

Green Shape Standard 3.1

Certification Program Version 1.1.



Program:

**Green Shape Association for the Promotion of Environmentally Friendly Clothing and Textile Products
(Green Shape e.V.)**

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<https://green-shape.org/>

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

The association is recognized as a non-profit organization.

"Green Shape" is registered with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) as an EU certification mark under number **019221657** .

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1. Objective and development of the Green Shape Standard

Functional products made from certified recycled or biogenic materials that are produced under high environmental standards and whose design includes repairability and resource-saving care, recyclability and high material efficiency – that is the objective of the Green Shape Standard.

Green Shape is a standard for reviewing 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 due to the holistic view of all life cycle phases.

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

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

Since its introduction, the standard has been expanded in two review steps to include requirements for criteria for further life cycle phases and specified in particular with regard to environmental aspects in the upstream supply chain and with regard to the circular economy. Relevant experts were involved in the step-by-step development of the Green Shape Standard as representatives of the most important interested parties. In 2022, they formed an independent Green Shape Advisory Board. The structured involvement of interested parties in the review process remains an important aspect within the Green Shape Standard.

Green Shape is partly based on best practice standards of the textile industry, which cover individual phases of the product life cycle, esp. the processes in the upstream supply chain. Existing certifications are recognised 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, components of products and product development processes, which are reviewed by accredited certification bodies according to the specifications of this certification program.

A successful verification of compliance with these requirements results in certification of the company's product development processes and its products according to the Green Shape Standard.

This entitles the holder to use the Green Shape trademark on the condition 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 programme. However, Green Shape e.V., as the owner of the programme, writes **minimum requirements for companies to comply with due diligence obligations** in its procurement regulations (co-applicable document 20).

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

2. Scope & Governance

2.1. Scope of the Green Shape Standard

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

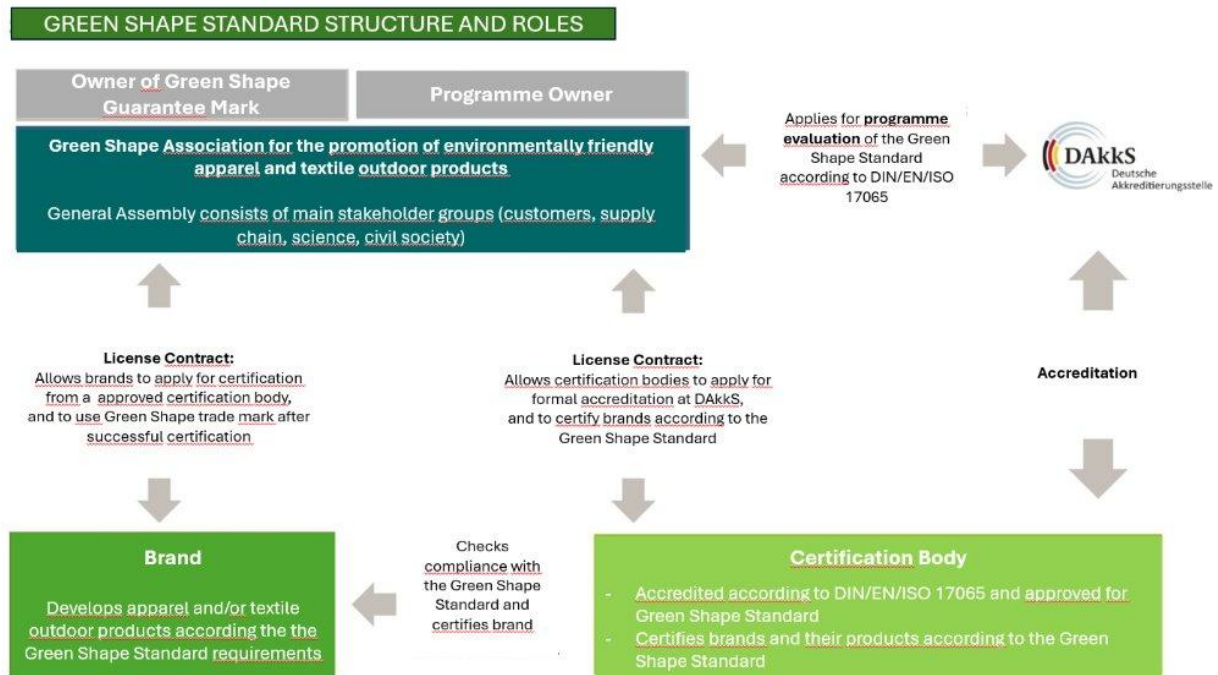
It describes requirements and test evidence to be submitted for products and product development processes of companies that are required for certification according to the Green Shape Standard.

The scope of the Green Shape Standard includes environmentally friendly apparel and textile products in accordance with the Green Shape Trademark Statutes (**Co-Applicable Document 30**) for the **classes of goods listed in Co-Applicable Document 02**.

2.2. Structure and administration of the standard

The program owner of the Green Shape Standard and the holder of the "Green Shape" certification mark is the Green Shape Association for the Promotion of Environmentally Friendly Clothing and Textile Products, 88069 Tettnang.

Stakeholders and roles within the Green Shape Standard are shown in the following visual.



Manufacturers of products ("companies") of the classes of goods approved for the Green Shape Standard (**Applicable Document 02**) can apply to the program owner for the use of the Green Shape Standard.

The programme owner decides on the application in accordance with the Public Procurement Ordinance (**Co-Applicable Document 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. The company takes all the steps required for certification in accordance with this certification program at the company.

Further details of the application and award process for companies, program owners and certification bodies are regulated in Chapter 5.

3. Test program

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 adjusting screws in the product development processes that have an influence on its sustainability throughout the entire product life cycle. Product developers have a significant influence on how these adjusting screws are used for more environmental protection.

