



Detox

Systemic Change

ALDI SOUTH Group



TRANSPARENCY THROUGHOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN

- Information on the textile supply chain
- Offer products made from traceable cotton (Fairtrade and GOTS)

We offer textiles with a traceable supply chain

Fairtrade

Fairtrade stands for better working and living conditions for smallholders and workers located in production countries of the Global South. This includes setting a minimum product price which covers the costs of sustainable production. We offer special buy textiles products made from cotton which is certified according to international Fairtrade standards.

The Fairtrade label for cotton indicates that a product contains raw cotton which has been cultivated and traded fairly. Textiles which carry this label contain 100% Fairtrade-certified cotton. Fairly traded cotton is treated separately to conventional cotton at every stage of production and processing. This enables the processed raw cotton within the final product to be traced back directly to its origin.

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

ALDI offers textile products which are certified according to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). All of our textiles which carry the GOTS label contain at least 70% organically produced natural fibres. The GOTS quality assurance system requires that the entire processing and production chain of a product – from post-harvest treatment to sewing, packaging, and labelling – is certified according to GOTS and therefore transparent and traceable.



QUALITY & PRODUCT DESIGN

- Longevity of our products is an important objective
- Jointly with our suppliers we conduct quality checks at every production level

Quality control at every stage of production

ALDI applies specific criteria to its textiles products, namely that they are very easy to clean, have a stable form, and are durable. They are not allowed to show signs of premature wear and tear, to shrink in the wash, or to lose their shape. We regularly ensure the fulfilment of these criteria: Already prior to production, various inspections and tests are conducted on product and material samples. During production, additional samples are taken and inspections and tests are then repeated by an accredited testing institute authorised by ALDI. In addition to this, random samples of the final products are also taken in order to test for production errors, such as poorly sewn seams, holes, incorrect dimensions, soiling etc.



USE OF SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

- Use of certified cotton (e.g. GOTS, Fairtrade, OCS 100, OCS Blended)
- Use of recycled fibres (e.g. GRS)
- Use of brand name fibres (e.g. Lenzing Modal®)
- Use of LWG-certified leather

Use of sustainable cotton

We are committed to social, ecological and economic standards with regard to achieving long-term sustainable improvements in the cultivation of cotton. We will increase the use of sustainable cotton and ensure that only sustainable cotton is used for our ALDI-exclusive garments and household textiles from 2025 onwards.

By 2025, we will therefore require the cotton used for our ALDI-exclusive products to be of either recycled origin or certified according to one of the following internationally recognised sustainability standards:

- FAIRTRADE
- Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)
- Organic Content Standard (OCS)
- Cotton made in Africa (CmiA)
- Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)

Further information can be found in our [International Buying Policy for Cotton](#).

Use of recycled fibres

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) stands for the controlled processing of recycled materials throughout the supply chain, therefore resulting in a significant reduction in waste volumes. We offer special buy textiles products which contain recycled fibres. Consequently, those of our certified products which carry the GRS label contain at least 50% recycled polyester, and some even 100%.

Use of brand name fibres, e.g. Lenzing Modal®

In some ALDI countries, we offer special buy textiles products which contain, for example, Lenzing Modal® fibres. Lenzing Modal® is a fibre which is produced using 100% native beech wood. The fibre feels particularly soft on the skin and is above all used for our underwear garments. Furthermore, Lenzing Modal® is produced using an exceptionally ecological method of technology. Pulp, the raw material, is produced at the same site as the modal fibre itself, thus saving energy and resources during production.

Use of Leather Working Group (LWG)-certified leather

An environmentally compliant leather production including good working conditions is especially important to us. For ALDI products containing leather-based main components only LWG-certified leather may be used. LWG verifies in tanneries if they meet the requirements for environmentally sound leather production and issues a certificate.



NETWORKING

- Participating in relevant initiatives and committees (e.g. German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, LWG) and contributes to further develop these forums
- Hosting a multi-stakeholder summit in Asia for comprehensive discussion of Detox-related topics (2016)

German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles

In June 2015, ALDI Nord and ALDI SOUTH Germany became members of the German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles ('Bündnis für nachhaltige Textilien'). We are involved in this partnership along with other commercial enterprises, associations, the federal government, as well as representatives from civil society. We are committed to promoting the improvement of social and environmental standards in textile production, as well as the use of more sustainable textiles. Further information about the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles can be found on their homepage: www.textilbuendnis.com.

The Leather Working Group

In August 2015, we joined the Leather Working Group (LWG). Goals pursued by the Leather Working Group include increasing the transparency of the conditions at tanneries and intermediate traders, and making these more sustainable. Measures for achieving this include, for example, that the use of potentially critical substances is strictly controlled by producers. A further measure is to reduce the high level of water and energy consumption. Moreover, occupational health and safety is verified on a regular basis. Further information on the LWG can be found on the initiative's homepage: www.leatherworkinggroup.com.



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