



OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON: New regulations 2026

OEKO-TEX® Association as usual updates the applicable test criteria, limit values and requirements for its range of certifications and labels. The changes in limit values can be found in a separate document. The following new regulations for OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON come into effect on June 1st, 2026, after a three-month transition period:

Mention of 'GMO not detectable'

After careful consideration and in line with our commitment to transparency and quality, we will no longer include the term 'GMO not detectable' in ORGANIC COTTON for cotton items because a contamination up to 4,9% of GMO is accepted, so the term is not exactly accurate.

Change of wet process certification requirements

To further strengthen quality assurance within OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON, uncertified wet processes (e.g., dyeing, washing, printing, finishing) will only be accepted for initial certifications. For renewals, all wet processes within the supply chain are required to be certified. A transition period applies to all certificates, allowing uncertified wet processes to remain acceptable until June 2027 and giving companies sufficient time to align their processes and certification status.

What this means:

- **First-time certification:**
Uncertified wet processes are still allowed if a company is applying for certification for the first time. It may use suppliers that have uncertified wet processes (e.g., dyeing, washing, printing, finishing). These will still be accepted at this initial stage.
- **Renewal:**
All wet processes must be certified when the company renews its certification. At that point, every wet process in the entire supply chain must be certified. No uncertified wet processes will be accepted for renewal.

Advanced digital traceability for organic cotton

OEKO-TEX® works with TextileGenesis to strengthen digital traceability for OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON. The new system replaces paper-based transaction certificates with a secure digital chain of custody, improving transparency and reducing the risk of fraud. This makes our certification more reliable and easier to manage across the supply chain.



RSL outside the standard document

As of 2026, the Restricted Substances List (RSL) will no longer be included within the standard document itself. Instead, it will be provided as a separate Excel file, offering improved visibility, easier comparison and clearer understanding of the requirements.

Findings during testing for risk parameters

Definition: Risk parameters are selected based on their classification as legally restricted substances in the EU and their critical significance within an OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON certification.

Current process: If a risk parameter is detected during the certification process, the customer needs to provide an improved sample that corresponds to the OEKO-TEX® criteria together with an improvement statement, which explains what was changed to make the sample better and why this change helps.

As of June 2026, a second test series will be conducted by the testing institute within the year of certificate validity in case of findings during testing for risk parameters.

For more information on the new OEKO-TEX® test criteria, please contact OEKO-TEX® (info@oeko-tex.com) or your responsible OEKO-TEX® institute (<https://www.oeko-tex.com/offices>)



ORGANIC
COTTON

After a three-month transition period, the new OEKO-TEX® ORGANIC COTTON test criteria and limit values will become binding for all certifications on June 1st, 2026.