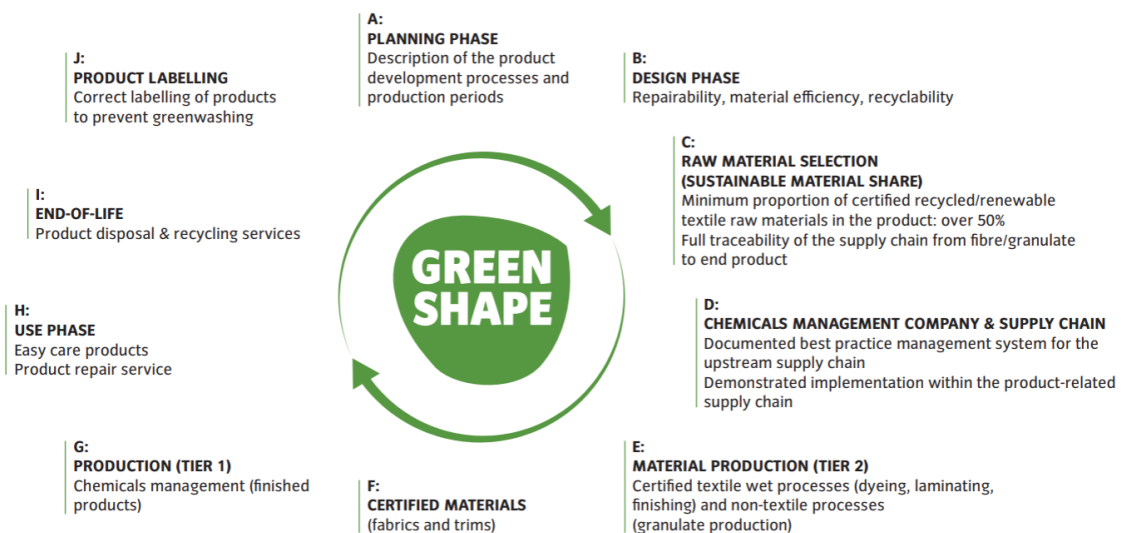
The Green Shape Testing Program includes requirements for products and processes and defines test evidence for the phases of the product life cycle that must be met and maintained for successful Green Shape certification.

Detailed requirements for products and processes as well as the test evidence that is at least checked during the audit are regulated in the **Co-Applicable Document 01**.

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

Each product is evaluated at all stages of the product life cycle according to the established test criteria. The individual phases and test areas are illustrated in the following graphic.

Requirements for Green Shape® Products



3.2. Product Ingredients Not Considered

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

C. Material (Raw Material) Selection (Sustainable Material Content Share)

E. Material production / refinement

F. Materials (fabrics and ingredients)

non-textile product components are therefore not taken into account ("out of scope") for the calculations of the specified minimum proportions. Details on this are described in the **Co-Applicable Document 01**.

3.3. Recognition of third-party standards

In the product life cycle phases C (Sustainable Material Content, Tier 4) to F (Production (Tier 1)), the Green Shape Standard recognizes certain third-party standards that cover defined environmental, consumer protection, and animal welfare requirements in the upstream supply chain at the supplier level, at the raw material level, at the material (substances/ingredients) level, and/or at the end product.

These **requirements are described in the Co-Applicable Document 01** and the respective test certificates are defined.

3.3.1. Procedure for the recognition of third-party standards

The recognition of third-party standards is carried out by the program owner on the basis of defined, non-discriminatory criteria in accordance with the **procedural instructions described in Applicable Document 05**. The responsibility for determining equivalence lies with the program owner.

3.3.2. Consideration in the certification process

The responsibility for the application of the recognition in the specific certification case and for the certification decision lies with the certification body.

The certification body only recognizes third-party test evidence within the scope of recognition specified by the program owner for corresponding requirements of the Green Shape Standard.

Recognition is granted on a case-by-case basis on the basis of the recognition decision made by the programme owner in accordance with the **procedural instructions described in Document 05**. The certification body does not make an independent equivalence decision.

The certification body recognizes third-party evidence in the certification process to the extent that:

- refer to the version of the underlying standard approved by the program owner,
- are within the defined scope of recognition,
- are applicable in the specific certification case,
- are valid (not expired, not suspended or withdrawn),
- the issuing body is accredited for the relevant standard and scope (corresponding to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025, DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065, DIN EN ISO/IEC 17021 or DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020), or has been approved by the respective standard-setter in accordance with the standard specifications or is demonstrably qualified by the standard-setter to carry out corresponding activities.

If doubts arise about the applicability in individual cases (e.g. due to deviating processes, unclear scope formulations or complex material combinations), the certification body will obtain further information from the company and, if necessary for further clarification, a decision from the program owner. Until clarification, it does not recognize the proof.

The certification body clearly documents in the audit report:

- which third-party certificate is recognised,
- which standard and version is referred to,

- for which phase and which requirements (ID) of the Green Shape Standard the proof is recognized,
- which validity, scope, version and, if applicable, accreditation tests have been carried out,
- whether and with what result a query has been made to the program owner.

The certification body will recognize test evidence from new versions of recognized third-party standards as test evidence if the standard version on which the certificate is based:

- is still recognised as valid by the Programme Owner, or
- is covered by a transitional arrangement determined by the programme owner.

If there is no valid recognition, the certification body does not recognize the proof.

4. Use of the Green Shape brand

Green Shape" is registered with the European Trademark Office (EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office) as an EU certification mark under number **019221657** .

The brand owner and program owner is Green Shape e.V. All rights to the word and figurative mark Green Shape belong to the trademark owner.

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

The use of the Green Shape trademark is regulated in the Trademark Handbook (**Co-Applicable Document 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 program owner and the company before the company submits its application to a certification body.

The 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's owner, the

company receives the right to use the Green Shape brand in accordance with the trademark statutes and the trademark manual.

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

If the certification body determines that the use of the "Green Shape" trademark is not permitted, it informs the company and the program owner in writing within five working days of becoming aware of it.

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

This continues to apply in the event that non-certified companies or other actors use the Green Shape brand inadmissibly.

Without prejudice to the sanctioning of an impermissible use of the Green Shape trademark by measures taken by the certification body, the Program Owner reserves the right to take action against it 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 program owner and the certification body in accordance with chapter 6.1.

5. Certification process (functional approach)

The certification process is **graphically depicted in the** Applicable Document 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 statutes mentioned in Applicable Document 30** and the product classes listed therein (**Applicable Document 02**) wishes to be certified according to the Green Shape Standard, it submits an application to the program owner. For this purpose, the application form available on the website of the Green Shape Standard (**Co-Applicable Document 21**) must be used.

The Programme Owner shall decide on the application in accordance with its Public Procurement Regulations (**Co-Applicable Document 20**) and shall notify the undertaking of its decision within three months of receipt of the application.

