

FACT SHEET

# BETTER COTTON INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENTS

Better Cotton is not just about meeting a set of standards; it's about being part of a global movement to improve the cotton industry for people, the environment, and the future of the sector.

At Intertek, we are committed to fostering a more sustainable, transparent, and responsible cotton industry. Better Cotton's principles and requirements aim to drive improvements in the industry for people, the environment, and the future prosperity of the sector more broadly, supporting farmers, suppliers, and the entire cotton supply chain.



## Measuring Cotton Consumption: Independent Assessments

Beyond verification and traceability, the measurement of cotton consumption involves a conformity assessment, ensuring the reliability and consistency of Retailer and Brand's cotton fiber consumption measurement in alignment with the Better Cotton methodology.

The Independent Assessment requirements have been in effect since January 2024. Retailer and Brand Members (RB Members) are responsible for selecting an Assessor and covering any associated costs. The frequency and requirement of this assessment depends on the membership size category. This Independent Assessment is also an eligibility criteria for maintaining access to advanced claims and On Product Claim (OPM).

The Independent Assessment annual submission deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>. In 2024, Better Cotton has announced an extension until July 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 to support with scheduling in the first year of the requirement.

## Our Verification Process

### Before the Audit

- 1 Application Submission**  
The first step is to fill out our Client Information Form (CIF), to best evaluate your requirements.
- 2 Commercial Proposal**  
Then we provide you with a quotation.
- 3 Contract Signing & Payment**
- 4 Assessment Scheduling**  
The assessment will be scheduled once the contract is signed.

### During the Audit

- 5 Assessment and Assessment Follow-Up (if applicable)**  
Assessment will be done onsite/remotely. Necessary changes to the self-assessment template filled by Retailer/Brand member for Cotton consumption will be made.
- 6 Completion of Outcome Declaration & Conformity Assessment**  
Auditor completes report and technical review (0-9 days post-assessment)
- 7 Assessment Results**  
Assessment template will be shared by auditor to the client (2 weeks post-assessment)
- 8 Submit Assessment**  
Retailer/Brand Member submits independent assessment template to BC.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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