



The EUCotton Assessment & Certification Scheme
Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the aim of the EUCotton assessment and certification scheme?

The aim of the scheme is the implementation of a comprehensive management system in the cotton supply chain of EU member states via a web platform, in order to facilitate the conformance of registered organizations with current market demands regarding production practices and chain of custody procedures.

2. Who can implement the EUCotton management system?

The management system is implemented by registered organizations and associated processing, trading and retailing units that operate within the EU and in accordance with the applicable legislation. Organizations are legal entities within the post farm-gate cotton supply chain: ginners, spinners, knitters, weavers, dyers, manufacturers, traders and retailers.

3. Who can register on the EUCotton platform?

Organizations within the post farm-gate cotton supply chain and consulting or certification bodies can register on the online EUCotton platform, in order to become members. The sign-up process allows users to proceed with self-enrollment request.

4. What are the differences between assessments and audits?

External remote assessments via the platform are conducted annually by certified assessors of registered consulting bodies, while on-site audits are conducted by certified auditors of registered certification bodies at least once within a three (3) year cycle. Assessments are conducted to validate the comprehensive and effective implementation of the management system, while audits are conducted to verify conformance with management system rules.

5. What are the compliance requirements for assessment and certification?

The implementation of the management system and the conformance with management system rules is demonstrated via scope specific assessment/audit checklists. Checklists are assessment and audit tools that comprise of knock-out (KO), major (MJ) and minor (MN) control points (CP) and the respective compliance criteria (CC). In order to achieve assessment and certification, units of registered organizations must comply with: (a) 100% of the applicable knock-out (KO) points, (b) 75% of the applicable major (MJ) points and (c) 55% of the applicable minor (MN) points.

6. What is the difference between non-compliance and non-conformance?

Non-compliance (NCP) is defined as failure to comply with a major or minor control point according to the compliance criterion. Non-conformance (NCF) is defined as failure to comply with: (a) one or more knock-out control points, (b) more than 25% of applicable major control points, or (c) more than 45% of applicable minor control points. In order to proceed with transactions via the platform, the units of registered organizations must be externally assessed.

7. Who can use the EUCOTTON® Trademark?

Only assessed registered organizations may use the EUCOTTON® trademark on their products. In order to use the trademark, organizations must validate that: (a) the EUCotton content percentage in products made purely from cotton is 100% and (b) the EUCotton content percentage in products made from cotton and other materials is at least 50%. Purchase of EUCotton products does not automatically qualify the purchaser to use the EUCOTTON® trademark.

8. Can EUCotton products be traced via the platform?

EUCotton products are fully traceable via the platform both upstream and downstream. With the aid of specific records, finished products are traced back to trading, processing and manufacturing units, or forward to immediate customers.