In the event of a positive application decision, the program 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 (see Chapter 5.1.2).

5.1.2. Application by companies to the certification body

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

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

- a. the company's self-assessment in accordance with the form provided on the Programme Owner's website (**Applicable Document 23**);
- b. Positive decision of the program owner on the eligibility to apply;
- c. names and addresses of the company's locations;
- d. The company's own and outsourced activities and processes related to the Green Shape Standard;
- e. List of product classes, product class specifications (base numbers) and products to be certified as Green Shape products;
- f. Further information on their supply chains, at least an overview of all production countries of the first and second upstream value creation stages (Tier 1 and Tier 2 supply chain), and
- g. Number, name, address, including country of all suppliers of the first (Tier 1) and second (Tier 2) value creation stages, stating the type of process steps carried out there and any certifications that are to be recognized as proof of verification during the audit;
- h. raw materials used and/or materials used to manufacture the products, as well as any certifications or analyses that are to be recognized as test evidence as part of the audit, and

- i. the description of the production periods relevant to the products to be certified in accordance with **Applicable Document 01**; and
- j. the duration of cooperation with the company and the identification of new suppliers;
- k. A comprehensive risk analysis of the company across its supply chain (at least Tier 1 and Tier 2) using the OECD industry risks¹
- l. Number and scope of collections per financial year;
- m. Audit reports previously carried out certifications according to the Green Shape Standard, if carried out by other certification bodies;
- n. Relationships of the company in a larger corporation where relevant;
- o. Org chart;
- p. human and technical resources of the company;
- q. if applicable, 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 needs clarification regarding this information, it will request an official interpretation from the program owner.

If a positive decision is made on the company's application, the certification body concludes an agreement with the company on the implementation of the certification.

This also stipulates that the following information can be published on the website of the program owner after certification:

- a. Company Name
- b. Address of the company
- c. Scope of the certificate incl. list of certified products and processes
- d. Certificate expiration date
- e. Certification Status
- f. Name of the CA
- g. Date, place and scope of the respective audit.

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

Other information disclosed during the audit process will be treated confidentially and will not be passed on to third parties. This does not apply to the programme owner and the accreditation body.

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

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

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

5.2. Audit Planning

After a positive application decision, the audit planning is carried out by the certification body.

To this end, it develops an audit program for the company, which initially includes the initial audit and, after its successful implementation, the surveillance audits in accordance with Chapter 5.6 and recertification in accordance with Chapter 5.7.

Based on the information provided to the certification body with the company's application, the certification body develops an audit plan.

The audit plan shall include at least the risk analysis for the company and, based on this, the determination of the size of the sample in accordance with the **procedural instructions described** in Document 41.

It also contains information on the type of review of the requirements (inspection, interview, document review) and the people/roles of the company required for this.

The basic audit time is set at a minimum of two hours in order to carry out all formal aspects of the audit (introductory and final meeting with the company) and to ensure a time buffer for unforeseen clarifications (further review of records and documents, interviews with responsible persons of the company, etc.).

In addition, the audit time is an additional 30 minutes per pre-determined product sample.

The total audit time is calculated from the basic audit time plus the audit time for the inspection of the product samples. The time spent by staff who do not carry out evaluation activities (e.g. technical experts, translators, interpreters, observers and evaluation staff in training) is not counted towards the audit time determined, nor is the time spent travelling to and from audits.

The certification body communicates the audit plan with the determined details of the product sample to the company in a timely manner so that the company can effectively prepare for the audit and ensure that sufficient personnel are present during the evaluation.

In preparation for the audit date, the certification body then schedules the specific schedule with the company, verifies the current versions of the recognized third-party standards in accordance with **Chapter 5 of the Co-Applicable Document 05** and prepares the audit plan.

The company prepares the test certificates for all sampled products in good time before the audit in order to be able to present them to the certification body in the audit.

Audits can be carried out on-site, remotely or hybridly, after consultation between the certification body and the company and taking into account the specifications of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF MD 4:2025 and IAF ID 3: 2011).²

5.3. Audit

As part of the audit, the auditor determines in accordance with the audit plan and on the basis of the samples taken whether the processes and resulting products that the company wants to certify meet all the product and process criteria specified in the Green Shape requirements (Applicable Document 01).

All audits are conducted as follows to ensure reproducibility:

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

In order for the certification body to be able to carry out the evaluation (and monitoring), the company ensures that it has access to all information relevant to the evaluation, in particular: test certificates.

The audit is carried out on the basis of the audit program in accordance with **Applicable Document 01**. To this end, all requirements for the individual phases in the product life cycle, as required by the **applicable document 01**, are run through for each individual product in the sample and the corresponding product development processes are evaluated.

- The auditor generally determines the compliance of the requirements using the following methods: inspection of product requirements (checking the presence and/or specific content of documents and test evidence per sample) and
- Auditing of process requirements (review of procedural instructions, their implementation and management system requirements per sample).

² https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAFID32011_Management_of_Extraordinary_Events_or_Circumstances.pdf

Note:

The type of requirements (product or process requirements) are specified in accordance **with Co-Applicable Document 01** . Further details on methods of determination are provided in the mandatory Green Shape training for auditors.

The documentation of the fulfilment of the test programme by means of test certificates is carried out for each product sample on the basis of the **co-applicable document 42** (Check-list Test Evidence Product Sample) as part of the audit report.

Deviations from the requirements of the test program are noted in writing, stating the respective sample in which this deviation was detected and the corresponding requirement ID.

The audit ends with a final meeting, in which the auditor presents the preliminary result of the audit and, if necessary, hands over an action plan with deviations, for which the company must determine and implement appropriate corrections, as well as the deadlines within which the audit evidence must be submitted for implementation.

After completion of the audit, the auditor prepares the documentation of the audit within two weeks.

The audit report shows at least:

- Place, time and duration of the audit,
- Participants in the audit
- Audited product samples and processes
- Detection of deviations, if applicable
- If applicable, the deadline within which the company can submit the completed action plan, including corrections made and corresponding audit evidence. This period may not exceed four weeks from the time of the final interview.

In the event of deviations, the company sends the action plan with appropriate corrections and implementation data as well as the necessary audit evidence to the auditor in due time.

