

### INTRODUCTION

The aim of the FNG Group (mother company) is to take **responsibility** for the social and environmental impact of our products.

Therefore, we have created our Product Policy, which gives an overview of our requirements in order to ensure the ethical sourcing of our products:

1. Restrictions in chemical use,
2. Prohibited issues and
3. Preferred raw materials

As **sustainability** and **transparency** are one of the core elements of our business operations, we take all kinds of initiatives to run the business sustainably throughout the supply chain.

#### FNG Group

##### **Dutch Brands**

Claudia Sträter  
Expresso Fashion  
Miss Etam  
Promiss  
Steps

##### **Belgium Brands**

Baker Bridge  
Brantano  
CKS  
Fred & Ginger  
Fred & Ginger Sister  
Friday  
Ginger  
Hilde & Co  
Kiekeboe  
Limon  
Superstar

## I. RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES LIST

FNG Group made a commitment to itself: to develop a **responsible chemical management**.

Therefore, we have developed our own FNG Group Restricted Substances List (RSL) to provide information related to all legally restricted and hazardous chemicals.

The RSL **declaration** refers to all the products that the supplier delivers to FNG Group and has to be signed each year for all delivering goods.

We insist that products from our suppliers are fully in line with the **European legislation** on chemicals, known as REACH. The FNG Group will randomly test styles for a double check.

*Do you have an additional certificate?*

(e.g. Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 [9],  
Oeko-Tex STeP [10],  
EU Ecolabel [11])

*Please send us the certificate with  
the signed RSL compliance declaration  
of the FNG Group.*

## 2. PROHIBITION

- X Use of **genuine fur** is prohibited
- X **Real exotic animal skin** is prohibited (for example snake, alligator, crocodile and lizard)
- X **Angora wool** is prohibited to prevent live plucking of angora rabbits
- X Use of **Mulesed Merino wool** is prohibited
- X FNG encourages to **ban sandblasting** throughout the whole industry

## 3. PREFERRED MATERIALS

The aim of our companies is to increase the variety of sustainable fabrics.  
Below you can find the **preferred materials**:

### A. ANIMAL FIBRES

**Down & Feathers** (Only applies to Claudia Sträter and Miss Etam. The other brands do not use real down and feathers in their collection.)

- » We prefer (natural or synthetic) substitute materials of non-animal origin.
- √ In case we use down, we only accept real Down and Feathers that are certified by **RDS** [1]
- √ Including the follow up standard **CCS** [2]

#### Fur

- » We signed the **Fur Free Declaration** (Bont voor Dieren in the Netherlands) and Fur Free Retailer Programme.
- √ We only accept fake fur with a **test report** that declares it is fake fur.

#### Leather

- √ We only accept Leather goods with a **test report** of Chromium VI with after Aging test method from one production sample for each style and and colour; that shows that the article does not contain chromium VI (only allowed < 3 mg per kg).

#### Silk

- √ We prefer silk certified by **Bluesign®** [13]

#### Wool

- » We prefer:
- √ **Non-mulesed Merino** wool certified by Deloitte.
- √ Wool certified by **RWS** [3]
- √ **Organic** Wool, ideally certified by GOTS [4] or OCS [5]
- √ **Recycled** Wool, ideally certified by GRS [6] or RCS [7]

## B.

## NATURAL FIBRES

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### Cotton

The production process of Cotton uses a lot of water, chemicals and energy.  
That is why FNG prefers alternatives:

- √ We prefer **Organic** Cotton, ideally certified by GOTS [4] or OCS [5]
- » Organic cotton is grown without the use of inorganic fertilisers and crop protection agents.  
This makes it a good alternative for human health and a healthy environment.
  
- √ We prefer **Recycled** Cotton, ideally certified by GRS [6] or RCS [7]
- √ We prefer Cotton from **BCI** [8]

### Denim

- √ **Computer-driven laser technology** that can replicate the worn look and creating patterns without sandblasting, water, chemicals or stones.

### Linen

- √ We prefer **Organic** Linen ideally certified by GOTS [4] or OCS [5]

## C.

## SYNTHETIC FIBRES

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The production of synthetic materials uses a lot of energy.  
Therefore, we aspire to use materials from facilities which carry **ISO certificates [12]**.

