

Green Shape Standard

Certification program

Program owner:

Green Shape Verein zur Förderung umweltfreundlicher Bekleidung und textiler products (Green Shape e.V.)

Dr.-Alex-Frick-Weg 3, 88069 Tettnang

Registered in the register of associations at Ulm Registry Court, number VR 722901.

The association is recognized as a non-profit organization.

"Green Shape" is registered as an EU certification mark under xxx .

Kommentiert [HP1]: Add as soon as final

Table of contents

Contents

Table of contents.....	2
1. Objectives and development of the Green Shape Standard.....	4
2. Scope of application & governance.....	5
2.1. Scope of application of the Green Shape Standard	5
2.2. Structure and management of the standard	5
3. Test program	6
3.1. Requirements for products and processes in the product life cycle.....	7
3.2. Product components not taken into account	8
3.3. Recognition of other standards / meta-seal approach	9
4. Use of the Green Shape brand	9
5. Certification process (functional approach).....	10
5.1. Application	10
5.1.1. Application from companies to the program owner.....	10
5.1.2. Application from companies to the certification body.....	11
5.2. Audit planning	13
5.3. Evaluation / Audit.....	14
5.4. Evaluation and decision.....	15
5.5. Attestation / Certificate	16
5.6. Monitoring.....	16
5.6.1. Extensions to the certificate	17
5.6.2. Changed circumstances at the company	17
5.6.3. New requirements of the Green Shape Standard	18
5.7. Recertification	18
6. Requirements for certification bodies.....	19
6.1. License agreement with the program owner.....	19
6.2. Accreditation of the certification body	19
6.3. Competencies of the certification body.....	20
6.4. Further duties of the certification body.....	21

Green Shape Certification Program GS3.1

Version 1.0 - April 2025. Created by: Green Shape e.V

Valid from 01.04.2025

6.5.	Sanctions of the program owner against the certification body	22
7.	Review / Quality assurance	22
7.1.	Integrity of the Green Shape Standard	22
7.2.	Complaints and appeals	23
7.3.	Review of the Green Shape Standard	23
7.4.	Involvement of interested parties.....	24
7.5.	Management system of the certification body.....	25
8.	Normative references.....	25
9.	Annexes / Other Mitgeltende Dokumente.....	26
10.	Technical terms / Glossary / Definitions	27
11.	Log / Changes to this document.....	32

1. Objectives and development of the Green Shape Standard

Functional products made from certified recycled or biobased materials that are produced to high environmental standards and whose design incorporates reparability and resource-saving care, recyclability and high material efficiency - that is the aim of the Green Shape Standard.

Green Shape is a standard for checking environmentally relevant aspects in product development processes across all life cycle phases of environmentally friendly clothing and textile products. The Green Shape Standard differs significantly from other standards previously available for such products by taking a holistic view of all life cycle phases.

Certification according to the Green Shape Standard gives manufacturers, (specialist) retailers and consumers certainty that a Green Shape product has been manufactured according to the highest environmental standards of the textile industry and that the certified companies comply with all the requirements defined in the Green Shape Standard. At the same time, customers are made more aware of the environmental damage caused by textile production and the sustainable consumption of textiles.

Green Shape was initially developed by VAUDE Sport GmbH & Co. KG in 2010 for its own products and product development processes. The reason for this was that no suitable standard existed for the product range and there was a desire from specialist retailers to make more environmentally friendly products recognizable for consumers.

Since its introduction, the standard has been expanded in two review stages to include requirements for criteria for further life cycle phases and has been made more specific, particularly with regard to environmental aspects in the upstream supply chain and the circular economy. Relevant experts were involved in the gradual further development of the Green Shape Standard as representatives of the most important interested parties. These formed an independent Green Shape Advisory Board in 2022. The structured involvement of interested parties in the review process remains an important aspect of the Green Shape Standard.

Green Shape is partly based on best practice standards in the textile industry that cover individual phases of the product life cycle, in particular the processes in the upstream supply chain. Existing certifications are recognized for Green Shape according to defined criteria and combined with other requirements to form a holistic system.

The Green Shape Standard defines requirements and test certificates for products, product components and product development processes that are checked by accredited certification bodies in accordance with the specifications of this certification program.

Successful verification of compliance with these requirements leads to certification of the company's product development processes and its products in accordance with the Green Shape Standard.

This entitles the holder to use the Green Shape trademark, provided that a legally valid license agreement has been concluded with the program owner.

Green Shape is an environmental standard. Social aspects are not part of the audit program. However, Green Shape e.V., as the program owner, sets out minimum requirements for companies to comply with due diligence obligations in its procurement regulations (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 20**).

The Green Shape Standard is based on DIN ISO/IEC 17065 and contains additional requirements to the standard. The standard was developed taking into account the guidelines in accordance with DIN ISO/IEC 17067.

2. Scope of application & governance

2.1. Scope of application of the Green Shape Standard

This certification scheme describes the requirements and processes that certification bodies implement in order to certify a company's product development processes and resulting products according to the Green Shape Standard.

It describes requirements and test certificates to be submitted for products and product development processes of companies that are required for certification according to the Green Shape Standard.

