "Throughout the supply chain the five freedoms of animal welfare must be met."

The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst so animals always have fresh water available, as well as a suitable diet that keeps them healthy and energetic
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress

RESPONSIBLE COTTON SOURCING POLICY

The processes used to turn the cotton plant into a fabric — harvesting, ginning (seed removal), cleaning and compressing cotton lint into bails, spinning and weaving, dyeing, printing — involve many locations. As such there are increased challenges to produce this material in an ethical and sustainable way. Cotton is sourced predominately by White Stuff in India, China and Turkey.

As these countries may be associated with high social, environmental and economic impacts, White Stuff commit, as set out in this policy, to support responsible and sustainable farming practices in cotton production, including efficient water usage and reduction in the use of harmful chemicals.

> “(We) support responsible and sustainable farming practices in cotton production.”

We take the human rights of those working in our supply chain very seriously and address them in our Modern Slavery Statement and our use of Fairtrade cotton.

WHITE STUFF COTTON SOURCING REQUIREMENTS

White Stuff requires all cotton to now be sourced from certified Fairtrade, GOTS, GOTS In Conversion (meaning cotton from farmers who are in the process of converting to organic production), OCS, GRS, RCS standards only. This ensures robust third-party verification that ensures compliance with our human rights and environmental standards.

We have a policy not to source from cotton from:

Uzbekistan
Turkmenistan
Azerbaijan
Tajikistan
Xinjiang Region of China

INNOVATIVE DESIGN AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Our product design teams are working with our factories to think of how we can really start to make a difference by being more sustainable, innovative and efficient in the way that we work together. At the design and development stage we've been actively committed to reducing the number of samples we are making, by 20% in 2023 and a further 20% in 2024. The teams will be doing this by working to a more focused option plan but they will also drive more development through digital sampling.

Digital Sampling is a crucial aspect of how we move forward as a clothing retailer with a real focus on creating less samples. This process is changing the way our product is being designed and brings so many benefits. It allows our designers to create a sample of a garment much faster than traditional methods and reduces the amount of waste produced during the product development stage.

This is because it eliminates the need for multiple physical samples which can often be discarded if they are not deemed suitable. No sample will be made until the designer is happy with the digital sample and it represents the designer's vision. It also means we won't be unnecessarily shipping unwanted samples from one country to another which helps with our reduction in carbon emissions. Afflatus, one of our strategic Indian suppliers, has been working with us on this. As a brand we are famous for our colourful, in-house designed prints, and we have been looking at how to become more sustainable when creating these.

Digital Printing is the future and is starting to replace the traditional screen-printing process we have been so used to working with. The new digital process uses water-based inks instead of harsh chemicals and it allows for the production of smaller quantities of product, as well as quicker and more efficient production. It also uses approximately 15% less water and produces around 6% less waste fabric, compared to the old screen-printing system.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