



BAPTIST  
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AID

# Certifications Guide



# Introduction

Certifications are a quick way to identify if a brand is invested in improving labour rights or environmental standards in its supply chain. But with so many certifications on the market, it can be hard to know what's what.

That's why we've rounded up a list of the most common certifications you might find on clothing labels, and what it means when you find one.

We've grouped them according to three categories:

- **Labour Rights:** these certifications focus on good conditions for workers involved in the supply chain.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** these certifications focus on reducing environmental impacts and promoting sustainable materials.
- **Labour & Environmental:** these certifications balance strong elements of both areas.





# Labour Rights



## FAIRTRADE AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Fairtrade empowers millions of farmers and workers worldwide by tackling poverty and poor working conditions, as well as conserving the environment. A Fairtrade certification may apply to the cotton farm where the cotton was grown, all the way through to the factory where the clothing was made. At a farm level, Fairtrade ensures farmers receive a Fairtrade Minimum Price, which acts as a safeguard against falling prices.

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## ETHICAL CLOTHING AUSTRALIA (ECA)

ECA is an accreditation body working alongside Australian fashion businesses to ensure locally based garment workers are paid appropriately, are receiving all legal entitlements, and are working in safe conditions throughout the supply chain.

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# Environmental Sustainability



## FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)

FSC certification means that trees (used as a raw material) have been sourced responsibly from sustainably managed forests. For clothing, this label will most often be found on regenerated cellulose fibres such as viscose or lyocell, which are made from wood pulp.

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## OEKO-TEX

Oeko-Tex has a range of labels certifying that textile products have been tested for harmful chemical substances. This assures consumers that the products are safe from a human-ecological perspective. Some Oeko-Tex labels also ensure that chemical use during the manufacturing process has been managed sustainably.

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## GLOBAL ORGANIC TEXTILE STANDARD (GOTS)

GOTS certification means that a textile product contains a minimum of 70 percent certified organic fibres (made with organic) or 95 percent organic fibres (organic). The entire textile supply chain is independently audited across the areas of processing, manufacturing, packaging, labelling, and trading to ensure high ecological standards and reduced toxic chemical inputs.

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## LEATHER WORKING GROUP (LWG)

LWG audits leather production facilities throughout the supply chain to avert the worst environmental impacts associated with traditional leather production. Its audit standards are designed to provide transparency and accountability, and focus on issues like chemical management, water and energy use, and waste management. They are also introducing social standards in coming years.

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# Labour & Environmental



## BETTER COTTON (BC)

The Better Cotton Standard System takes a holistic approach to sustainable cotton production covering environmental, social, and economic pillars. BC ensures cotton farmers receive training on efficient water use, soil and habitat health, chemical reduction, and applying decent work principles. A BC logo means that a fashion company is sourcing at least 10 percent of their cotton through BC, with a plan to source at least 50 percent within 5 years.

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## CERTIFIED B CORPORATION (B CORP)

Certification as a B Corp means that the business aims to balance profit with purpose, and is generally trying to solve a social or environmental issue through their enterprise. B Corps are verified to meet the highest standards of social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability, and must achieve a minimum 'impact score'.

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## COTTON AUSTRALIA (MYBMP)

A Cotton Australia (CA) label indicates the cotton in the garment was grown in Australia. CA also run a program called myBMP at some farms. This promotes best practice production methods and verifies social and environmental standards to a high level, feeding into Better Cotton stocks globally. It assesses things like water use, land management, and worker safety.

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