



# Systemic Change



## How we promote sustainable consumption



**Transparency throughout the supply chain**



**Use of sustainable materials**



**Quality and product design**



**Networking**

ALDI will support a systemic change across society which will impact our business, our product design, our suppliers, and also our customers. This change focusses on the promotion of more sustainable products and production processes, as well as responsible consumption behaviour. It ranges from banning the 11 hazardous chemical groups and improving product lifecycles to recycling efforts.



# Transparency throughout the supply chain

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

## Information on the textile supply chain

By the time an article of clothing is sold in a store, it often has a long journey behind it involving various different stages of production. But where exactly does all the clothing actually come from? Using the following films, we would like to give you the opportunity to learn more about how textiles are generally produced.



Thanks for providing the video to GOTS, CmiA and Fairtrade ANZ.

## Textiles range containing traceable cotton

### 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. In Belgium, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, and Spain, 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.

The Fairtrade code, which is printed on some of our German textiles products, makes it possible to identify the country and the cooperative from which the cotton originates – for example, our ‚Socks with Fairtrade-Cotton‘.

### Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)

In Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, and Spain, we offer special buy textiles 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.



# 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 PFC-free alternatives
- Use of LWG-certified leather

## Use of certified cotton

Certified cotton is cultivated according to certain requirements which, for example, regulate the use of fertilisers and pesticides. In Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, and Spain, we offer special buy textiles products containing cotton which is certified according to, for example, the Fairtrade standard, GOTS, and the Organic Content Standard (OCS). In addition to this, cotton which is certified according to GOTS or OCS also originates from controlled organic cultivation.

## 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. In Germany, 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 Germany, Austria, Poland, Portugal, and Spain, 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 PFC-free alternatives

To ensure that our clothing items remain dry, many producers have until now used so-called PFCs. These chemicals are criticised by consumer organisations. In Germany and Austria, we have offered products with water-repellent properties which are free of PFCs since 2015. From 2017 onwards, we will use PFC-free alternatives internationally to make our textile products water-repellent. These agents are fluorine-free and support ecologically sustainable clothing technology.

## Prospectively, we will increasingly use LWG (Leather Working Group)-certified leather

We are currently assessing how the requirements of the LWG can be further integrated within our own buying processes. We already offer various products containing LWG-certified leather in Germany. The LWG issues certification to tanneries in three levels of quality (gold, silver, and bronze), each of which corresponds to the criteria for environmentally friendly leather production.



# Quality and product design

- Current status of the survey on durability (of selected products)

## 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.

In future, we will assess the option of collaborating with scientific institutes and supporting university projects in the area of durability of products, for example, the Textile and Clothing Technology Faculty at Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences in Germany.



# Networking

- Participation in various initiatives/committees (e.g. the German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles, The Leather Working Group)
- 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](http://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: <http://www.leatherworkinggroup.com/>.