As soon as all audit evidence is available and the relevance of the corrections carried out by the company as well as their timely implementation by the auditor have been verified or, after the expiry of the defined follow-up submission period, even without their complete availability - the auditor hands over the complete audit documentation within the certification body for evaluation and certification decision.

5.4. Evaluation and decision

The evaluator reviews the audit documentation as well as 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 selected sample
- d. Completed checklist of test certificates per product sample (**Applicable Document 42**)
- e. Audit Log
- f. If applicable, an action plan, including the specified corrections and relevant test evidence for implementation by the company, any other information deemed necessary by the certification body.

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

The certification decision will be made within two business days of the assessment being completed. The decision is made for all or possibly only for individual classes of goods.

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

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

The certificate is issued for a period of three years.

In the event of a negative certification decision, the certification body will inform both the company and the program owner in writing within five working days with the corresponding justification.

In this case, existing certificates lose their validity. The program owner updates the information on his website within two weeks.

To regain certification after a negative certification decision or revocation of certification, a complete new evaluation is required. The provisions in Chapter 5 apply mutatis mutandis.

5.5. Certificate / Certificate

In the event of a positive certification decision, the certification body prepares the formal certification documentation based on the template provided by the Program Owner on its website (**Applicable Document 43**).

This contains at least:

- a) Name and address of the certification body
- b) Name of the auditor and the evaluator
- c) Date of certification decision made
- d) Name and address of the company
- e) Scope of certification including identification of product life cycle processes in accordance with the test program (**Applicable Document 01**)
- f) Audit bases (certification program name and version and test criteria)
- g) List of the company's certified products and their assignment to commodity classes in accordance with **Applicable Document 02**
- h) Certificate Validity Date
- i) Date of the next certification or monitoring to be carried out, if applicable, with reference to deadlines to be met for application submission and audit planning

The Program Owner shall update the information about the Company and the list of its certified products on its website within two weeks of receipt of this certification documentation.

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 accordance with Chapter 5.1.2 and the requirements of Chapters 5.2 to 5.4 apply accordingly.

In the case of 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 upon recertification (Chapter 5.7) or an extension of the certificate (Chapter 5.6.1).

5.6.1. Certificate Enhancements

If the company would like to include additional products in the certification area during the current certificate 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 with the application documents in accordance with Chapter 5.1.2.

The procedures referred to in Chapters 5.2 to 5.5 shall be 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 set for regular certification remains in place until recertification.

5.6.2. Changed circumstances at the company

If circumstances of the company change that have an impact in connection with the Green Shape Standard, the company is obliged to inform the program 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 upstream supply chain (Tier 1 or Tier 2) production facilities;
- Serious accidents in production facilities in the upstream supply chain (Tier 1 or Tier 2);
- incidents in chemical management or other aspects of the testing programme;
- Political events in upstream supply chain countries that hinder compliance with the requirements of the Public Procurement Regulations or the audit programme;
- Inclusion of upstream supply chain suppliers (Tier 1 or Tier 2) in new or additional high-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 requirements of the procurement regulations or the audit programme.

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 the complete information, the certification body assesses it and decides whether unscheduled monitoring will take place. Chapter 5.6 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to unscheduled surveillance.

If the changed circumstances affect the Programme Owner's procurement regulations or the use of the Green Shape brand in accordance with Chapter 4, the Programme Owner shall decide within two weeks whether the conditions for the use of the Green Shape brand are still met.

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

If the company does not report changed circumstances or does not report them in a timely manner, the certification body and the program owner are entitled to withdraw the authorization to use the Green Shape brand. The company will be notified of this in writing within two weeks.

5.6.3. New requirements of the Green Shape Standard

If the programme owner introduces new or changed requirements in the test programme or in the procurement regulations, the certification body ensures that the company is informed of the changes by the programme owner no later than four weeks after the programme owner has announced them.

Requirements for the implementation and review of new or amended requirements are communicated by the program owner when the respective changes are published.

5.7. Recertification

Recertification is carried out in accordance with the specifications made in the audit planning of the certification body (Chapter 5.2).

In order to continue to be eligible for certification, the company submits a new application to the program owner in good time before the end of the certificate term (Chapter 5.1.1).

6. Requirements for Certification Bodies

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

6.1. License agreement with the program owner

Prior to any commencement of certification activities for the Green Shape Standard, interested certification bodies conclude a license agreement with the program owner.

To this end, the interested certification body submits a written application for licensing to the program owner. The latter examines the application on the basis of the applicable procurement regulations (**co-applicable document 20**).

After the application has been approved, a license agreement is concluded between the program owner and the certification body. This is also a prerequisite for being allowed to take up certification activities within the framework of the Green Shape Standard.

If there is a justified rejection by the program owner, the certification body can only resubmit a new application if it can be proven that all the reasons that led to the rejection have been permanently remedied. Corresponding evidence must be submitted without being asked to do so when applying for a new application.

6.2. Accreditation of the certification body

Certification bodies shall ensure that they comply with the Green Shape Certification Programme before concluding a certification agreement with companies and before commencing certification activities for the Green Shape Certification Programme.

- have concluded a legally valid license agreement with the program owner, and
- have a valid accreditation in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065
- as well as a valid accreditation against a comparable textile standard,
- that all relevant certification body employees are trained on the latest version of the Green Shape Standard.

In addition, they confirm to the program owner that a corresponding accreditation application for the Green Shape Standard will be submitted.

The certification body may perform a maximum of ten (10) Green Shape certifications before applying for accreditation for the Green Shape Standard. In this phase, certificates must be provided with the following note: "This confirmation is not yet subject to monitoring by the accreditation body". After a positive accreditation decision, this reference is omitted.

The competence of the certification body is determined on the basis of an office assessment as well as a review of certification procedures and competencies of the certification body employees and the implementation 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.

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 requirements apply:

Employees involved in the evaluation and certification process must:

- prove that the qualification requirements for auditors and reviewers or certification decision-makers **are met for the respective function in accordance with the requirements in the Co-Applicable Document 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. by witness audits) before the start of the respective activity.

It is the responsibility of the certification body to ensure:

- that regular exchanges of experience (at least eight hours per year) on the Green Shape Standard are carried out in order to promote the harmonisation and uniform interpretation of the standard,
- auditors do not carry out more than three consecutive audits at a company,
- in the event of changes or further developments of the standard, the associated training dates are attended before the respective tasks are carried out according to the new version,
- auditors conduct at least one audit per year to maintain their accreditation,

- that processes are in place to regularly monitor and maintain the competence of auditors and reviewers or certification decision-makers.

