

# **STANDARD TESTEX CIRCULARITY**

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## 1 - Purpose

The aim of this standard is to provide clear, measurable criteria for promoting Circularity in the textile sector, focusing on three key areas: Durability, Repairability, and Recyclability. These measurable criteria are outlined in detail within the modules for Durability, Repairability, and Recyclability, using standardized testing and assessment tools. By establishing precise criteria in these areas, the standard encourages design and production practices that extend the lifespan of textiles, facilitate their repair, and ensure their end-of-life recycling.

By fostering innovation in product design and resource use, the standard supports long-term shifts in industry practices towards sustainability. Recognising diverse product types and regional variations, the standard encourages flexible yet consistent application to drive measurable improvements in all contexts.

The standard guides the textile industry to adopt sustainable practices, aiming to reduce environmental impact, conserve resources, and transition to a circular economy.

Durability, as defined within the framework of this standard, refers to the ability of textile products to maintain their functionality, aesthetics, and structural integrity over an extended period, which will be assessed through laboratory tests.

Repairability refers to the ability of a textile product to be repaired efficiently and sustainably, thereby extending its use of life to restore its intended functionality. This includes the ease with which materials and components can be replaced or repaired, the availability of spare parts, and the simplicity of repair procedures. Repairability aims to reduce waste and encourage more sustainable consumption by making it easier to maintain and repair garments and other textile items.

Recyclability, in the context of a textile Circularity Label, can be defined as giving all parts of the textile product that can be recycled a new lease of life. This includes designing products for disassembly, ensuring the compatibility of materials for recycling, and minimizing the use of substances that hinder the recycling process.

## 2 - Applicability

This standard applies to textile products across various subcategories and segments based on technicality and intended use.

The subcategories are segmented as follows: first, products are classified according to their level of technicality to determine the appropriate tests. Second, they are classified by their intended use (sport or non-sport), allowing the tests to be adjusted accordingly.

This standard is applicable for textile products as defined below:

Subcategory 1: T-shirts, Segment: Woven, All uses
Subcategory 1: T-shirts, Segment: Knit, Non-sport
Subcategory 1: T-shirts, Segment: Knit, Sport
Subcategory 2: Shirts & Blouses, Segment: Woven, All uses
Subcategory 2: Shirts & Blouses, Segment: Knit, Non-sport
Subcategory 2: Shirts & Blouses, Segment: Knit, Sport
Subcategory 3: Sweaters & Midlayers, Segment: All technicities, Non-sport
Subcategory 3: Sweaters & Midlayers, Segment: All technicities, Sport
Subcategory 4: Jackets & Coats, Segment: Woven, Non-sport
Subcategory 4: Jackets & Coats, Segment: Woven, Sport
Subcategory 4: Jackets & Coats, Segment: Knit, Non-sport
Subcategory 4: Jackets & Coats, Segment: Knit, Sport
Subcategory 5: Trousers & Shorts, Segment: Woven, Non-sport
Subcategory 5: Trousers & Shorts, Segment: Woven, Sport
Subcategory 5: Trousers & Shorts, Segment: Knit, Non-sport
Subcategory 5: Trousers & Shorts, Segment: Knit, Sport
Subcategory 6: Dresses, Skirts & Jumpsuits, Segment: Woven, All uses
Subcategory 6: Dresses, Skirts & Jumpsuits, Segment: Knit, Non-sport
Subcategory 6: Dresses, Skirts & Jumpsuits, Segment: Knit, Sport
Subcategory 7: Leggings, Stockings, Tights and Socks, Segment: Classic thick, Non-sport
Subcategory 7: Leggings, Stockings, Tights and Socks, Segment: Classic thick, Sport
Subcategory 7: Leggings, Stockings, Tights and Socks, Segment: Sheer, All uses
Subcategory 8: Underwear, Segment: Woven, All uses - Tops
Subcategory 8: Underwear, Segment: Woven, All uses - Bottoms
Subcategory 8: Underwear, Segment: Knit, All uses - Tops
Subcategory 8: Underwear, Segment: Knit, All uses - Bottoms
Subcategory 9: Swimwear, Segment: Woven, All uses - Tops

Subcategory 9: Swimwear, Segment: Woven, All uses - Bottoms
Subcategory 9: Swimwear, Segment: Knit, All uses - Tops
Subcategory 9: Swimwear, Segment: Knit, All uses - Bottoms

### 3 - Trademark

The use of the trademark and logo associated with the standard is strictly regulated. Unauthorised use is prohibited (refer to “declaration of conformity” in the application form). For further details, refer to TESTEX’s General Terms and Conditions at <https://www.testex.com/en/gtc>.