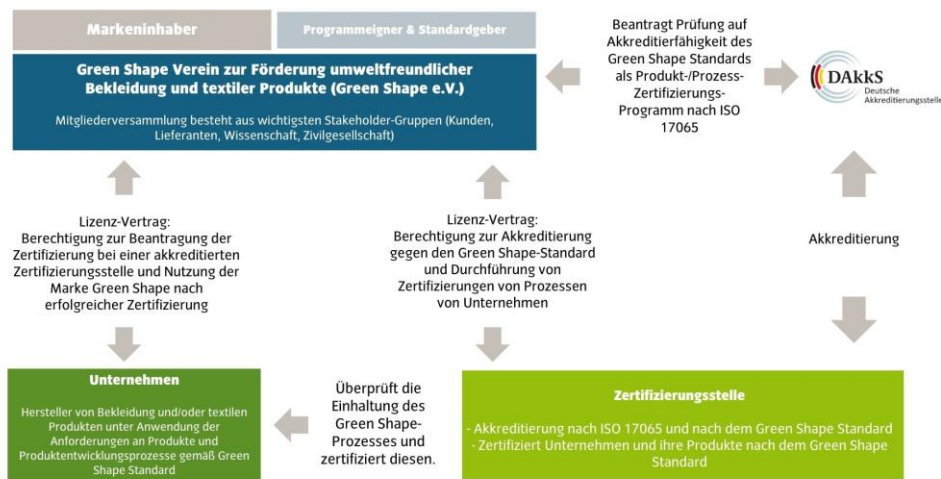
The scope of the Green Shape Standard covers environmentally friendly clothing and textile products in accordance with the Green Shape trademark regulations (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 30**) for the product classes listed in **Mitgeltendes Dokument 02**.

2.2. Structure and management of the standard

The program owner of the Green Shape Standard and owner of the "Green Shape" certification mark is the *Green Shape Verein zur Förderung umweltfreundlicher Bekleidung und textiler Produkte*, 88069 Tettnang, Germany.

The players within the Green Shape Standard are shown in the following diagram.

STRUKTUR DES GREEN SHAPE STANDARDS



Manufacturers of products ("companies") in the product classes approved for the Green Shape Standard (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 02**) can apply to the program owner to use the Green Shape Standard.

The program owner decides on the application in accordance with the Award Ordinance (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 20**). In the event of a positive decision, a license agreement is concluded between the program owner and the company.

The company then applies for certification from a certification body accredited for the Green Shape Standard. This body carries out all the steps required for certification at the company in accordance with this certification program.

Further details of the application and award process for companies, scheme owners and certification bodies are set out in Chapter 5.

3. Test program

Green Shape Certification Program GS3.1

Version 1.0 - April 2025. Created by: Green Shape e.V

Valid from 01.04.2025

3.1. Requirements for products and processes in the product life cycle

The Green Shape Standard takes a holistic view of the product and the levers in the product development processes that have an impact on its sustainability throughout the entire product life cycle. Product developers have a significant influence on how these levers are used for greater environmental protection.

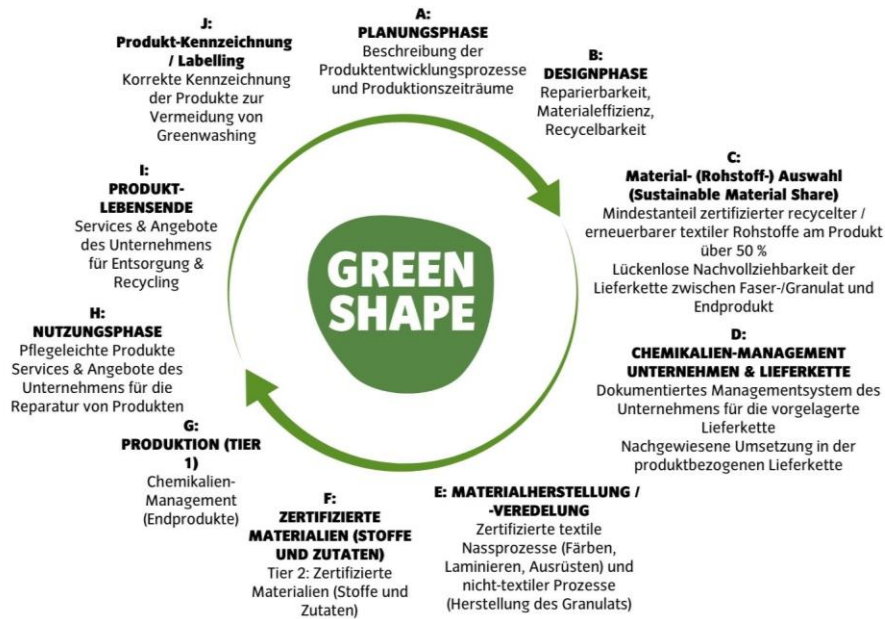
The Green Shape testing program includes requirements for products and processes and defines test certificates for the phases of the product life cycle that must be fulfilled and maintained for successful Green Shape certification.

Detailed requirements for products and processes as well as the minimum test certificates to be checked during the audit are set out in **Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**.

As part of the audit, the company demonstrates that its product development has implemented and maintains suitable processes to ensure compliance with the test criteria for Green Shape products.

Each product is assessed in all phases of the product life cycle using the defined test criteria. The individual phases and test areas are illustrated in the following diagram.

ANFORDERUNGEN AN GREEN SHAPE PRODUKTE



3.2. Product components not taken into account

The Green Shape Standard focuses in particular on textile product components. In the phases:

- B. Material (raw material) selection (Sustainable Material Share)
- D. Material production / refinement
- E. Materials (substances and ingredients)

non-textile product components are therefore not taken into account for the calculations of the respective specified minimum percentages ("out of scope"). Details are described in the **Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**.