6.4. Other obligations of the certification body

The certification body ensures that all rules and requirements set by the Green Shape Standard and specified by the program 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 is not allowed to carry out any consulting services in connection with the Green Shape Standard. This does not apply to the exchange of information, such as explanations of evaluation results or the clarification of requirements between the certification body and its customers.

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

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

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

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

In addition, the certification body is obliged to provide the program owner with further information related to the Green Shape Standard upon 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 program owner within five working days without being asked.

Any changes that could affect their accreditation must be reported immediately to the Programme Owner and the Accreditation Body.

6.5. Sanctions of the program owner vis-à-vis the certification body

If a certification body or its staff fails to comply with the obligations set out in Chapter 6 or the advice of the accreditation body or the programme owner, the programme owner will take action.

Depending on the type of non-compliance, this can be a clarifying conversation, 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 the authorization to carry out activities within the framework of the certification process of individual employees of the certification body or the entire certification body, or further sanctions in accordance with the license agreement.

7. Review / Quality Assurance

7.1. Integrity of the Green Shape Standard

In order 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.

Instructions from the programme owner or the accreditation body on the application or interpretation of the Green Shape Standard are systematically processed and implemented by the certification body.

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

All communication of the certification body in connection with the Green Shape Standard towards companies, the public or other third parties is carried out in an appreciative manner in accordance with the current content and representations of the procurement regulations, the

certification program, the trademark statutes, the trademark manual and all applicable documents.

If necessary, the certification body requests technical support from the program owner in the form of appropriate communication material.

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

The program owner provides a training program for certification bodies and companies. The certification body is obliged to go through this before commencing activities in connection with the Green Shape Standard and to renew it after any amendment to the Green Shape Standard, including the applicable documents. The Programme Owner issues a confirmation of successful participation to the Participants.

7.2. Complaints and Appeals

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

The programme owner accepts general feedback or complaints from the interested public on the Green Shape Standard via the contact form on his website.

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

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

The certification body defines a documented process for handling complaints and appeals. If these cannot be resolved amicably within four weeks between the certification body and the company, the certification body proactively informs the program owner.

The Programme Owner will process all complaints within four weeks of receipt.

7.3. Review des Green Shape Standards

The Green Shape Standard is subject to regular reviews.

To this end, the programme owner reviews the test programme and all associated processes and applicable documents at least every five years and, in the event of serious changes in market conditions, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

If, during the practical application of the standard on the part of the certification body, company or program owner, it turns out that certain requirements are not practicable, the program owner will carry out a review only for the affected partial aspects within three months of becoming known.

If there is a need for editorial clarification on the Green Shape Standard, underlying standards, the test program, applicable documents or other requirements, the program owner will write one or more new co-applicable documents as an interpretation aid and clarification and/or an updated version of the respective applicable documents.

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, applicable documents or other requirements beyond editorial clarification will result in 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

In the further development of the Green Shape Standard, the programme owner involves other interested parties beyond its general meeting.

This ensures that the Green Shape Standard offers added value for program owners, certification bodies, companies and consumers, both with regard to corporate due diligence obligations towards people and the environment and with regard to 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, esp. on the aspects of climate protection and 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 test criteria defined for each of them.

Your concerns will be taken into account appropriately in reviews. For this purpose, the program owner forms suitable participation formats, such as e.g. one or more working groups from particularly competent and/or particularly affected stakeholder groups, each of which is represented by persons with appropriate technical expertise.

The programme 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 it is integrated into the Green Shape Standards in an appropriate manner and makes it accessible to all stakeholders.

The timing and specific formats of stakeholder involvement are determined by the program owner. The program owner decides on the publication.

7.5. Management system of the certification body

The certification body has established and maintains a management system that is suitable for consistently meeting 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 references

- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17067
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 19011
- DIN EN ISO/IEC 17030
- certification scheme and the applicable documents listed in Chapter 9
- OECD (2020), OECD Due Diligence Guide to Responsible Supply Chains in the Apparel and Footwear Industry, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264304536-de>; Revised edition, December 2020³
- the Common Framework for Responsible Purchasing Practices⁴

³ 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

⁴ <https://www.cfrpp.org/the-common-framework>

- the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Registration of Trademarks in the 2025 version of the 12th edition of the Nice Classification ⁵
- the General Data Protection Regulation⁶
- the International Accreditation Forum IAF ID 3 guidance for certification bodies⁷

9. Attachments / Applicable Documents

No.	Name of the document	Content of the document
01	GS3.1 mgD 01 Prüfprogramm_Produnkt-anforderungen_Prüfnachweise V1.1	Green Shape product and process requirements, explanation of the minimum proportions of certified materials depending on the commodity class and list of product components not considered
02	GS3.1 mgD 02 Commodity classes V1.2	List of product categories approved for Green Shape
03	GS3.1 mgD 03 Calculation Material Efficiency V1.0	Instructions for calculating material efficiency
04	GS3.1 mgD 04 Calculation of the Proportion of Sustainable Materials SMCS V1.0	Guidance on how to calculate the proportion of sustainable materials (Sustainable Material Content Share)
05	GS3.1 mgD 05 Recognition of Upstream Certificates V1.0	Procedure for the recognition of standards and certificates (meta-seal process)
06	GS3.1 mgD 06 bluesign CRITERIA for bluesign PRODUCT_Kapitel 10_component classification	Basis for components not taken into account

⁵ https://www.dpma.de/marken/klassifikation/waren_dienstleistungen/nizza/index.html

⁶ https://www.bfdi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/INFO1.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=19

⁷ https://iaf.nu/iaf_system/uploads/documents/IAFID32011_Management_of_Extraordinary_Events_or_Circumstances.pdf