### 4 - Evaluation and labelling procedure

#### 4.1 - Evaluation

##### 4.1.1 - Durability

To assess the durability of products within the framework of our textile standard TESTEX CIRCULARITY, we rely on a series of specific tests. Each test determines a performance level based on the results obtained. Aspects assessed include product deformation, fabric strength, fabric aspect damage, accessories aspect damage and colour damage. These tests enable us to accurately measure product strength and longevity, contributing to a comprehensive assessment of durability.

The tests tables are listed in Annex 1.

Test specimen will be taken from samples as received in accordance with the relevant testing standard. Tests evaluating product deformation, specifically dimensional stability and spirality, will be conducted after 5 care cycles. Tests evaluating appearance after care cycles (ISO 15487) will be evaluated after 15 care cycles. This additional step extends the assessment to include mid-term durability and appearance retention, offering a broader view of the product’s performance over time.

Composite textiles must undergo dual testing for individual material layers and the product as a whole to measure cohesive integrity under stress and environmental factors (e.g., washing, abrasion). Failure thresholds for mixed-material seams are defined, where joining methods (e.g., stitching, welding) must meet minimum strength and elasticity criteria based on the weakest fibre in the blend.

It is required to pass durability tests (e.g., abrasion and tensile strength) for both the whole material and separated components.

Tests not applicable, impossible or not carried out:

Occasionally, certain tests cannot be performed on a product. These tests are classified in one of the following three categories, with a justification verified during validation of the results:

Not applicable:

A test is “not applicable” if the product does not have the relevant characteristic (for example, a zipper test for a product without a zipper).

Impossible:

A test is “impossible” if physical limitations of the product or equipment prevent it from being carried out. A full explanation must be given. For example, a test may be impossible if the product does not contain enough material. On the other hand, to claim that a test is impossible because it would destroy the product is unacceptable.

Exemption for genuine leather and fur:

The durability tables in Annex 1 do not apply to products made of 80% or more genuine leather and/or fur.

## 4.1.2 – Repairability

Repairability is a cornerstone of sustainable product design, reflecting the capacity of a textile product to be repaired efficiently and sustainably. The rationale for including this theme is rooted in its profound impact on extending the lifespan of products and reducing waste. By enabling users to restore functionality through accessible repairs, we encourage more sustainable consumption and minimize resource depletion.

Repairability scoring is based on weighted factors such as the availability of repair kits (25%), repair services (20%), repair guides (20%), cost of repair (20%), and communication of repair options (15%), as defined in the repairability questionnaire scoring system.

Key requirements include:

- **Repair Kit Availability:** Brands must ensure repair kits are available, containing essential items such as matching thread and spare buttons. Detailed guidance on how to use these kits must be provided to facilitate customer repairs.
- **Accessibility of Repair Services:** Repair services must be easily accessible. Brands are required to offer multiple levels of service, ranging from basic repairs to advanced options, ensuring customers can address a variety of repair needs.
- **Availability of Repair Guides:** A comprehensive repair guide must be provided, including troubleshooting tips to help users identify and resolve common issues without requiring full repairs.
- **Cost of Repair:** Manufacturers must demonstrate efforts to reduce repair costs through design choices and standardization measures. Brands must ensure transparency regarding repair costs for different scenarios, offer free or discounted repairs within warranty periods, and communicate the repair cost ratio clearly.
- **Communication:** Manufacturers must provide detailed repair guides and technical specifications to brands. Brands must actively promote their repair services and ensure customers are informed of available options. Care recommendations to enhance product repairability should also be shared with consumers.

By focusing on repairability, this standard seeks to empower consumers, reduce environmental impacts, and incentivize manufacturers to design products with a longer, more sustainable lifecycle.