3.3. Recognition of other standards / meta-seal approach

In the product life cycle phases B (material (raw material) selection (Sustainable Material Content) to F (production (Tier 1)), the Green Shape Standard recognizes other standards and certificates that cover certain environmental and consumer protection aspects in the upstream supply chain and in the end product.

These standards are recognized by the program owner on the basis of clearly defined, non-discriminatory criteria in accordance with **Mitgeltendes Dokument 05**, either as part of regular reviews in accordance with Chapter 7 or at the request of such a standard.

Standard owners can submit an application for recognition of their standard for the Green Shape Standard via the contact form on the program owner's website. Within a maximum period of six months after receipt of the application, the program owner carries out an assessment in accordance with **Mitgeltendes Dokument 05**, documents this and informs the applying standard owner of the decision in writing.

If the decision is positive, the program owner updates the product requirements and test certificates (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**) within four weeks and publishes this on its website.

Green Shape e.V. and the applicant standard owner shall reach mutual agreements on the right to use each other's seals in the context of communication on the standards concerned, any license fees and other regulations.

4. Use of the Green Shape brand

Kommentiert [HP2]: Comparison with trademark statutes

The word and figurative mark "Green Shape" is registered as a certification mark under the reference number xyz with xyz.

The trademark owner and program owner is Green Shape e.V. All rights to the word and figurative mark Green Shape are held by the trademark owner.

The contents of the certification mark statutes are part of the Green Shape Standard (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 30**).

The use of the Green Shape trademark is regulated in the trademark manual (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 31**), which is also part of the Green Shape Standard.

The use of the Green Shape brand is regulated by a license agreement between the scheme owner and the company before the company submits its application to a certification body.

Use of the Green Shape brand prior to certification is excluded.

After a positive certification decision and issuance of the corresponding certificate by the certification body and subject to a valid license agreement with the program owner, the company receives the right to use the Green Shape trademark in accordance with the trademark statutes and the trademark manual.

The certification body is obliged to monitor the use of the Green Shape trademark in accordance with the trademark manual and to take appropriate measures if the certified company does not (or no longer) meet the requirements. This also includes measures to be taken if the company refuses to react appropriately to the unauthorized use of the Green Shape trademark.

If the certification body identifies any unauthorized use of the "Green Shape" trademark, it shall inform the company and the scheme owner in writing within five working days of becoming aware of this.

This also applies in the event that a certification is not renewed or is withdrawn (see sections 5.6. and 5.7).

This also applies in the event that non-certified companies or other stakeholders make unauthorized use of the Green Shape brand.

Notwithstanding the sanctioning of unauthorized use of the Green Shape trademark by measures of the certification body, the program owner reserves the right to take action against this himself in accordance with the trademark statutes.

The use of the Green Shape brand by the certification body itself is regulated in the license agreement between the scheme owner and the certification body in accordance with section 6.1.

5. Certification process (functional approach)

The certification process is illustrated in the **Mitgeltendes Dokument 44**.

5.1. Application

The Green Shape Standard provides for a multi-stage application process.

5.1.1. Application from companies to the program owner

If a company that manufactures products in accordance with the Green Shape Trademark Specification referred to in **Mitgeltendes Dokument 30** and the product classes listed therein (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 02**) wishes to be certified in accordance with the Green Shape Standard, it must submit an application to the program owner. The application form provided on the Green Shape Standard website (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 21**) must be used for this purpose.

The program owner decides on the application in accordance with its award regulations (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 20**) and informs the company of its decision within three months of receipt of the application.

If the application is approved, the scheme owner issues a confirmation to the applicant and concludes a license agreement with the company. This is a prerequisite for the company's application to a certification body for certification of its products (see section 5.1.2).

5.1.2. Application from companies to the certification body

With the confirmation in accordance with section 5.1.1, the company can submit an application for certification to a certification body accredited in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 against the Green Shape Standard.

The information required to be submitted to the certification body as part of the application includes at least

- a. Self-assessment of the company according to the form provided on the program owner's website (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 23**);
- b. Positive decision from the program owner regarding eligibility to apply;
- c. Names and addresses of the company's locations;
- d. The company's own and outsourced activities and processes in connection with the Green Shape Standard;
- e. List of product classes, product class specifications and products that are to be certified as Green Shape products;
- f. further information on their supply chains, at least an overview of all production countries in the first and second upstream stages of the value chain (Tier 1 and Tier 2 supply chain), and
- g. Number, name, address incl. country of all suppliers of the first and second upstream value-added stage (Tier 1 and Tier 2) as well as
- h. the type of process steps carried out there; and
- i. the description of the production periods relevant for the products to be certified in accordance with **Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**; and
- j. the duration of cooperation with the company and the identification of new suppliers;

- k. a comprehensive risk analysis of the company's supply chain (Tier 1 and Tier 2) based on OECD industry risks¹
- l. Number and scope of collections per financial year;
- m. Audit reports of previous certifications according to the Green Shape Standard, if carried out by other certification bodies;
- n. Relationships of the company within a larger corporate body, if relevant;
- o. Organizational chart;
- p. human and technical resources of the company;
- q. any other documents that the certification body deems necessary.

The certification body then evaluates the information it has received and decides whether to accept or reject the application.

If the certification body requires explanations regarding this information, it will request an official interpretation from the program owner.

In the event of a positive decision on the company's application, the certification body concludes an agreement with the company on the implementation of the certification.

