

**GRÜNER
KNÖPF**

SOZIAL. ÖKOLOGISCH. STAATLICH.
UNABHÄNGIG ZERTIFIZIERT.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING USE OF THE CERTIFICATION MARK

1. Preamble

The Green Button is a government-run certification label for sustainable textiles and is awarded on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The label provides consumers as well as public and private procurement agencies with guidance when purchasing textiles.

To this end, the Green Button awards textile products that are distributed by companies acting responsibly, consist only of approved fibres and materials, and whose production processes at the supply chain stages specified in the standard have been verified by recognised certification labels with regard to social and ecological criteria.

The content requirements of the Green Button for corporate due diligence processes as well as the conditions for awarding products with the Green Button label are set out in the respective current standard documents, which are publicly accessible via the Green Button website, www.gruener-knopf.de.

2. Name and address of the registrant

Registrant:

Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ),

Address for service:

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Stresemannstraße 94,
10963 Berlin,
Germany

[hereinafter also referred to as "scheme owner"].

3. Declaration pursuant to Section 106d (2) No. 2 German Trademark Act

The registrant fulfils the requirements contained in Section 106b (1) German Trademark Act. It does not itself engage in any activity involving the supply of goods and the provision of services for which the certification is given.

4. Rendition of the certification mark



5. List of goods and services

The certification mark is intended to provide a guarantee for the goods specified in Appendix 1.

6. Characteristics of the goods guaranteed by the certification mark

The Green Button is a government-run certification label for textiles produced in a socially and ecologically sustainable manner. The label indicates textile products that meet specific product characteristics defined by the scheme owner, as well as specific requirements for the implementation of due diligence processes for human rights and the environment by the applicant company.

The latest version of the standard is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

The standard includes the following in particular:

a. Requirements for corporate due diligence processes

The Green Button sets requirements for the process of corporate due diligence. The due diligence requirements are based on international frameworks, in particular the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development' sector-specific supplements ("OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector").

In an independent audit, the applicant company that is to be evaluated proves to a certification body authorised by the scheme owner that the following requirements (core elements) are fulfilled with regard to due diligence processes for human rights and the environment:

Core element 1: Policy on responsible business conduct

The requirement of the core element refers to a public commitment by the company to take responsibility for its business activities. Specifically, the company publicly commits to respecting fundamental social, environmental, and integrity requirements and formulates corresponding expectations for business partners and suppliers. The policy informs internal employees as well as business partners and suppliers about the company's goals and expectations in this regard. In addition, the certification body evaluates whether the company has established processes to implement the commitments made in the policy.

More detailed explanations and detailed descriptions of the requirements concerning this core element can be found in the Green Button Standard, the current version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

Core element 2: Analysis and prioritisation of risks and impacts

In this core element, companies are required to regularly and systematically identify risks related to human rights, the environment, and integrity in their supply chains based on a formalised process and prioritise them, taking into account the likelihood of occurrence and severity.

The company identifies and analyses the extent to which its own business model and procurement and purchasing practices contribute to adverse impacts on human rights, the environment, and integrity along its own textile supply chains.

More detailed explanations and detailed descriptions of the requirements concerning this core element can be found in the Green Button Standard, the current version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

Core element 3: Prevention and mitigation

Under this core element, the company demonstrates that it has integrated the findings of the risk identification into relevant internal business areas and processes, is taking appropriate action to address the most severe risks identified in its own textile supply chains and is mitigating the identified adverse impacts on human rights, the environment, and integrity (Core element 2). The effectiveness of the measures taken should also be regularly reviewed in relation to affected persons.

More detailed explanations and detailed descriptions of the requirements concerning this core element can be found in the Green Button Standard, the current version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

Core element 4: Reporting and communication

Under this core element, the company demonstrates that it reports publicly, regularly, and systematically on its due diligence obligations. It reports on its supply chain and the most severe risks identified and what preventive and mitigating measures are taken. Transparent reporting also includes exchanges with potentially affected stakeholders or their representatives.

More detailed explanations and detailed descriptions of the requirements concerning this core element can be found in the Green Button Standard, the current version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

Core element 5: Grievance mechanisms and remedy

Under this core element, the company demonstrates that it actively promotes access to effective grievance mechanisms in its own textile supply chains. This includes both factory/local and back-up mechanisms.

For the purposes of this core element, "grievance" means the expression of inadequacies or concerns by (potentially) affected stakeholders or their legitimate representatives about their rights, freedoms, or other entitlements based on contractual terms, arrangements, practices, or a general understanding of fairness. Inadequacies or concerns relate to adverse impacts on human rights, the environment, and integrity. A grievance mechanism is a tool and/or procedure that provides a formalised way for an individual or group to raise concerns or grievances about adverse impacts that a company is having or that they perceive. A grievance mechanism also provides an opportunity to seek appropriate remedy. In cases where the company has caused or contributed to adverse impacts, it shall ensure appropriate remediation.

More detailed explanations and detailed descriptions of the requirements concerning this core element can be found in the Green Button Standard, the current version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

b. Condition for product labelling (Requirements for products and production processes)

The company proves to the authorised certification body that the Green Button requirements for products and production processes are fulfilled according to the current version of the standard. This includes, in particular, the authorisation to label the products with a certification label recognised by the Green Button and the material composition in accordance with the list of approved fibres and materials provided for in the standard.