### Nylon

- √ We prefer **Recycled Nylon**, ideally certified by GRS [6] or RCS [7]

### Polyester

- √ We prefer **Recycled Polyester**, ideally certified by GRS [6] of RCS [7]

**Man-made cellulose fibers**

Cellulosic man-made natural raw fibre is made from tree cellulose.

Our goal is to make sure that the fibres from our fabrics are not derived from ancient and endangered forests. That is why we prefer **FSC/ PEFC** certified wood products, which indicates that the product comes from a responsibly managed forest.

**There are different types of man-made cellulose.**

Please find here the preferred options:

**Lenzing Modal®**

- √ Modal fibres from Lenzing, extracted from beech wood and exceptionally ecological.

**Lenzing Viscose®**

- √ Viscose fibres from the House of Lenzing (Especially from Austria), produced from the replenishable raw material of wood. 99,9% of the use of the wood and pulp they buy is certified by PEFC and FSC-certified standards and the process chemicals are recycled (stay in closed loops).

**TENCEL®**

- √ TENCEL® is the Lyocell fibre produced by Lenzing, using wood pulp from sustainably sourced eucalyptus and beech trees. These trees are grown to meet Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards. In the manufacturing phase, Lenzing uses a closed loop process to use recycle-spinning solvent.

**Monocel®**

- √ This fibre is made from bamboo and produced by the supplier Monocel. Bamboo is grown to meet Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standards and the fibre is processed using a closed loop system.

## 4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Definition of the related Certificates and Standards

**Part 1:** Scope & Transaction Certificates

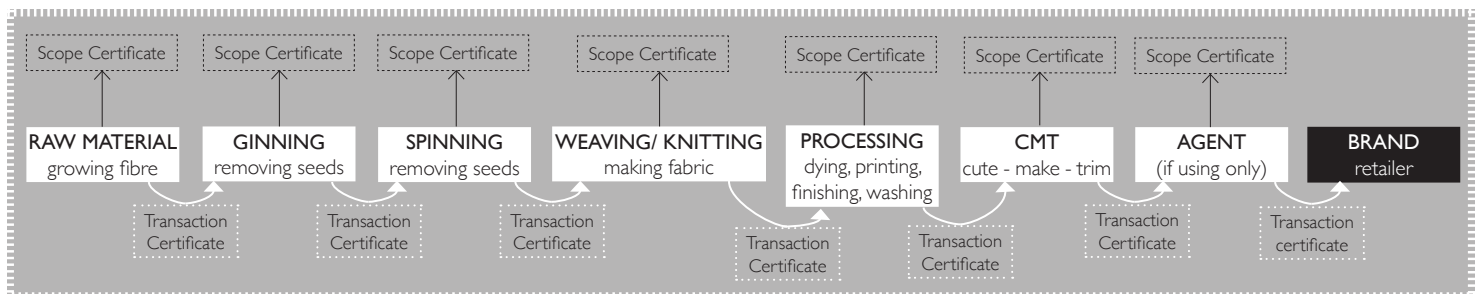
**Part 2:** Materials Standards

**Part 3:** Wet-processing Standards

**Why is Certification so important for the confidence for our supply chain?**

- You are 'getting what you paid for'
- Conformance to legal standards and protection
- Traceability and transparency
- Understanding where difference is being made
- Credibility among consumers
- Marketing and PR opportunities

### Part I: SCOPE & TRANSACTION CERTIFICATES



FNG Group must have Scope and Transaction Certificates for all products that contain organic or recycled materials. If all parties in a supply chain collect and issue Transaction Certificates it guarantees a complete chain of custody, verified by an independent certification organisation.

**How does the certifications system work for organic and recycled materials?**

Before ordering: **Scope Certificate**

To assure the delivering facility is indeed certified to process organic or recycled materials. Before placing the order, it should be communicated to the supplier by the contact persons of FNG that we require a Transaction Certificate for our products.

Delivering goods: **Transaction Certificate**

To guarantee that our products contain organic or recycled materials as mentioned in this certificate. We aim to obtain Transaction Certificates at garment level or fabric level as this offers the best guarantee that sustainable materials were used in our products.