#### **4.1.3 – Recyclability**

Recyclability addresses the end-of-life phase of textile products, emphasizing their potential to be processed into new raw materials. The inclusion of this theme reflects the urgency of reducing landfill waste and the incineration of textiles, while recovering valuable resources. By designing products for recycling, we promote a system that minimizes environmental harm and supports the circular economy.

The recyclability evaluation incorporates weighted criteria, including design for recycling (30%), material composition (20%), circular economy efforts (25%), traceability and certifications (15%), and communication (5%), as outlined in the recyclability questionnaire.

Key requirements include:

- **Eco-Design:** Products must prioritize eco-design principles, including policies to avoid the use of chemicals or colorants that hinder recycling and ensuring clear labelling of fibres and materials to facilitate identification.
- **Material Composition:** Preference must be given to single fibres or recyclable fibre blends, with clear knowledge of the recycling technologies applicable to these materials. Brands and manufacturers should demonstrate the use of renewable or biodegradable materials to enhance recyclability.
- **Circular Economy:** Companies must assess and document the percentage of products that can be recycled into new textiles. Brands must establish effective take-back programmes, partnerships with recyclers, and transparent recovery systems to ensure end-of-life products are processed efficiently. Manufacturers must monitor and optimise textile waste generation and recycling strategies.
- **Traceability and Certifications:** Comprehensive traceability systems must cover the supply chain, including raw materials and accessories, with a preference for recognised certifications such as GRS, RCS, OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 or OEKO-TEX® MADE IN GREEN. Efforts must be made to minimize chemicals that hinder recycling through design and certification processes.
- **Communication:** Manufacturers must provide brands with clear documentation on end-of-life collection and recycling options, while brands must ensure this information is easily accessible to customers via product labels, websites, or in-store communication. Transparent communication about recycling initiatives and sustainable practices is mandatory.
- **Innovation & Research:** Companies must actively engage in R&D projects to implement innovative recycling technologies and improve product recyclability. Collaboration with external organizations or institutions is encouraged to drive innovation, with a clear roadmap for scaling successful initiatives across product lines.

Through this module, the standard not only evaluates the recyclability of products but also provides clear guidance to manufacturers on how to improve their designs and adopt circular business models, such as reverse logistics. This forward-looking approach fosters innovation and collaboration in creating truly sustainable textiles encompassing both product development and systemic changes to ensure end-of-life recovery and reuse.

#### **4.1.4 – Candidate engagement form**

To ensure the reliability of the evaluation process, all candidates must complete and sign a Candidate engagement form.

This form serves to:

- ⇒ Commit to accuracy: Candidates affirm that all data and supporting evidence submitted for evaluation are truthful and accurate to the best of their knowledge.
- ⇒ Acknowledge responsibilities: Outline the candidate's role in maintaining transparency and providing required documentation throughout the certification process.
- ⇒ Define consequences: Clearly state the repercussions for providing false, incomplete, or misleading information, which may include suspension or revocation of certification.
- ⇒ Authorize validation activities: Grant TESTEX permission to perform audits, inspections, or validations as necessary to verify the provided information.

This engagement form is a mandatory step in the application process and aligns with TESTEX's commitment to integrity and accountability in certification practices.

## **4.2 - Labelling procedure**

### **4.2.1 – Certification criteria**

To ensure transparency and consistency, the following information will be included on the TESTEX CIRCULARITY certificate:

Customer Name: The name of the company or organization awarded the certification.

Customer Address: The official address of the certified entity.

**Product:** A detailed description of the product, including composition (e.g., fibre types and percentages), fabric structure (e.g., woven, knit), and key wet processing techniques applied (e.g., dyeing, finishing). Additionally, all accessories (e.g., metal zippers, buttons, trims, etc.) must be specified, and a complete list of all colours used in the product must be provided.

**Article Description:** A concise description of the certified article, specifying its intended use or category.

**PEFCR Subcategory:** The Product Environmental Footprint Category Rule subcategory under which the product is classified.

**PEFCR Segment:** The specific segment within the PEFCR subcategory that applies to the certified product.

The TESTEX CIRCULARITY certification assesses products based on three key modules: Durability, Repairability, and Recyclability. Certification will be awarded only after products have successfully undergone the required durability tests and once the company's responses to the Repairability and Recyclability questionnaires have been thoroughly reviewed.