20	GS3.1 mgD 20 Green Shape e.V. Vergabeordnung V1.0	Procurement regulations of 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 the applicable documents 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 exam
30	GS3.1 mgD 30 Green Shape Trademark Statute V1.0	Statutes of the Green Shape certification mark
31	GS3.1 mgD 31 Brands Manual V1.0	Green Shape Markenhandbuch (Logo Manual)
40	GS3.1 mgD 40 Requirements for Competencies of the Certification Unit V1.0	List of competencies of different roles within the certification body
41	GS3.1 mgD 41 Process Determination Sample V1.0	Description of the process for determining the sample for audits
42	GS3.1 mgD 42 Checklist Test Evidence Produktsample_Vorlage V1.1	Form for checklist for checking the test evidence per product sample for use by the certification body
43	GS3.1 mgD 43 Template Green Shape Certificate V1.0	Template with minimum content of the Green Shape certificate
44	GS3.1 mgD 44 Grafik_Zertifizierungsprozess V1.0	Visualization of the certification process

10. Technical Terms / Glossary / Definitions of Terms

Term or abbreviation	English	Explanation
Mapping and mapping	Standards Mapping	Concrete assignment of requirements of third-party standards to requirements of the Green Shape Standard in the context of their recognition in accordance with Applicable Document 05

Accreditation	Accreditation	Confirmation by an accreditation body that a conformity assessment body (e.g. certification body) has the competence to carry out specified conformity assessment tasks (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Recognition of third-party standards / meta-seal approach	Recognition of 3rd party standards / Meta Label Process	Structured process for the evaluation and integration of other seals/standards into an overarching evaluation system, according to which a standard or certification system is recognized in a supply chain for meeting certain criteria if certain transparency and quality assurance requirements are met (incl. independent, non-discriminatory assessment) (ISO 17065:2012 (accreditation/certification processes), ISEAL Code of Good Practice (based on Multi-Stakeholder Principles).)
Proportion of sustainable materials / SMCS (Sustainable Material Content Share)	SMCS (Sustainable Material Content Share)	The percentage of recycled and/or renewable textile materials of a product, calculated according to the methodology set out in the applicable document 04 (BOM-based, weight percentages). Standard connection (for terms "recycled content", pre-/post-consumer, etc.): ISO 14021:2016 defines, among other things, environmentally related claim terms and rules for qualification/verification
Audit	Audit	"Audit" in the sense of the Green Shape Standard is the evaluation that is carried out by: - Inspection of product requirements (review of documents and test evidence per sample) and - Auditing of process requirements (review of procedural instructions, their implementation and management system requirements).
Audit Log	Audit report / Audit record	Documented compilation of the findings, findings, non-conformities and conclusions of an audit that serve as the basis for assessment/decision.

Benchmarking	Benchmarking	Alignment of technical content requirements and credibility aspects as part of the process for the recognition of third-party standards
Coating	Coating	Coating is the targeted application of a coherent layer of a liquid, pasty or powdered substance to a textile structure or substrate in order to permanently change or functionally expand its surface properties, e.g. to make it waterproof. In contrast to the finish, the coating forms an independent, physically distinguishable layer on the surface of the material.
Bio-based	Bio-based	Material derived from biomass and/or renewable raw materials
Accounting Allocation / "Book and Claim"	Book and Claim / "certificate trading model" / "credit trading"	System in which companies acquire sustainability certificates without the products being physically connected to them. The claim is "booked" to demonstrate sustainable practices (ISO 22095)
bluesign®	bluesign®	A third-party certification system for sustainable textile production, including chemical management, resource efficiency, occupational health and safety, and environmental protection, based on a comprehensive assessment of the entire production process
C14 Test Method	C14 testing method	Analytical method for determining the proportion of biogenic carbon in organic materials (e.g., bio-based plastics) to distinguish fossil/inorganic from bio-based fractions (ASTM D6866 Standard Test Methods for Determining the Biobased Content of Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous Samples Using Radiocarbon Analysis (C14))
DAkkS (German Accreditation Body)	DAkkS (German National Accreditation Authority)	National Accreditation Authority of the Federal Republic of Germany

End of product life cycle	EOL (End of Product Life)	The point in time at which a product can no longer be used and is removed from the consumption cycle. This marks the transition to disposal, reuse or recycling of the product.
Renewable	renewable	Renewable materials can be natural fibres of plant or animal origin, regenerated fibres from bio-based / biogenic raw materials such as wood and/or bio-based plastics that do not come from fossil sources.
Equipment	Finish	Finish refers to all chemical, physical or mechanical treatments carried out after the manufacture of the textile fabric (weaving, knitting, warp-knitting) or the ready-made product in order to specifically create or improve certain use, care or functional properties without forming an independent, closed material layer in the sense of a coating.
Lining fabric	Lining	Lining fabric is a textile surface structure that is used as the inner layer of a garment or textile product and primarily serves to improve wearing comfort, functionality, dimensional stability or durability without itself taking over the load-bearing or external protective function of the product. The lining fabric is structurally separated from the outer fabric and can be sewn, hooked or loosely inserted.
Scope / "out of scope"	Scope / out of scope	Defined limits/scope for which a conformity assessment/certification applies; objects / shares outside of it are not included (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Credibility of sustainability claims	Credibility of sustainability claims	Degree to which a claim is based on verifiable, accurate and non-misleading information (ISO 14021:2016; ISO 22095:2020)
GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)	GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)	GOTS is a textile processing standard for organic fibers with independent and transparent certification of the entire supply chain.

Greenwashing	Green-washing	Misleading/insufficiently substantiated environmental claims or environmental labels; normatively closely linked to the principle that environmental claims must be accurate, verifiable and not misleading (ISO 14021:2016)
GRS (Global Recycle Standard)	GRS (Global Recycle Standard)	The Global Recycle Standard sets out requirements for independent certification of recycled materials, product chains, and social and environmental practices.
GS (Green Shape)	GS (Green Shape)	Standard and certification program for apparel and textile outdoor products
Main material	Main Fabric	Main / outer fabric of a textile product; textile or non-textile material of a product that makes up the largest proportion of the finished end product in terms of mass or area and determines the primary functional and constructive properties of the product.
Traceability	Identity Preserve	Procedures for ensuring traceability and compliance with standards of a material or product throughout the supply chain (ISO-22095)
Impregnation (permanent)	Impregnation / (Durable) Water Repellency / DWR	Impregnation is a chemical or physical treatment of a textile material in which a functional substance penetrates or attaches to the surface of the fibre or yarn structure without forming an independent, closed coating layer to produce water-repellent, dirt-repellent, oil-repellent or other functional properties. In contrast to the coating, the textile structure remains open and flexible; the pores are not completely sealed.
ISEAL Code for Good Practice in Sustainability Systems	ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems	Internationally recognised guide to credible sustainability systems that defines requirements for governance, standard-setting, assurance and impact measurement (SEAL Alliance)

