

# TRACEABILITY OF FAIRTRADE COTTON:

## BUSINESSES CAN SOURCE FAIRTRADE COTTON IN TWO WAYS – THE CLASSIC FAIRTRADE CERTIFIED COTTON MODEL AND THE FAIRTRADE SOURCED COTTON (MASS BALANCE MODEL).

### TRACEABILITY:

Traceability means that individual Fairtrade products need to be identifiable as Fairtrade at all steps of the supply chain and in all relevant documents and packaging. Physical traceability ensures that products sold as Fairtrade are sourced from Fairtrade producers. Documentary traceability and mass balance is to ensure that Fairtrade producers have received the applicable Fairtrade Minimum Price and Fairtrade Premium.

The Fairtrade rules and requirements on traceability are divided into three sections:

#### Documentary traceability requirements

- compulsory for all operators

#### Physical traceability requirements

- compulsory for all operators of cotton except Fairtrade Sourced Cotton model operators after spinner stage

#### Mass balance requirements

- compulsory for Fairtrade Sourced Cotton model

### PHYSICAL TRACEABILITY:



This means that Fairtrade cotton is required to be physically segregated from non-Fairtrade cotton at all stages throughout the production until the product is sold.

The Fairtrade certified cotton mark means that the cotton in the product is fully traceable cotton.

**Assurance:** The complete supply chain is physically audited and certification by 3rd party

**Chain of Custody:** Segregation

### MASS BALANCE:



In the Fairtrade Sourced Cotton model the above rules apply till the spinner stage. Mass balance is allowed at spinner stage. The complete supply chain from producer group to end brand registers on our online tool called Fairtrace. This tool tracks and verifies the volumes bought by the brand. The Fairtrade



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Sourced Cotton volume claim means that the same amount of cotton was sourced, traded and audited as Fairtrade, as reported by the brand in their specific ranges or collections.

**Chain of Custody:** On-site mass balance

## **CHAIN OF CUSTODY AND TRACEABILITY:**

Although often thought of as interchangeable, CoC and traceability can be defined separately. In simple terms, traceability is the ability to demonstrate the CoC. The level and type of information recorded can vary, and the demonstration of the ability to trace information can be achieved through the implementation of different CoC models.

**Find out more details about traceability of Fairtrade through our standards at:**

[https://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user\\_upload/content/2009/standards/documents/SPO\\_EN.pdf](https://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user_upload/content/2009/standards/documents/SPO_EN.pdf)

[https://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user\\_upload/content/2009/standards/documents/generic-standards/2015-09-04\\_Explan\\_Doc\\_GTS\\_EN.pdf](https://www.fairtrade.net/fileadmin/user_upload/content/2009/standards/documents/generic-standards/2015-09-04_Explan_Doc_GTS_EN.pdf)