For the Durability module, products will be subjected to laboratory tests to evaluate their ability to maintain functionality, aesthetics, and structural integrity over time.

For the Repairability module, the evaluation focuses on the design's capacity to facilitate repairs, the availability of spare parts, and the documentation provided to support repair processes.

For the Recyclability module, the assessment considers factors such as material composition, design for disassembly, and the compatibility of components with standard recycling processes.

Each module contributes to the overall score, ensuring a holistic evaluation of the product's circularity.

## **4.2.2 – Certificate issuance**

The TESTEX CIRCULARITY certificate will be issued upon successful completion of the following steps:

1. **Durability tests:** The product must pass all mandatory durability tests according to the standards defined in this document.
2. **Repairability and Recyclability Assessment:** The company's responses to the questionnaires will be evaluated against predefined criteria. Supporting evidence may be required to validate claims.

3. Comprehensive review: The overall performance across the three modules will be analysed to ensure the product meets the threshold for certification.

Each module—Repairability, and Recyclability—contributes to the overall score through a transparent scoring system. The scoring system assigns a score from 0 to 3 for each criterion, reflecting the product's alignment with best practices in circularity:

Score 0: Indicates no evidence of meeting criteria.

Score 1: Indicates basic adherence to criteria.

Score 2: Indicates significant steps taken with clear actions towards best practices.

Score 3: Indicates full alignment with best practices, supported by strong evidence.

The overall score for each module is calculated as an average of the scores assigned to individual criteria within that module. To be eligible for certification, the product must achieve a minimum threshold score of 1 in each module, with details provided in the Repairability and Recyclability questionnaires.

This system ensures that the Repairability, and Recyclability modules are weighted equally and that a balanced approach to circularity is maintained.

The minimum requirement for all three modules must be met to receive the certification. The certificate is valid for one year and must be renewed annually. Renewal is contingent on the company demonstrating ongoing compliance and, where applicable, improvements in their repairability and recyclability practices.

#### **4.2.3 – Conditions for certification continuity**

To maintain certification, companies must:

- ⇒ Notify TESTEX in advance of any changes to the certified product, including material composition, production processes, or suppliers. Changes may require additional testing or evaluation to ensure continued compliance.
- ⇒ Avoid unverified modifications to certified products, as any alteration without prior approval from TESTEX may result in suspension or withdrawal of the certification.

- ⇒ Ensure transparency and provide any necessary documentation during the certification validity period. TESTEX reserves the right to conduct random checks, inspections or product controls on certified products.

Non-compliance or significant deviations from initial evaluation scores may result in temporary suspension of certification until corrective actions are verified.

## 5 - Standard updating

The TESTEX CIRCULARITY standard is a dynamic framework, designed to evolve in alignment with advancements in sustainability and circular economy practices within the textile industry. The standard will undergo a mandatory review every two years, incorporating stakeholder feedback and advancements in technology. With the three modules, the standard provides a comprehensive evaluation of product circularity, addressing the full lifecycle of textiles from durability to repairability and end-of-life recycling.

Future updates to the standard will focus on refining the criteria within each module, ensuring they remain relevant and rigorous in the face of emerging technologies, materials, and industry trends. This includes periodic reviews to incorporate the latest scientific research, stakeholder feedback, and regulatory developments, further supporting the transition to a more circular and sustainable textile sector.

By maintaining an adaptive approach, the TESTEX CIRCULARITY standard aims to continuously challenge and inspire the industry, fostering innovation and collaboration to achieve higher levels of environmental stewardship and resource efficiency.

## 6 - Protection of standard content

The content of this standard is protected by copyright and is the exclusive property of TESTEX AG. Any unauthorised reproduction, distribution or use of this standard, in whole or in part, is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copying, distributing, modifying, adapting and using the associated text, graphics, tables, logos and trademarks. Any use of this standard must be expressly authorised in writing by TESTEX. Any violation of these conditions may result in legal action and appropriate sanctions to guarantee the security and confidentiality of information.

General Terms and Conditions of TESTEX AG at <https://www.testex.com/en/gtc>

TESTEX undertakes to comply with all applicable data protection regulations and to implement appropriate measures to guarantee the security and confidentiality of information.

## **7 - Publication of Data**

To promote transparency and encourage industry-wide progress, relevant data from the evaluation of Durability, Repairability, and Recyclability may be published. This data serves as a benchmark, showcasing certified products' performance and inspiring other stakeholders to adopt circular practices.