It also stipulates that the following information can be published on the program owner's website after certification:

- a. Name of the company
- b. Address of the company
- c. Scope of the certificate incl. list of certified products and processes
- d. Expiration date of the certificate
- e. Certification status
- f. Name of the certification body
- g. Date, place and scope of the respective evaluation.

This information is also published in the event of unsuccessful recertification or monitoring.

Further information disclosed during the evaluation process will be treated confidentially and will not be passed on to third parties. Exceptions to this are the program owner and the accreditation body.

The company is free to choose the certification body for Green Shape certification, provided it is accredited against the Green Shape Standard.

The scheme owner provides an up-to-date list of accredited certification bodies on the Green Shape website.

¹ https://www.oecd.org/de/publications/oecd-leitfaden-fur-die-erfullung-der-sorgfaltspflicht-zur-forderung-verantwortungsvoller-lieferketten-in-der-bekleidungs-und-schuhwarenindustrie_9789264304536-de.html

5.2. Audit planning

Once the application has been approved, the audit is planned by the certification body.

To this end, it develops an audit program for the company, which initially comprises the initial audit and, following its successful completion, the surveillance audits in accordance with section 5.6 and recertification in accordance with section 5.7.

In addition, the audit program contains an audit plan for each individual audit.

The certification body prepares a complete audit plan to document the audit path, which contains at least a description of the sample, the determined audit times, the type of review (inspection, interview, document review) and the persons involved.

It takes a risk-based approach in accordance with the OECD Sector Risks for the Textile and Footwear Industry² for the audit program to be created by taking into account the type, complexity and number of products to be certified, the environmental relevance of the processed materials, whether and in which risk countries the production of raw materials, substances and ingredients as well as the products takes place and, if necessary, other risk factors.

Based on this risk assessment, the certification body develops a documented procedure to:

- determine the required sample,
- determine the audit times
- and to draw up an audit plan.

In preparation for the audit, the certification body schedules the audit with the company, takes a random sample of the products to be audited, checks the current versions of the MRSL, Wastewater Guideline and RSL for the respective production period in accordance with Chapter 3 and prepares the audit documentation (protocol).

The sample is selected by the certification body at least one week before the audit date using the process defined in **Mitgeltendes Dokument 41**.

The minimum audit time per product to be audited is 30 minutes. It may be increased depending on the risk. The time spent by personnel who do not carry out evaluation activities (e.g. technical experts, translators, interpreters, observers and evaluation personnel in training) is not counted towards the calculated audit time, nor is time spent traveling to and from audits.

² https://www.oecd.org/de/publications/oecd-leitfaden-fur-die-erfullung-der-sorgfaltspflicht-zur-forderung-verantwortungsvoller-lieferketten-in-der-bekleidungs-und-schuhwarenindustrie_9789264304536-de.html

Audits can take place on site, remotely or hybrid, by agreement between the certification body and the company and in accordance with the specifications of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF ID 3: 2011).³

The certification body informs the company of the sample determined in good time so that it can prepare the audit effectively.

The company prepares the test certificates for all products selected as a random sample in good time before the audit and submits them to the certification body during the audit.

5.3. Evaluation / Audit

As part of the evaluation, the auditor determines whether the processes and resulting products that the company wishes to certify fulfill all product and process criteria of the Green Shape Standard (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**).

All audits are carried out as follows to ensure reproducibility:

The company shall ensure that sufficient personnel capable of providing information are present during the evaluation.

The audit begins with an opening meeting in which the nature and scope of the audit, the assessment principles and aspects of confidentiality are explained.

To enable the certification body to carry out the evaluation (and monitoring), the company shall ensure that it has access to all information relevant to the evaluation, in particular test certificates.

The audit is carried out using the test program in accordance with **Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**. For this purpose, all necessary test steps for the individual products of the respective sample are run through and the corresponding test certificates are evaluated.

The audit ends with a final meeting in which the auditor presents the preliminary results of the audit and, if applicable, provides the company with a list of audit certificates still to be submitted and the deadlines by which they must be submitted.

Once the audit has been completed, the auditor prepares the audit documentation within two weeks.

The documentation of compliance with the audit program by means of audit certificates is carried out using the **Mitgeltendes Dokument 42** (audit protocol) as part of the audit report.

³ https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAFID32011_Management_of_Extraordinary_Events_or_Circumstances.pdf

The audit report shows at least

- Place, time and duration of the audit,
- Participants in the audit
- Audited products and processes
- Identification of deviations, if applicable
- If applicable, the deadline and form within which the company can subsequently submit documents. This period may not exceed weeks from the date of the final interview.

In the event of deviations or the need to submit additional test certificates, the company shall send the necessary test certificates to the auditor in good time.

As soon as all test certificates are available and have been verified by the auditor, or after expiry of the defined follow-up deadline even if they have not been submitted in full, the auditor submits the complete audit documentation to the certification body for evaluation and certification decision.

5.4. Evaluation and decision

The assessor reviews the audit documentation and all other related documents and information.

The information used for verification shall include at least the following:

- a. Audit plan
- b. Determination of audit times
- c. Information on determining the defined sample
- d. Completely filled out audit protocol
- e. If applicable, the subsequently submitted and verified test certificates within the period defined by the auditor
- f. any other information deemed necessary by the certification body.

After reviewing all the necessary documents and information, the assessor makes a recommendation for the certification decision or makes this decision independently.

The certification decision is made within two working days of the assessment being carried out. The decision is made for all or, if necessary, only for individual classes of goods.

The certification body informs both the company and the program owner of the result in writing within two working days of the certification decision.

