

Global ISO IWA 32:2019 Proficiency Test Initiative

Organic cotton is a claim that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not deliberately or knowingly used and that organic producers take far-reaching steps to avoid GMO contamination along the organic cotton value chain¹, from farmers, to spinners, to brands. To confirm that such actions have been taken, it is essential that organic cotton stakeholders can reliably test their products for the potential presence of GMO cotton. The *ISO IWA 32:2019*² protocol was developed to create a common language among laboratories worldwide to screen for the potential presence of GMO cotton along the organic cotton value chain.

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), the Organic Cotton Accelerator (OCA), and Textile Exchange set out the global proficiency test initiative to bring clarity regarding the laboratories that perform testing against the *ISO IWA 32:2019*. The technical process of the proficiency test was managed by Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR), the organization that acted as a project leader for the development of the *ISO IWA 32:2019* and is accredited for performing proficiency tests according to the *ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing* (not specifically in the field of GMOs).

Since the publication of *ISO IWA 32:2019*, qualitative GMO screening of cotton and textiles within the Organic Content Standard (OCS) supply chain has become mandatory and is to be performed by appropriately qualified testing laboratories using the *ISO IWA 32:2019* criteria. See *OCS-103 GMO Screening of Organic Cotton* for further details.

Please find below the list of laboratories that have so far been confirmed to have the necessary competence to carry out qualitative GMO testing in greige cotton products as per the *ISO IWA 32:2019* worldwide. This list is compiled based on the results of a second round of proficiency tests for qualitative cotton screening according to *ISO IWA 32:2019* organized in 2021.

As the *ISO IWA 32:2019* protocol established that GMO screening in cotton and textiles can only be reliably carried out in cottonseed, cotton leaf, cotton fiber, and chemically unprocessed cotton fiber-derived materials up to greige yarn and fabric, GMO cotton testing should not be carried out in chemically processed cotton.

¹ Article 4 Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 and Article 5 Regulation (EU) 2018/848, and IFOAM Organics International, Position Paper 'Genetic Engineering and Genetically Modified Organisms', 2016

² ISO IWA 32:2019 Screening of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in cotton and textiles

Country	Laboratory Name	Contact Details
Bulgaria	Laboratory of SGS Bulgaria	varnalaboratory@sgs.com www.sgs.bg
China	Intertek Testing Services Ltd., Shanghai, China	service.china@intertek.com www.intertek.com.cn
	SGS-CSTC Standards Technical Services (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	www.sgsgroup.com.cn/agrifood
Germany	Eurofins GeneScan GmbH	GeneScan@eurofins.de www.eurofins.de/GeneScan
	FoodChain ID Testing GmbH	info@foodchainid.de www.foodchainid.de
	GALAB Laboratories GmbH	Info@galab.de www.galab.com
	Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG	info@hohenstein.com www.hohenstein.de
	Impetus GmbH & Co. Bioscience KG	I.kruse@impetus-bioscience.de www.impetus.bioscience.de
India	Envirocare Labs Pvt. Ltd. Thane	info@environcare.co.in www.environcare.co.in
	Geo - Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	laboratory@geochem.net.in www.geochem.net.in
	NAWaL Analytical Laboratories	ecogreen.labs@gmail.com www.nawallabs.com
	National Collateral Management Services Ltd	raina@ncml.com www.ncml.com
	ProComm Laboratory NBHC Pvt. Ltd.	procomm@nbhcindia.com www.nbhprocomm.com
	Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	rashmi@reliablelabs.org www.reliablelabs.org

	SGS India Private Limited - Ahmedabad	purvi.shah@sgs.com www.sgs.com
	TESTTEX India Laboratories Pvt Ltd	labsindia@testtex.com www.testtex.com
Italy	CENTROCOT Centro Tessile Cotoniero e Abbigliamento SPA	info@centrocot.it www.centrocot.it
Sweden	Intertek ScanBi Diagnostics AB	agritech.sweden@intertek.com www.intertek.com www.scanbidiagnostics.com
Turkey	Intertek Testing Services Hizmetleri A.S.	2sales.turkey@intertek.com www.intertek-turkey.com
	Nanolab Laboratuvarlar Grubu	info@nano-lab.com.tr www.nano-lab.com.tr
	OXIGEN ANALIZ	fatmabukin@oxigenanaliz.com www.oxigenanaliz.com
United States	FoodChain ID Testing LLC	testing@foodchainid.com www.foodchainid.com
	OMIC USA Inc.	sales.us@omicusa.com www.omicusa.com

Are you a GMO cotton testing laboratory that implemented the *ISO IWA 32:2019* reference protocol and are you now interested in joining a further proficiency test round? Do you have any questions about the global *ISO IWA 32:2019* proficiency test initiative? Or do you want to update your contact details or your accreditation status against ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for GMO cotton screening? Please contact secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org.

Disclaimer: This proficiency test has been organized to obtain an up-to-date overview of the laboratories that can currently conduct GMO testing as per the *ISO IWA 32:2019* protocol. The participating laboratories have been invited based on existing collaborations with the Global Organic Textile Standard, the Organic Cotton Accelerator, and Textile Exchange and/or that of their partners, to the best of their knowledge. The results have been made publicly available for informational purpose only. No radical business decision should be made from the results of this proficiency test regarding the current or future cooperation with laboratories that did not participate or do not appear in the short-list of laboratories that succeeded in the proficiency test.