



Skal

**To all Sustainable Textile certified clients**

Zwolle, 1 March 2007

Subject: **Global Organic Textile Standard**

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

For more than 10 years, Control Union Certifications (formerly operating under the name "Skal International") has managed its own private textile standard for producers of textile products. This private standard fulfills a need of the industry as there is no public standard that can be used anywhere in the world. However, our private standard was similar but not exactly the same as the standards of other certification organizations. As a result certified products could not be easily exchanged between companies, if these companies were certified by different certification organizations.

For these reasons Control Union Certification has chosen to adopt the globally accepted regulation:

***GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD (G.O.T.S.)***

From now new clients only can apply for G.O.T.S.. Existing Sustainable Textile certificate holders will be audited in 2007 regarding the G.O.T.S. standards. Based on the results of the audit you will receive a new certificate based on the G.O.T.S. standard. In case you aren't able to fulfill one of the requirements of the G.O.T.S. standard that were not applicable in our former private sustainable textile standard, this will not influence the status of your certificate. You will be given the time to fulfill this requirement, so that you will pass the audit the following visit.

Use of the EKO Sustainable Textile logo will be permitted until the Sustainable Textile certificate expires or until a GOTS certificate is issued to your company. If the GOTS logo is not implemented by the GOTS International Working Group by that time a suitable solution will be found for your company.

To make the transition from Sustainable Textile to GOTS run as smoothly as possible, we will prepare a document for you stating the precise differences between the two certification programmes. This way certified companies will know exactly what – if any – changes should be made. We hope to have this document finished by the end of March.

We trust to have informed you sufficiently. If you have additional questions, or if something is not clear, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

J. Maris  
Managing Director