If the certification decision is positive, a certificate is issued in accordance with section 5.5.

The certificate is issued for a period of three years.

In the event of a negative certification decision, the certification body informs both the company and the program owner in writing within five working days, stating the reasons.

Existing certificates lose their validity in this case. The program owner will update the information on its website within two weeks.

In order to regain certification after a negative certification decision or withdrawal of certification, a complete new evaluation is required. The regulations in Chapter 5 apply accordingly.

5.5. Attestation / Certificate

In the event of a positive certification decision, the certification body prepares the formal certification documentation on the basis of the template provided by the scheme owner on its website (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 43**).

This contains at least:

- a) Name and address of the certification body
- b) Name of the auditor and the evaluator
- c) Date of the certification decision taken
- d) Name and address of the company
- e) Scope of certification incl. identification of the product life cycle processes according to the test program (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 01**)
- f) Test basis (name and version of the certification program and test criteria)
- g) List of the company's certified products and their assignment to product classes in accordance with **Mitgeltendes Dokument 02**
- h) Validity date of the certificate
- i) Date of the next certification or surveillance to be carried out, if applicable with reference to deadlines to be met for application and audit planning

Based on this certification documentation, the scheme owner updates the information about the company and the list of its certified products on its website within two weeks of receiving it.

5.6. Monitoring

After successful initial or re-certification, at least annual surveillance audits are carried out by the certification body during the term of the certificate.

The application procedure in section 5.1.2 and the requirements in sections 5.2 to 5.4 apply accordingly.

During surveillance audits, the certification body can adjust the size of the sample compared to the (initial) certification based on risk.

A new certificate is only issued in the event of recertification (section 5.7) or an extension of the certificate (section 5.6.1).

5.6.1. Extensions to the certificate

If the company wishes to add products to the certification scope during the current certification period, it can apply to the certification body as part of the surveillance audit.

To this end, it shall provide the certification body with an updated list of the products intended for certification together with the application documents in accordance with section 5.1.2.

The processes in accordance with sections 5.2 to 5.5 are carried out accordingly, taking into account the new products to be certified.

After a successful surveillance audit, the certificate is updated with reference to the extended product list. The certificate term originally specified for the regular certification remains valid until recertification.

5.6.2. Changed circumstances at the company

If the company's circumstances that have an impact on the Green Shape Standard change, it is obliged to inform the scheme owner and the certification body within two weeks of becoming aware of these circumstances.

These circumstances include:

- Withdrawal of upstream certifications of suppliers by their certification bodies or program owners;
- Insolvency or closure of production facilities in the upstream supply chain (Tier 1 or Tier 2);
- Serious accidents in production facilities in the upstream supply chain (Tier 1 or Tier 2);
- Incidents relating to chemical management or other aspects of the testing program;
- Political events in countries in the upstream supply chain that hinder compliance with the requirements of the procurement regulations or the audit program;
- Inclusion of suppliers in the upstream supply chain (Tier 1 or Tier 2) in new or additional risk production countries

- Insolvency or takeover of the company by other companies or other serious changes in the company's situation
- Serious complaints or media reports about the company, its products or its supply chains in connection with the requirements of the procurement regulations or the audit program.

The certification body assesses the reported circumstances within two weeks of receiving the information. If necessary, it will request further information from the company within this period. The company is obliged to provide this information to the certification body within one week.

Within two weeks of receiving all complete information, the certification body shall evaluate it and decide whether an unscheduled surveillance shall take place. Chapter 5.6 applies accordingly to unscheduled surveillance.

If the changed circumstances affect the program owner's award regulations or use of the Green Shape trademark pursuant to Chapter 4, the program owner shall decide within two weeks whether the requirements for the use of the Green Shape trademark are still met.

If this is not the case, the program owner informs the certification body within two weeks that the certificate is to be suspended.

If the company does not report changed circumstances or does not report them in due time, the certification body and scheme owner are entitled to withdraw the authorization to use the Green Shape trademark. The company will be notified of this in writing within two weeks.

5.6.3. New requirements of the Green Shape Standard

If the program owner introduces new or modified requirements in the test program or in the award regulations, the certification body shall ensure that the company is informed of the changes no later than four weeks after the program owner announces them.

Specifications for the implementation and review of new or amended requirements are communicated with the publication of the respective changes.

5.7. Recertification

Recertification takes place in accordance with the specifications made in the audit planning of the certification body (chapter 5.2).

In order to remain eligible for certification, the company must submit a new application to the program owner in good time before the certificate expires (section 5.1.1).

6. Requirements for certification bodies

The following chapter defines basic requirements for certification bodies and the certification body staff involved in the certification activities of the Green Shape Standard.

6.1. License agreement with the program owner

Before commencing any certification activities for the Green Shape Standard, interested certification bodies conclude a license agreement with the scheme owner.

For this purpose, the interested certification body submits a written application for licensing to the program owner. The program owner examines the application on the basis of the applicable award regulations (**Mitgeltendes Dokument 20**).

Once the application has been approved, a license agreement is concluded between the scheme owner and the certification body. This is also a prerequisite for submitting an application for accreditation for the scope of the Green Shape Standard to the responsible national accreditation body.

If the scheme owner rejects the application with good reason, the certification body may only reapply if it can be proven that all the reasons for the rejection have been permanently eliminated. Corresponding evidence must be submitted unsolicited with the new application.

6.2. Accreditation of the certification body

Certification bodies shall ensure that they are accredited by the competent national accreditation body within the meaning of Regulation (EC) 765/2008 before commencing certification activities or concluding a certification agreement with companies in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 for the Green Shape certification scheme.