Insulation / Insulation	Insulation / Padding	Insulation in the textile context refers to materials or constructions to reduce heat loss from the body to the environment, e.g. loose filling materials such as down, nonwovens, foams.
Conformity assessment	Conformity assessment	Proof that specified requirements for an object of conformity assessment (e.g. product/process) are met (through activities such as testing/inspection/certification) (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Controlled mixing	Controlled blending model	Chain-of-custody model in which defined requirements apply to the controlled mixing of material flows (ISO 22095:2020)
Lamination	Lamination	Textile technology process for the permanent bonding of two or more flat materials (textile or non-textile) to form a composite material, whereby the individual layers retain their structural independence.
Supplier (pre-)/yarn/granule manufacturer	Supplier / Tier 3	Third upstream value creation stage; Production of yarns or plastic granules (e.g. for the production of buttons, buckles)
Supplier (pre-)/manufacturer of textile surfaces or ingredients	Supplier / Tier 2	supplier of the second upstream value creation stage; Manufacturer of fabrics / trims for textile products such as buttons, buckles
Supplier (pre-)/raw material extraction	Supplier / Tier 4	Fourth upstream value creation stage, raw material extraction
Supplier / Producer	Supplier / Tier 1	Ready-to-wear company, direct supplier of the company (brand), manufacturer of the final product
Supplier's declaration	Supplier declaration	Written declaration by a supplier about certain characteristics of a supplied material or product that can be used as evidence in the context of a conformity assessment (ISO 14021:2016)

Supply chain / value chain, downstream	Downstream Supply Chain	The part of the value/supply chain that is downstream of the organization under consideration in terms of time and function (e.g. use of a product by the end consumer, disposal)
Supply chain / value chain, upstream	Upstream Supply Chain	The part of the value/supply chain that is upstream of the organization under consideration in terms of time and function (e.g., raw material extraction, material manufacturing)
Supply chain link / supply chain actor	Supply chain actor / supply chain entity	Organization or person involved in one or more stages of the supply chain that influences material flows or properties (ISO 22095:2020) In the Green Shape Standard, the designation of the supply chain/value chain links refers to the definition according to the UNFCCC Fashion Industry Climate Action Playbook, page 13: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20_REP_UN%20FIC%20Playbook_V7.pdf
Lieferkettennachweis / Chain of Custody	Chain of Custody (CoC)	System for the complete recording, documentation and control of material flows and associated properties along the supply chain to ensure the credibility and traceability of claims (ISO 22095:2020)
Supply Chain Visibility	Supplier transparency / „mapping“	Systematic recording and documentation of the stages/organizations in the supply chain to establish transparency and traceability of the claimed characteristics. ISO 22095:2020 emphasizes chain-of-custody as a tool to increase the transparency and reliability of claims along the supply chain.
M/RSL	M/RSL	Combination of RSL and MRSL
Brand / Brand Manufacturer / Company	Brand	Companies that develop clothing and/or textile outdoor products and commission suppliers (producers / Tier 1) with their production and/or manufacture them themselves. Actor who is seeking or has successfully completed Green Shape certification.
Mass balance	Mass balance model	Chain of custody model, in which materials with defined properties may be mixed with those without these properties, while the allocation/"balance" of properties via input/output quantities is managed according to defined rules (ISO 22095:2020)

Material Efficiency	Material Efficiency	Ratio of material input to materials actually processed in the product. For textile fabrics: Fabric width in relation to cut parts required for a product in percentage; Quotient gross/net material consumption. This value describes how efficiently starting materials (the entire width of the fabric) are processed (what remains is offcuts as waste). It is a measure of the careful use of resources in product design.
Material flow	Material flow	Movement of materials along the supply chain between actors and processes, including quantities, time periods and uses (ISO 22095:2020)
Quantity balance	Quantity balance / mass balance calculation	Systematic comparison of input and output quantities within a defined period of time or system to check the plausibility of material or property claims (ISO 22095:2020)
MRSL (Manufacturing Restricted Substance List)	MRSL (Manufacturing Restricted Substance List)	List of chemicals that are restricted or prohibited in the production of textiles and leather to minimize environmental risks and health hazards along the supply chain. The MRSL serves to protect workers, consumers and the environment.
Mulesing	Mulesing	Painful procedure to prevent parasite infestation in sheep.
Traceability	Verifiability / traceable justification	The property of information or decisions that allows it to be understood and verified on the basis of documented evidence (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Wet Processes	Textile wet processes	Processing steps of textile finishing using liquids, esp. with chemicals (e.g. dyeing, finishing, coating/laminating)
Non-nominated/"local" suppliers/materials	Non-nominated supplier / local supplier	Non-nominated materials are materials, components or intermediate products whose selection is not binding by the brand owner or program owner, but is the responsibility of the manufacturer or supplier. The manufacturing company can select these materials independently, provided that they meet the specified product and certification requirements of the customer.
Nominated Suppliers / Materials	Nominated supplier / material	Nominated materials are (specified) materials, components or suppliers that are bindingly defined by the customer and must be used in the product and may not be substituted independently by the manufacturer.

OCS (Organic Claim Standard)	OCS (Organic Claim Standard)	Standard that verifies the presence and quantity of organic material and the flow of the raw material from its to the final product, e.g. for natural fibres such as cotton
Plausibility check	Plausibility check	Assessment of whether the information, evidence or quantities provided are logically consistent, consistent and realistic (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
PLM system (product lifecycle management software)	PLM-System (Product Lifecycle Management System)	Digital, process-oriented information and control system for the structured management of all product-related data, documents, specifications and change processes across the entire product life cycle – from the product idea to development, procurement and production to use and product end of life / take-back / disposal. In the textile context, a PLM system includes, in particular, material data, bills of materials (BOM), supplier data, certificate certificates, test reports, and release and change processes.
Product Development / Product Development Processes	Product Development / Product Development processes	Entire process of product development from planning to design, material selection and manufacturing processes of the final product
Chain of custody	Chain of Custody	Transparent process of a product or material throughout the entire supply chain, starting with the extraction of raw materials, processing and transport, to the finished end product. Evidence is passed on from the upstream to the downstream value creation stage.
Producer	Manufacturer / Tier 1	Direct business partner of the company; supplier of the first upstream value creation stage; Usually ready-to-wear textiles

