Global ISO IWA 32:2019 proficiency test initiative 2021

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 chain[1], from farmers to spinners, to brands. To confirm that such steps have been taken, it is essential that organic cotton stakeholders can reliably test their products for the potential presence of GM cotton.

The ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol was developed to create a common language among laboratories worldwide to screen for the potential presence of GM cotton along the organic cotton value chain. Since its publication, qualitative GMO testing of cotton and textiles is mandatory within the GOTS and OCS supply chain and OCA's Farm programme and is to be performed by appropriately qualified testing laboratories using the ISO IWA 32:2019 protocol.

The Global Organic Textile Standard, the Organic Cotton Accelerator 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. 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 test for qualitative cotton screening according to ISO IWA 32:2019 organized in 2021.

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).

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, GM 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

Overview of laboratories:

Table: List 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 organised in 2021.

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
CHINA	SGS-CSTC Standards Technical Services (Shanghai) Co., Ltd.	www.sgsgroup.com.cn/agrifood
GERMANY	Eurofins GeneScan GmbH	GeneScan@eurofins.de www.eurofins.de/GeneScan
GERMANY	FoodChain ID Testing GmbH	info@foodchainid.de www.foodchainid.de
GERMANY	GALAB Laboratories GmbH	info@galab.de www.galab.com
GERMANY	Hohenstein Laboratories GmbH & Co. KG	info@hohenstein.com www.hohenstein.de
GERMANY	Impetus GmbH & Co. Bioscience KG	l.kruse@impetus-bioscience.de www.impetus.bioscience.de
INDIA	Envirocare Labs Pvt. Ltd. Thane	info@envirocare.co.in www.envirocare.co.in
INDIA	Geo - Chem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	laboratory@geochem.net.in www.geochem.net.in
INDIA	NAWaL Analytical Laboratories	ecogreen.labs@gmail.com www.nawallabs.com
INDIA	National Collateral Management Services Ltd (*)	raina.j@ncml.com www.ncml.com
INDIA	ProComm Laboratory NBHC Pvt. Ltd.	procomm@nbhcindia.com www.nbhcprocomm.com
INDIA	Reliable Analytical Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	rashmi@reliablelabs.org www.reliablelabs.org
INDIA	SGS India Private Limited - Ahmedabad	purvi.shah@sgs.com www.sgs.com
INDIA	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	2sales.turkey@intertek.com www.intertek-turkey.com
TURKEY	Nanolab Laboratuvarlar Grubu	info@nano-lab.com.tr www.nano-lab.com.tr
TURKEY	OXIGEN ANALIZ	fatmabukin@oxigenanaliz.com www.oxigenanaliz.com
UNITED STATES	FoodChain ID Testing LLC	testing@foodchainid.com www.foodchainid.com
UNITED STATES	OMIC USA Inc.	sales.us@omicusa.com www.omicusa.com

Last updated on February 10, 2022 -------

The laboratories marked with a (*) have been added after January 26 upon clearance of administrative requirements.

Are you a GM cotton testing laboratory that implemented the ISO IWA 32:2019 reference protocol and are you now interested in joining a next proficiency test round in Q1 2023? Do you have any questions about the global ISO IWA 32:2019 proficiency test initiative 2021? Or do you want to update the organisers about your contact details or your accreditation status against ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for GM cotton screening? Please contact Mathilde Tournebize with your query: secretariat@organiccottonaccelerator.org.

Disclaimer: This proficiency test results have 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 direct applications from laboratories as well as 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.