More detailed explanations and detailed descriptions of the requirements that affect this area

of product-related requirements can be found in the Green Button Standard, the current version of which can be found on the website <https://www.gruener-knopf.de/en> and is publicly accessible.

7. Conditions for the use of the certification mark

The scheme owner or the issuing body commissioned with this only grants the right to use the Green Button on condition that the respective applicant proves compliance with the Green Button's requirements for corporate due diligence processes and the conditions for product labelling by submitting a certificate from an authorised certification body.

The issuing body monitors the use of the Green Button. During the term of the certificate, companies have the option to extend the scope of the certificate to further products, provided that these fulfil the aforementioned conditions.

8. Persons authorised to use the certification mark

Only companies that demonstrably meet the requirements of the Green Button Standard and have been granted the right to use the Green Button are authorised to use the certification mark.

9. Verification of the conditions of use of the certification mark

The evaluation of the existence of the prerequisites for the use of the certification mark is carried out via a certification procedure according to the Green Button Certification Programme. The main features of this procedure are described below. Further details can be found in the Green Button Certification Programme, the latest version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

The certification procedure is carried out upon application by an interested company. Part of the certification procedure are initial audits, surveillance audits, if necessary, re-certification audits and, if necessary, special audits related to specific occasions. An extension or reduction of the scope of certification within the term of the certificate is possible at any time regarding additional product types or products. This concerns the extension by additional product types or products.

During the term of the certificate, the companies are regularly evaluated by the certification body (surveillance audit). Extraordinary and unannounced surveillance audits can take place if there are doubts about the continued compliance with the requirements of the standard (special audit).

The commissioned certification body verifies the fulfilment of the company-related requirements for the Green Button in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 as well as the scheme owner's supplementary requirements in the Green Button Certification Programme, the current version of which is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

An audit report prepared under the certification body's own responsibility confirms that all requirements have been met. Under the certification body's own responsibility, the audit reports are evaluated and a certification decision is made according to the rules of DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065. The certificate confirms the fulfilment of the requirements defined in the Green Button Standard (conformity).

The companies are obliged to inform the certification body of any changes in their business processes and products that are relevant for certification. The certification bodies have the right at any time, but in particular in the event of special cause, to check the continuous compliance with the certification criteria in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 and the scheme owner's supplementary requirements and, where appropriate, to take the necessary measures, including (graduated) sanctions, to ensure compliance with the requirements for use. This applies in particular if current events or findings give rise to suspicions regarding inadequate compliance with due diligence processes for human rights, the environment, and integrity, or if the certification bodies have reasonable doubts about compliance with the certification criteria due to other indications.

10. Monitoring the use of the certification mark

As a matter of principle, the use of the certification mark is carried out independently by the company authorised to do so as well as on the basis of mutual market observation by the market participants. The scheme owner as well as the issuing body commissioned by it also carry out general market monitoring, in particular in the form of ad-hoc evaluation as well as regular evaluations of uses taking place, and monitor compliance with the Green Button's conditions of use.

Certification bodies and companies transmit relevant information to the issuing body and agree, based on legal requirements for data protection, to the storage and exchange of all data required for the purpose of proper issuing and monitoring of the Green Button.

Applicant companies must agree to provide all information necessary for the purpose of monitoring and controlling the product claim requirements upon the scheme owner's request. This includes at least the production sites of the production steps defined in the Green Button Standard. The current version of the Green Button Standard is available and publicly accessible on the website www.gruener-knopf.de.

11. Possible sanctions

Each company applying the Green Button to its products must ensure that the Green Button's conditions of use are complied with for the entire duration of the authorisation to use the Green Button. The issuing body shall take appropriate measures on behalf of the scheme owner to prevent misuse of the certification mark in a manner contrary to the terms of use under the licencing agreement. To this end, it carries out active market surveillance. Possible sanctions that may be imposed by the issuing body, taking into account the individual case, are, in the case of minor infringements, a warning to the authorised user with a request to comply with the contractual conditions of use, and in the case of serious infringements, the temporary suspension of the authorisation to use or a permanent withdrawal of the right to use the certification mark for individual products or in total.

Minor offences can be, for example:

- Labelling of certified products in breach of contract by failing to provide information that is mandatory under the Green Button Logo Manual to be provided next to the certification mark to enable traceability;
- Promotional use of the certification mark for certified products that exceeds the permitted scope (e.g. promotion of non-certified products through non-product-related advertising).

Serious violations can be, for example:

- Falsification of certificates or other documents that enable or document certification of products;
- Intentional use of the certification mark for non-certified products.
- Minor offences that are proven to have been committed intentionally.

In the event of unauthorised use of the certification mark, it is still possible to assert claims for infringement under trademark law, in particular claims for injunctive relief and damages.

The certification bodies' own possible sanctions with regard to certification, in particular measures according to the Green Button Certification Programme in the respective current version, remain unaffected by this.

Sanctions imposed due to serious violations are publicly documented.

12. Rights and obligations of the parties in case of infringement of the certification mark

The right to assert claims for infringement of the certification mark shall be vested solely in the scheme owner. The latter may, at its own discretion and in an appropriate manner, assign the assertion of such claims to other parties, in particular to the Secretariat and/or the issuing body. The scheme owner shall take appropriate action against acts of infringement in order to prevent the certification mark from being misused in a manner contrary to the certification mark regulations.

13. Attachments:

List of goods and services