The competence of the certification body is generally determined on the basis of an office assessment, a review of certification procedures and the competencies of certification body employees and the performance of witness audits.

For certification bodies that have not previously carried out audits in accordance with Green Shape standards, the witness audit can be carried out within a period of one year after a positive accreditation decision.

Certification bodies that have already been trained to audit the Green Shape Standard and have carried out audits before the eligibility for accreditation of the Green Shape Standard was established may continue to carry out audits and certification activities, provided that:

- they have concluded a legally valid license agreement with the program owner, and
- they prove to the program owner as part of the application review,
 - that a corresponding application for accreditation has been submitted and no negative accreditation decision has been made to date.
 - that all relevant certification body employees are trained in the latest version of the Green Shape Standard.

This exception ends twelve months after the application for accreditation. Certification bodies that do not have a positive accreditation decision for the Green Shape Standard by this time may no longer carry out Green Shape certifications from this date.

6.3. Competencies of the certification body

The certification body ensures that the employees involved in the certification process for the Green Shape Standard are appropriately qualified and competent.

The following conditions apply:

Employees who are involved in the evaluation and certification process must be trained before taking up their respective tasks:

- demonstrate that the qualification requirements for auditors and reviewers or certification decision-makers are met for the respective function in accordance with the specifications in the **Mitgeltendes Dokument 40**,
- have participated in the training program of the Green Shape Standard by the program owner,
- the practical application of the standard has been successfully verified (e.g. through witness audits) prior to commencing the respective activity.

It is the responsibility of the certification body to ensure this:

- that regular exchanges of experience (at least eight hours per year) are held on the Green Shape Standard in order to promote harmonization and uniform interpretation of the standard,
- Auditors may not conduct more than three consecutive audits at one company,
- in the event of changes or further developments to the standard, the associated training dates are attended before the respective tasks are carried out in accordance with the new version,

- auditors must carry out at least one audit per year to maintain their accreditation,
- that processes are in place to regularly monitor and maintain the competence of auditors, reviewers and certification decision-makers.

6.4. Further duties of the certification body

The certification body ensures that all rules and requirements defined by the Green Shape Standard and specified by the scheme owner are always complied with by the employees involved in the certification process.

In order to ensure an impartial audit of the company, the certification body may not provide any consulting services in connection with the Green Shape Standard. Excluded from this is the exchange of information, such as statements on evaluation results or the clarification of requirements between the certification body and its clients.

The certification body is responsible for informing its customers of new certification requirements for Green Shape and of any deadlines within which the new requirements must be met in order to maintain certification.

The certification body is only entitled to use the Green Shape brand for marketing or information purposes after successful conclusion of a license agreement with the program owner.

The certification body is obliged to provide the scheme owner with unsolicited written information on its activities in connection with the Green Shape Standard at least once a year at the end of the first quarter. This includes at least:

- Number, name, address and contact persons of the companies as well as their active certificates on the market with term and product list;
- Current overview of all employees involved in the certification process, listed by function;
- Number of suspended, withdrawn and suspended certificates in the last calendar year, if applicable;
- Relevant findings for the further development of the Green Shape Standard from the certification process, if available.

In addition, the certification body is obliged to provide the scheme owner with further information relating to the Green Shape Standard on request.

If the accreditation of the certification body for the Green Shape Standard is suspended or withdrawn, the certification body is obliged to inform the scheme owner within five working days without being asked to do so.

Changes that could affect their accreditation must be reported immediately to the program owner and the accreditation body.

6.5. Sanctions of the program owner against the certification body

If a certification body or its personnel does not comply with the obligations listed in Chapter 6 or the instructions of the accreditation body or the program owner, the program owner shall take action against this.

Depending on the type of non-compliance, this may be a clarifying discussion, a formal warning, an obligation to undergo further training or further qualification measures to ensure the integrity of the Green Shape Standard, the withdrawal of authorization to carry out activities as part of the certification process for individual employees of the certification body or the entire certification body, or other sanctions in accordance with the license agreement.

7. Review / Quality assurance

7.1. Integrity of the Green Shape Standard

To ensure the quality and integrity of the Green Shape Standard, the program owner and the accreditation body are entitled to participate in Green Shape audits at any time.

The certification body systematically processes and implements information from the scheme owner or the accreditation body on the application or interpretation of the Green Shape Standard.

The certification body is obliged to provide all information related to the Green Shape Standard to the scheme owner and the accreditation body upon request. This includes in particular information on certification activities carried out, in progress and planned.

All communication of the certification body in connection with the Green Shape Standard to companies, the public or other third parties is carried out in an appreciative manner in accordance with the current content and presentation of the award regulations, the certification scheme, the trademark statutes, the trademark manual and all other Mitgeltende Dokumente.

If necessary, the certification body requests technical support from the scheme owner by means of appropriate communication material.

Details (including data protection) are regulated in the license agreements between the program owner and the certification body and between the program owner and the company.

The certification body includes a corresponding clause in its certification agreement with the company and informs all employees working in connection with the Green Shape Standard of this.

The scheme owner provides a training program for certification bodies and companies. The certification body is obliged to complete this program before commencing activities in connection with the Green Shape Standard and to renew it after every change to the Green Shape Standard, including the Mitgeltende Dokumente. The scheme owner issues a confirmation of successful participation to the participating persons.

7.2. Complaints and appeals

As part of the integrity and further development of the Green Shape Standard, constructive feedback is welcome as valuable feedback.