Program Owner / Standard Provider / Standard Owner	Scheme owner	Sponsor of a certification program. For the Green Shape Standard: Green Shape Association for the Promotion of Environmentally Friendly Clothing and Textile Products (Green Shape e.V.)
Test Certificate / Objective Proof	Objective evidence / proof	Data/information that proves the existence or fulfilment of requirements and is based on facts (e.g. documents, records, measurement results) (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Test program	Testing Program	Structured compilation of all audit requirements, criteria and evidence against which an audit is conducted; often in the form of a checklist or matrix that is systematically processed (ISO/IEC 17065:2012)
RCS (Recycled Claim Standard)	RCS (Recycled Claim Standard)	International certification to prove the use of recycled materials
RDS (Responsible Down Standard)	RDS (Responsible Down Standard)	Voluntary standard that specifies binding minimum standards for the production of down that is suitable for animal welfare (no live plucking, no foie gras production)
Recyclability	Recyclability	A characteristic feature of products, packaging or related components that can be separated from the waste stream by appropriate processes and programs, collected, processed and reused in the form of raw materials or products. (Definition ISO 14021:2016)
Recycled material / recycled raw materials after use by end users ("from post-consumer material")	Post-Consumer Material	Material from households, commercial and industrial facilities or institutes (which are end users of the product) (ISO 14021:2016)

Recycled material / recycled raw materials before use by end users ("from pre-consumer / post-industrial material")	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 post-processing, regrinding or scrap that are produced in the course of a technical process and can be reused in the same process (ISO 14021:2016)
Recertification	Recertification	Re-certification assessment after the expiry of the certificate validity in accordance with the rules of the certification program (typically: re-assessment/audit) (ISO/IEC 17067:2013)
Risk-based approach	Risk-based approach	Approach that prioritizes and controls the type, scope, and depth of the assessment based on identified risks
Raw material	Feedstock	Resources 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)	RSL (Restricted Substance List)	List of restricted or prohibited chemical substances in finished products
Traceability	Traceability	Ability to trace the progression, application or location of a product, material or property along defined stages of the supply chain from documented information (ISO 22095:2020)
RWS (Responsible Wool Standard)	RWS (Responsible Wool Standard)	Voluntary standard for animal welfare-compliant, mulesing-free wool, which requires certification of all locations from the wool farm to the seller in the last transaction between companies.

Sectional image / sectional image markers	Mini Marker	True-to-scale representation of the cut position of a textile product to determine fabric consumption, from which material efficiency can be calculated by arranging discarded cut parts in a compact marker area
Scope Certificate	Scope Certificate	Certification document issued by an (accredited) certification body confirming that a particular company (e.g. producer, distributor, processor) meets the requirements of a defined standard within a clearly defined scope. The Scope certificate confirms the conformity of a company's management system and material flow control with the requirements of the respective standard. However, it does not constitute evidence of a specific movement of goods or a product batch. If required by the standard, this is done via a transaction certificate.
Segregated	Segregated	Materials with certain standards are processed separately from others during production to preserve their properties and avoid mixing (ISO-22095)
STeP (Sustainable Textile Production)	STeP (Sustainable Textile Production)	Certification that sets the highest standards for both social and environmental aspects of textile and leather production as well as industrial laundries.
Sample	Sample / sampling	Selecting a representative portion of information, suppliers, or transactions to assess compliance when a full audit is not practical
Fabrics	Fabrics	Textiles made from fibers by weaving, knitting, or other techniques.
Bill of Materials ("BOM")	Bill of Materials (BOM)	Detailed listing of all components of a product – including main materials, linings, trims (buttons, zippers, etc.), from which both material efficiency and certified proportions can be calculated.
Animal welfare	Animal Welfare	Prevention of animal suffering in the extraction of animal materials

Transaction Certificate	Transaction Certificate (TC)	Batch-related proof of conformity of a specific movement of goods within a certified supply chain, including quantity, standard version and chain of custody model issued by an (accredited) certification body. The TC not only confirms that a company is certified, but that a specific amount of material comes from a certified material flow.
Monitoring (in a certification context)	Surveillance	Recurring, systematic activities after certification has been granted to ensure ongoing compliance (e.g. audit/testing at defined intervals) (ISO/IEC 17067:2013)
Company	Company	In the Green Shape Standard: Manufacturer of products that can be certified according to Green Shape (standard users)
Agent/Sales Samples	Salesmen Sample	Pre-produced individual parts in sample size as demonstration parts for submission to customers
Wax Coating	Wax Coating	A wax coating is the targeted application of a solid or pasty wax system to the surface of a textile structure to create water-repellent, wind-repellent or skid-altering properties, creating a hydrophobic protective layer that, depending on the application and integration, exists as a film or as a phase embedded in the fibre structure.
Classes of goods	Classification of Goods and Services	Systematic grouping of products/services for classification within the framework of the legal trademark classification, which is also used to determine the scope of a standard (Nice Classification; International Classification of Goods and Services, 12th Edition, Version 2025)
ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals)	ZDHC (Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals)	The Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC) program is a global initiative focused on eliminating hazardous chemicals from the textile, apparel, and footwear industries.
Certificate	Certificate	Document certifying a (third-party) confirmation of conformity/certification (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)
Certification	Certification	Third-party confirmation in relation to products, processes, systems or people (ISO/IEC 17000:2020)

Certification Program	Certification scheme / programme	System of rules, procedures and management for the implementation of certification for specified objects/requirements (incl. definition of requirements, methodology and, if necessary, monitoring (ISO/IEC 17067:2013))
Certification Body	Conformity Assessment Body / Certification Body	Independent organization that verifies and certifies the conformity of products, processes, or services with established standards or regulations.
Certification system	Certification scheme	A combination of requirements, procedures, assessment methods and decision-making rules that defines how an object (e.g. material, process, product) is assessed and certified in a compliant manner (ISO 17067:2013)
Ingredients	Trims	Components of a textile end product that fulfil functional, constructive or decorative purposes in addition to the main material, e.g. Zippers, buttons, ribbons

11. [Log / Changes to this document](#)

Date	Chapters	Amendment