



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 and every two years thereafter.

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



NOTE: ISO has recently released ISO/DIS 5354-1.2 and ISO/TS 5354-2 to replace IWA 32:2019. This will be addressed in an update to [OCS-103 Policy for GMO Screening of Organic Cotton](#).

Overview of Laboratories

Below is a table of laboratories that can carry out qualitative GMO testing in greige cotton products as per the *ISO IWA 32:2019* according to the global *ISO IWA 32:2019* proficiency test initiative organized in 2023.

| Country | Laboratory Name | Contact Details |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Bulgaria | Laboratory of SGS Bulgaria | varnalaboratory@sgs.com |
| | Primoris Bulgaria | info@primoris-lab.bg |
| Germany | Eurofins GeneScan GmbH | GeneScan@eurofins.de |
| | FoodChain ID Testing GmbH | info@foodchainid.de |
| | Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG | info@hohenstein.com |
| | Impetus GmbH & Co. Bioscience KG | l.kruse@impetus-bioscience.de |
| India | NAWaL Analytical Laboratories | ecogreen.labs@gmail.com |
| | Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd. | rashmi@reliablelabs.org |
| | SGS India Private Limited - Ahmedabad | purvi.shah@sgs.com |
| | Viridian Testing Laboratories LLP | info@viridianlab.com |
| | TESTTEX India Laboratories Pvt Ltd | labsindia@testtex.com |
| Italy | pH Labs TUV SUD group | phlabs@tuvsud.com |



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|-----------------------|---|--|
| Netherlands | TLR International Laboratory | info@tlr.nl |
| Pakistan | SGS Pakistan Pvt Ltd | sajjad.khan@sgs.com |
| Portugal | SGS Molecular, S.A. | molecular@sgs.com |
| Spain | Applied Mass Spectrometry Laboratory SLU (Bureau Veritas CPS Spain) | info@ams-lab.com |
| Sweden | Intertek ScanBi Diagnostics AB | agritech.sweden@intertek.com |
| Switzerland | TESTEX AG | zuerich@testex.com |
| Taiwan | SGS Taiwan Ltd. - Kaohsiung | https://www.sgs.com.tw/en/ |
| | Taiwan Food and Drug Administration | linjyang@fda.gov.tw |
| Türkiye | Intertek Testing Services Hizmetleri A.S. | 2sales.turkey@intertek.com |
| | Nanolab Laboratuvarlar Grubu | info@nano-lab.com.tr |
| | Control Union Gozetim ve Belgelendirme Ltd. Sti. | turkey@controlunion.com |
| | Ekoteks Laboratuvarı | info@ekoteks.com |
| | Oxigen Analiz Laboratuvar Hizmetleri Ticaret Anonim Sirketi | fatmabukin@oxigenanaliz.com |
| United Kingdom | Shirley Technologies Limited | cristina.alepuz@shirley.co.uk |
| United States | FoodChain ID Testing LLC | testing@foodchainid.com |
| | OMIC USA Inc. | sales.us@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 2023? Or do you want to update your contact details or your accreditation status against ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for GMO cotton screening? Please contact OCA's Program Manager (Seed and Innovation) with your query at 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 purposes 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.*