The program owner accepts general feedback or complaints from interested members of the public about the Green Shape Standard via the contact form on its website.

Complaints about the company's Green Shape products are initially addressed directly to the company itself.

Appeals by the company against a certification decision by the certification body are addressed directly to the certification body.

The certification body defines a documented process for dealing with complaints and objections. If these cannot be resolved amicably between the certification body and the company within four weeks, the certification body proactively informs the scheme owner.

The program owner processes all complaints within four weeks of receipt.

7.3. Review of the Green Shape Standard

The Green Shape Standard is subject to regular reviews.

The program owner reviews the audit program and all associated processes and other Mitgeltende Dokumente at least every five years and in the event of significant changes in market conditions with the involvement of relevant stakeholder groups.

Should it become apparent during the practical application of the standard by the certification body, company or scheme owner that certain requirements are not practicable, the scheme

owner will carry out a review only for the affected partial aspects within three months of becoming aware of this.

If there is a need for editorial clarification of the Green Shape Standard, underlying standards, the test program, Mitgeltende Dokumente or other requirements, the program owner drafts one or more new Mitgeltende Dokumente as an aid to interpretation and clarification and/or an updated version of the Mitgeltende Dokumente concerned.

To this end, it defines transitional periods to be applied in each case.

Changes to the content of the Green Shape Standard, the test program, other Mitgeltende Dokumente or other requirements beyond editorial clarification lead to a new version of the Green Shape Standard.

All changes are listed in the Green Shape Standard log in chapter 11.

7.4. Involvement of interested parties

The program owner involves other interested parties in the further development of the Green Shape Standard beyond its general meeting.

This ensures that the Green Shape Standard offers added value for program owners, certification bodies, companies and consumers, both in terms of corporate due diligence towards people and the environment and in terms of current market requirements.

The most important stakeholder groups for the Green Shape Standard include customers, suppliers, experts and scientists with environmental and/or textile expertise, particularly with regard to climate protection and the circular economy, as well as the critical public/consumer protection. With their expertise, these stakeholders cover various phases of the product life cycle and the respective defined test criteria.

Their concerns are given appropriate consideration during reviews. To this end, the program owner forms suitable participation formats, such as one or more working groups made up of particularly competent and/or particularly affected stakeholder groups, each represented by persons with the relevant technical expertise.

The program owner documents the involvement of stakeholder groups, their feedback on the further development of the Green Shape Standard and the decisions as to whether, how and why this is integrated into the Green Shape Standard in an appropriate manner and makes it accessible to all stakeholders.

The program owner determines the timing and specific formats of stakeholder involvement. The program owner decides on publication.

7.5. Management system of the certification body

The certification body has established and maintains a management system that is suitable for consistently fulfilling the requirements of DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065.

It is obliged to anchor the requirements of the Green Shape Standard in its management system.

8. Normative reference ungen

- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17067
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 19011
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17030
- DIN EN ISO 14021:2021-10
- this certification scheme and the Mitgeltende Dokumente listed in chapter 9
- OECD (2020), OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Industry, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264304536-de>; Revised edition, December 2020⁴
- the Common Framework for Responsible Purchasing Practices⁵
- the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, version 2025 of the 12th edition of the Nice Classification ⁶
- the General Data Protection Regulation⁷
- the instructions of the International Accreditation Forum IAF ID 3 for certification bodies⁸

⁴ https://www.oecd.org/de/publications/oecd-leitfaden-fur-die-erfullung-der-sorgfaltspflicht-zur-forderung-verantwortungsvoller-lieferketten-in-der-bekleidungs-und-schuhwarenindustrie_9789264304536-de.html

⁵ <https://www.cfpp.org/the-common-framework>

⁶ https://www.dpma.de/marken/klassifikation/waren_dienstleistungen/nizza/index.html

⁷ https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/INFO1.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=19

⁸ https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAFID32011_Management_of_Extraordinary_Events_or_Circumstances.pdf

9. Annexes / Other Mitgeltende Dokumente

No.	Name of the document	Content of the document
01	GS3.1 mgD 01 examination program_product requirements_test certificates V1.0	Green Shape product and process requirements, explanation of the minimum proportions of certified materials depending on product class and list of product components not taken into account
02	GS3.1 mgD 02 Classes of goods V1.2	List of product categories approved for Green Shape
03	GS3.1 mgD 03 Calculation of material efficiency V1.0	Instructions for calculating material efficiency
04	GS3.1 mgD 04 Calculation of the proportion of sustainable materials SMCS V1.0	Instructions for calculating the share of sustainable materials (Sustainable Material Content Share)
05	GS3.1 mgD 05 Recognition of third party certificates V1.0	Procedure for the recognition of standards and certificates (meta seal process)
06	GS3.1 mgD 06 bluesign CRITERIA for bluesign PRODUCT_chapter 10_component classification	Basis for components not taken into account
20	GS3.1 mgD 20 Green Shape e.V. Award Regulations V1.0	Regulations of the Green Shape e.V.
21	GS3.1 mgD 21 Application form V1.0	Application form for companies to Green Shape e.V.
22	GS3.1 mgD 22 Systematics of mgD V1.0	Description of the system of Mitgeltende Dokumente for the Green Shape Standard
23	GS3.1 mgD 23 Application documents and self-assessment V1.0	Checklist of process-related Green Shape criteria for self-assessment and preparation for the audit
30	GS3.1 mgD 30 Green Shape Trademark V1.0	Statutes of the Green Shape certification mark