Data publication will always respect confidentiality agreements and ensure that sensitive proprietary information is protected. Companies may collaborate with TESTEX to determine the level and format of data visibility, ensuring alignment with their communication strategies while contributing to the shared goal of advancing sustainability in the textile industry.

This approach balances openness with the need for confidentiality, enabling certified companies to gain recognition for their efforts while fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation across the textile industry.

## Annex 1 - Terminology

To ensure clarity, this section defines key terms used throughout the standard:

**Mono-material:** A product composed of a single type of material, simplifying recycling and increasing end-of-life processing efficiency.

**Circular Economy:** An economic model that prioritises the reduction of waste through reuse, recycling, and sustainable design.

**Eco-Design:** Incorporating environmental considerations into product design to minimise adverse impacts throughout its lifecycle.

**Repair Kit:** A set of tools or materials provided to enable users to perform repairs on a product.

## Annex 2 - Table of Durability tests

Product Deformation	ISO 6330/ISO 5077: Determination of dimensional change after washing and drying (%)
	ISO 16322-3: Determination of spirality after laundering - Part 3: Woven and knitted garments (%)
	ISO 20932-1: Determination of the elasticity of fabrics - Part 1: Strip tests – Method A (min. recovery %)
	ISO 20932-3: Determination of the elasticity of fabrics - Part 3: Narrow fabrics( %) <sup>8</sup> <sup>8</sup> Shoulder straps measurement
	ISO 20932-3: Determination of the elasticity of fabrics - Part 3: Narrow fabrics( %) <sup>9</sup> <sup>9</sup> Measurement of the half side between brackets and between breasts
	ISO 20932-3: Determination of the elasticity of fabrics - Part 3: Narrow fabrics( %) <sup>10</sup> <sup>10</sup> Half waist measurement
Fabric Strength	EN ISO 12947-2: Determination of the abrasion resistance of fabrics by the Martindale method - Part 2: Determination of specimen breakdown (cycles)
	ISO 13934-2: Tensile properties of fabrics - Part 2: Determination of maximum force using the grab method (N)
	ISO 13937-1: Tear properties of fabrics - Part 1: Determination of tear force using the ballistic pendulum method (Elmendorf) (N)
	ISO 13938-1 (or 2): Bursting properties of fabrics - Part 1: Hydraulic method for determination of bursting strength and bursting distension (Kpa)
Fabric Aspect Damage	BS 8479 modified: Method to determine a fabric's propensity to snagging (snagpod)
	ASTM D3939: Test method for snagging resistance of fabrics (Mace)

	ISO 12945-1: Determination of fabric propensity to surface pilling, fuzzing or matting - Part 1: Pilling box method
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Collar appearance: Curled or blistered aspect
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Interlining & reinforcements
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Product aspect: Holes or broken yarn
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Product aspect: Pulled yarn
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Appearance of collar & edges: Looseness
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Pilling and fuzzing
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Underwire aspect: Piercing
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Product aspect: Broken elastane (goes out)
	ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying - Fabric appearance: Delamination
Seam Aspect Damage	ISO 13936-2: Determination of the slippage resistance of yarns at a seam in woven fabrics - Part 2: Fixed load method (mm): Main fabric
	ISO 13936-2: Determination of the slippage resistance of yarns at a seam in woven fabrics - Part 2: Fixed load method (mm): Lining

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	<p>ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seam appearance: Smoothed, delaminated or puckered for main fabric</li> </ul>
Accessories Aspect Damage	<p>ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Handling of functional accessories</li> </ul>
	<p>ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trims and accessories appearance</li> </ul>
Colour Damage	<p>ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colour change: Prints &amp; embroideries</li> </ul>
	<p>ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colour change: Main fabric</li> </ul>
	<p>ISO 15487: Method for assessing appearance of apparel and other textile end products after domestic washing and drying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Colour change: Lining</li> </ul>
	<p>ISO 105-E02: Tests for colour fastness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part E02: Colour fastness to sea water</li> </ul>
	<p>ISO 105-E03: Tests for colour fastness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part E03: Colour fastness to chlorinated water</li> </ul>
	<p>ISO 105-B02: Tests for colour fastness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Part B02: Colour fastness to artificial light: Xenon arc fading lamp test</li> </ul>