## Part 2: MATERIALS STANDARDS

In case our material is certified according to one of the standards (see above) we would like to receive the related certificate, which should be asked **before ordering**.



### [1] **RDS** - Responsible Down Standard

This standard is for down and feathers. We prohibit the use of down and feathers from live-plucked birds. The RDS covers the initial stages of the process (up to slaughter). The organization selling down to the retailer shall be certified. If products are identified as RDS certified, then the RDS logo shall be used.



### [2] **CCS** - Content Claim Standard

This standard is the follow up of RDS.

Both standards are voluntary (not mandatory by law). CCS covers the collecting, trading and assembly phases. Also, CCS issues Scope and Transaction Certificates.



### [3] **RWS** – Responsible Wool Standard

This standard (just released) is a global benchmark for animal welfare and protection land management practices in sheep farming. It ensures that the wool comes from responsible treated sheep, mulesing is prohibited and has strict guidelines for (e.g.) tail docking, shearing and on-farm slaughter.



### [4] **GOTS** - Global Organic Textile Standard

This standard sets requirements to ensure the organic status of textiles and across energy, water and chemicals. It includes additional environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing and labelling.



### [5] **OCS** - Organic Content Standard

This standard starts tracing the material when the farmer sells the organic fibres. It is a voluntary standard with no additional environmental or social requirements for the processing of the fibre.



OCS contains Scope and Transaction Certificates and has developed two standards:

1. OCS 100 – for products that contain 95% - 100% organically grown fibres
2. OCS blended – for products with 5% - 95% organically grown fibres



### [6] **GRS** - Global Recycle Standard

This product standard is for tracking and verifying the content of recycled materials in the final product. It includes additional environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing and labelling. Sets requirements across energy, water and chemicals.



### [7] **RCS** - Recycled Claim Standard

The enforcement of this standard starts after the collection of the material that will be recycled, although random audits of the collection processes could be performed by RCS. This standard is a voluntary standard (not mandatory by law) with no additional environmental or social requirements for the processing of the fiber. RCS contains Scope and Transaction Certificates and has developed two standards:

1. RCS 100 – for products that contain 95% - 100% recycled materials
2. RCS blended – for products with 5% - 95% recycled materials





[8] **BCI** - Better Cotton Initiative

This is a non-profit organisation stewarding the global standards for Better Cotton. BCI exists to: make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, reduce polluting for the environment in which it is grown and better for the sector's future, by developing Better Cotton as a sustainable mainstream commodity. This multi-stakeholder initiative has a membership model where all members can benefit from being associated with Better Cotton.

(<http://bettercotton.org/get-involved/membership-offer/>)

## Part 3: WET - PROCESSING STANDARDS

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The environmental footprint of wet processing in the fashion supply chain is enormous. Especially in the **pre-treatment** of dyeing, printing and finishing. These processes consume significant amounts of water, energy and (hazardous) chemicals.

Wet processing is directly linked to our **Restricted Substances List**, if you have one of these documents as evidence, please send this document to your contact person at FNG. This should be very supportive for your credibility as a supplier. *That is why FNG prefers:*



[9] Oeko-Tex 100

This is a product safety standard.

This standard tests the impact of textiles and their chemical ingredients on the health and well-being of humans. Oeko-Tex 100 sets limits and/ or excludes the use of certain chemicals in the product, e.g. azo-dyes, formaldehyde, heavy metals.



[10] Oeko-Tex STeP

Sustainable Textile Production (STeP) is possible for production facilities of all processing stages. This certification system for the textile chain allows comprehensive analysis and evaluation of all relevant company areas regarding use of environmentally friendly technologies and products, efficient use of resources as well as compliance with social working conditions.



[11] The EU Ecolabel

This standard identifies products and services that have a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle, from the extraction of raw material through to production, use and disposal.



[12] ISO 14001

A standard for companies in and outside the textile industry.

This standard sets requirements for an environmental management system that applies on company level.



[13] Bluesign®

An independent industry initiative and based on five principles: Resource productivity, Consumer safety, Water emission, Air emission and occupational health & safety.

FNG

**FNG**  
group

PRODUCT POLICY®  
April 2017  
Version 1