Green Shape Certification Program GS3.1

Version 1.0 - April 2025. Created by: Green Shape e.V

Valid from 01.04.2025

31	GS3.1 mgD 31 Brand manual V1.0	Green Shape Brand Manual (Logo Manual)
40	GS3.1 mgD 40 Requirements for competencies of the certification body V1.0	List of competencies of different roles within the certification body
41	GS3.1 mgD 41 Sample determination process V1.0	Description of the process for determining the sample for audits
42	GS3.1 mgD 42 Audit report / audit log template V1.0	Audit report form for use by the certification body
43	GS3.1 mgD 43 Template Green Shape Certificate V1.0	Template with minimum contents of the Green Shape certificate
44	GS3.1 mgD 44 Graphic_Application_process V1.0	

10. Technical terms / Glossary / Definitions

English	Explanation
Audit	Process for obtaining relevant information about an object of conformity assessment and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which the specified requirements are met. (Definition ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Book and Claim	System in which companies acquire sustainability certificates without the products being physically linked to them. The claim is "booked" to demonstrate sustainable practices
DAkkS (German National Accreditation Authority)	National Accreditation Authority of the Federal Republic of Germany

EOL (End of Product Life)	Point in time at which a product can no longer be used and is no longer part of the consumption cycle. This marks the transition to disposal, reuse or recycling of the product.
Lining	Textile fabric on the inside of products
GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)	GOTS is a textile processing standard for organic fibers with independent and transparent certification of the entire supply chain.
GRS (Global Recycle Standard)	The Global Recycle Standard sets requirements for the independent certification of recycled materials, product chains and social and environmental practices.
GS (Green Shape)	Standard and certification program for clothing and textile outdoor products
Main Fabric	Main / outer fabric of a textile product
Identity Preserve	Procedures to ensure traceability and compliance with standards of a material or product throughout the supply chain
Conformity Assessment Body / Certification Body	Independent organization that tests and certifies the compliance of products, processes or services with defined standards or regulations.
Supplier / Tier 2	Supplier of the second upstream value-added stage; manufacturer of materials / ingredients

M/RSL	Combination of RSL and MRSL
Material Efficiency	Ratio of materials used to materials actually processed in the product. For textile fabrics: fabric width in relation to cut parts required for a product as a percentage; gross/net material consumption ratio
MRSL (Manufacturing Restricted Substance List)	List of chemicals that are restricted or prohibited in the manufacture of textiles and leather. The MRSL serves to protect employees, consumers and the environment.
Mulesing	Painful procedure to prevent parasite infestation in sheep.
Non-nominated supplier / local supplier	Pre-supplier determined by the producer himself
OCS (Organic Claim Standard)	Standard that verifies the presence and quantity of organic material and the flow of raw material from its origin to the final product, e.g. for natural fibers such as cotton
Post-consumer material	Material from households, commercial and industrial facilities or institutes (who are end users of the product) that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returned material from the supply chain. (Definition ISO 14021:2016)

Pre-Consumer / Post Industrial Material	Material that is separated from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. It does not include the reuse of materials from reworking, regrinding or scrap that arise in the course of a technical process and can be reused in the same process. (Definition ISO 14021:2016)
Manufacturer / Tier 1	Direct business partner of the company; supplier of the first upstream stage of the value chain; usually textile manufacturers
Product Development / Product Development processes	Entire product development process from planning to design, material selection and manufacturing processes of the end product
Chain of Custody	Transparent progression of a product or material along the entire supply chain, starting with raw material extraction, through processing and transportation, to the finished end product. Evidence is passed on from the upstream to the downstream stage of the value chain.
Scheme owner	Sponsor of a certification program. For the Green Shape Standard: Green Shape Verein zur Förderung umweltfreundlicher Bekleidung und textiler Produkte e.V. (Green Shape e.V.)
RCS (Recycled Claim Standard)	International certification for proof of use of recycled materials

RDS (Responsible Down Standard)	Voluntary standard that specifies binding minimum standards for the production of down.
Recyclability	Characteristic of products, packaging or associated components that can be separated from the waste stream, collected, processed and recycled in the form of raw materials or products by appropriate processes and programs. (Definition ISO 14021:2016)
Feedstock	Natural resources that are used to manufacture products. Raw materials can be of mineral, plant, animal or fossil origin and are often divided into primary (directly from nature) and secondary raw materials (e.g. materials obtained through recycling).
RSL (Restricted Substance List)	List of restricted or prohibited chemical substances in end products
RWS (Responsible Wool Standard)	Voluntary standard for animal welfare-friendly wool, which requires certification of all locations from the wool farm to the seller in the final transaction between companies.
Mini marker	Technical illustration of a textile product showing the individual pattern pieces from which the piece is assembled.
STeP (Sustainable Textile Production)	certification, which sets the highest standards for both social and ecological aspects of textile and leather production as well as for industrial laundries.
Segregated	Materials with certain standards are processed separately from others during production in order to maintain their properties and avoid mixing.
Fabrics	Textiles made from fibers by weaving, knitting or other techniques.

Company	In the Green Shape Standard: Manufacturers of Green Shape certifiable products (standard users)
Salesmen Sample	Pre-produced individual parts in sample size as illustrative parts for presentation to customers
ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals)	The Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) program is a global initiative that focuses on the elimination of hazardous chemicals from the textile, clothing and footwear industries.
Trims	Product components such as zippers, buttons, ribbons, etc.

11. Log / Changes to this document

Date	Chapter	Amendment