## Annex 3 – Repairability Questionnaire

This questionnaire evaluates key aspects of repairability, with weighted scores assigned to the following criteria:

- ⇒ Availability of repair kits (25%)
- ⇒ Accessibility of repair services (20%)
- ⇒ Availability of repair guides (20%)
- ⇒ Cost of repair (20%)
- ⇒ Communication of repair options (15%)

Key requirements include:

- **Repair Kit Availability:** Brands must ensure repair kits are available, containing essential items such as matching thread and spare buttons. Detailed guidance on how to use these kits must be provided to facilitate customer repairs.
- **Accessibility of Repair Services:** Repair services must be easily accessible. Brands are required to offer multiple levels of service, ranging from basic repairs to advanced options, ensuring customers can address a variety of repair needs.
- **Availability of Repair Guides:** A comprehensive repair guide must be provided, including troubleshooting tips to help users identify and resolve common issues without requiring full repairs.
- **Cost of Repair:** Manufacturers must demonstrate efforts to reduce repair costs through design choices and standardization measures. Brands must ensure transparency regarding repair costs for different scenarios, offer free or discounted repairs within warranty periods, and communicate the repair cost ratio clearly.
- **Communication:** Manufacturers must provide detailed repair guides and technical specifications to brands. Brands must actively promote their repair services and ensure customers are informed of available options. Care recommendations to enhance product repairability should also be shared with consumers.

By focusing on repairability, this standard seeks to empower consumers, reduce environmental impacts, and incentivize manufacturers to design products with a longer, more sustainable lifecycle.

## Annex 4 - Recyclability Questionnaire

This questionnaire assesses the recyclability of products, using the following weighted criteria:

- ⇒ Design for recycling (30%)
- ⇒ Material composition (20%)
- ⇒ Circular economy efforts (25%)
- ⇒ Traceability and certifications (15%)
- ⇒ Communication (5%)

Key requirements include:

- **Eco-Design:** Products must prioritize eco-design principles, including policies to avoid the use of chemicals or colorants that hinder recycling and ensuring clear labelling of fibres and materials to facilitate identification.
- **Material Composition:** Preference must be given to single fibres or recyclable fibre blends, with clear knowledge of the recycling technologies applicable to these materials. Brands and manufacturers should demonstrate the use of renewable or biodegradable materials to enhance recyclability.
- **Circular Economy:** Companies must assess and document the percentage of products that can be recycled into new textiles. Brands must establish effective take-back programmes, partnerships with recyclers, and transparent recovery systems to ensure end-of-life products are processed efficiently. Manufacturers must monitor and optimise textile waste generation and recycling strategies.
- **Traceability and Certifications:** Comprehensive traceability systems must cover the supply chain, including raw materials and accessories, with a preference for recognised certifications and labels such as GRS, RCS, or OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 or MADE IN GREEN. Efforts must be made to minimize chemicals that hinder recycling through design and certification processes.
- **Communication:** Manufacturers must provide brands with clear documentation on end-of-life collection and recycling options, while brands must ensure this information is easily accessible to customers via

product labels, websites, or in-store communication. Regular communication about recycling initiatives and sustainable practices is mandatory.

- Innovation & Research: Companies must actively engage in R&D projects to implement innovative recycling technologies and improve product recyclability. Collaboration with external organizations or institutions is encouraged to drive innovation, with a clear roadmap for scaling successful initiatives across product lines.

Through this module, the standard not only evaluates the recyclability of products but also provides clear guidance to manufacturers on how to improve their designs and adopt circular business models, such as reverse logistics. This forward-looking approach fosters innovation and collaboration in creating truly sustainable textiles encompassing both product development and systemic changes to ensure end-of-life recovery and reuse.

## Annex 5 - Scoring system

Each criterion in the Repairability and Recyclability questionnaires is scored as follows:

Score 0: No evidence of meeting criteria.

Score 1: Basic adherence to criteria.

Score 2: Significant steps taken with clear actions toward best practices.

Score 3: Full alignment with best practices, supported by strong evidence.

The module's overall score is calculated as an average of individual scores. Products must meet the minimum threshold in all modules to achieve certification.