

# **Chain of Custody for Indian Organic Fibres and Products – Tracenet V.3.0**

## **1. Objective**

- 1.1 To improve integrity in the organic supply chain by providing a system that ensures that volumes of fiber produced and used in the end product are reconciled by tracking the fibre through the supply chain up to labelling. To provide traceability of the 'organic natural fibre' in the processing of textiles and apparels, from post-harvest handling (beyond farm) of organic natural fibre up to labelling & retailing.
- 1.2 To provide a traceability mechanism of the organic fiber that provides assurance that the product is made with certified organic fibre - and traceable at any stage of production.

## **2. Scope**

- 2.1 The organic fibre covered under this chain of custody - includes fibre from natural sources of plant or animal origin
- 2.2. This chain of custody for organic fibre preserves the segregated integrity of the fibre from the farm to retailer and covers all stages of processing and manufacturing including packaging, labelling and final export or domestic distribution. The final product may include fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-up and garments including home textile products, personal care products and other textile products.

## **3. Label/ Labelling**

The final products shall be labelled as made with organic fibre or made with organic fibre as per the percentage content of organic fibre in the final product. The labelling as - made with organic fibre shall be restricted to the fibre component of the product excluding accessories, labels and non-fibre component

### 3.1 Label as Made with Traceable Organic Fibre

Where a minimum 95% of the fibre content of the product is of certified organic origin, irrespective of the type and quality of processing inputs used, products may be labelled as “Made from Traceable Organic Fibre” or with similar such description and shall carry the logo of India Organic. No GMO fibre shall be used in the non-organic part.

### 3.2 Label as Made with Traceable Organic Fibre X Percent

Where a minimum of 5% to 95% of the fibre are of certified organic origin irrespective of the type and quality of processing inputs used, the product may be labelled as “Made with Traceable Organic Fibre X Percent” or with similar such description and shall not carry the logo of India Organic. No GMO fibre or GMO ingredient shall be used in the non-organic part directly or indirectly.

Accessories may be used in the NPOP certified products but shall not be included in the percentage calculation of organic finished products.

For export of “Organic”, “Traceability Organic Fibre” or “Made with Traceability Organic Fibre X Percent” products, the fibre and/ or products in addition to NPOP may also be certified under respective country import regulations or as per the requirement of buyer and may be labelled with additional certification logos.

## **4 Guidelines for Chain of Custody**

4.1 The processor need to ensure that segregated integrity of organic fibre is maintained at all stages of processing and there is no chance of contamination or co-mingling with non-organic or conventional fibre in the entire processing chain and traceability of organic fibre is ensured from post harvest processing till final product formation. It shall also be ensured that organic fibre and its value added products are not contaminated by contact with prohibited substances.

4.2 The processor need to maintain adequate documents to the satisfaction of accredited certification body to demonstrate the chain of custody with quantity received, processed, losses in processing and quantity retained in the finished

product. In case if processing is done in different processing units either under the same operator or under different operators each and every consignment being moved shall be supported with Transaction Certificate issued by the accredited certification body on-line through the Tracenet.

## **5. Production and Processing criteria**

**5.1 Production of raw fibre** - The raw fibre shall be certified as organic/organic in conversion in compliance with the standard given in Appendix 1(Organic crop production) and/ or Appendix 2 (Organic Live stock, Poultry and products)of NPOP.

**5.2 Fibre material composition**–Allowed as per the details and combinations given at clause 3 of these rules.

## **6. Storage, Packaging and Transport**

**6.1** Organic product integrity shall be maintained during packaging, storage and transportation by segregation from conventional products. The packaging materials shall be free from PVC and external treatment such as biocide or pesticides.

**6.2** Organic, Traceable Organic Fibre and Made with Traceable Organic Fibre X percentage products shall be stored and transported in such a manner that there are no chances of contamination or co-mingling with non-organic/ conventional products. It shall also be ensured that organic fibre and its products do not get contaminated by contact with prohibited substances such as chemical fumigants, biocides and pesticides.

**6.3** Packaging material shall be free from chlorinated plastics (such as PVC). Any paper or card board used in packaging material shall be of recycled grade.

**6.4** It shall be ensure that all transportation means, carriers and containers maintain the integrity of organic and made with organic fibres and there is no chance of

contamination or co-mingling of organic produce with conventional/ non-organic produce. All steps and processes shall be documented

## **7. Documentation, inspection and quality assurance**

The requirements for submission of annual system plan, documentation, inspection and internal quality assurance shall apply as per Section 4 of NPOP for inspection and certification at all the stages of handling. Each step in the handling of the product, for all operations shall be documented during the audit trail by the certification bodies. The audit trail should ensure organic integrity relating to the nature of the raw material used, the quantity and reconciliation of these raw materials with the final products. The operator of the final product shall be responsible for ensuring the organic integrity in the entire processing chain.

## **8. Analysis and Residue Testing**

Accredited Certification Bodies shall undertake risk analysis for each and every stage of processing during the inspection right from ginning to final product. In case of suspicion of contamination it may collect samples for residue analysis and GM testing.

All certified raw cotton coming for ginning shall be tested for GMO contamination and the GMO free certificate shall be carried throughout the processing chain.