



VOLUME 6

**OCS and RWS**  
by Textile Exchange

*Emilcottoni*

# OCS and RWS by Textile Exchange



# Up to us

When ancient Greeks used to talk about beauty, they meant a concept that was not only about appearance. *Kalos kai agathos*, they used to say: what is beautiful has also to be good. Form and substance are linked together so strongly that they form an unbreakable communion. There are still people who have not forgotten this lesson.

Thirty years ago our story began. At Emilcotoni we have always aimed to achieve a 360-degree excellence, which means that we are not concerned only about the qualitative side of our cotton but also the ethical one, as taught by ancient Greeks: we are 100% responsible for every choice we make.

As natural consequence of our long-term ethical need, over the years we have acquired many certifications that show concretely our commitment to constantly and accurately control the whole chain: from cotton cultivation to final product selling.

But there is something more: in 2016 at Emilcotoni we published a code of ethics where we put on paper all the values we believe in. These are the principles we want our company and all the people who work with us to respect.

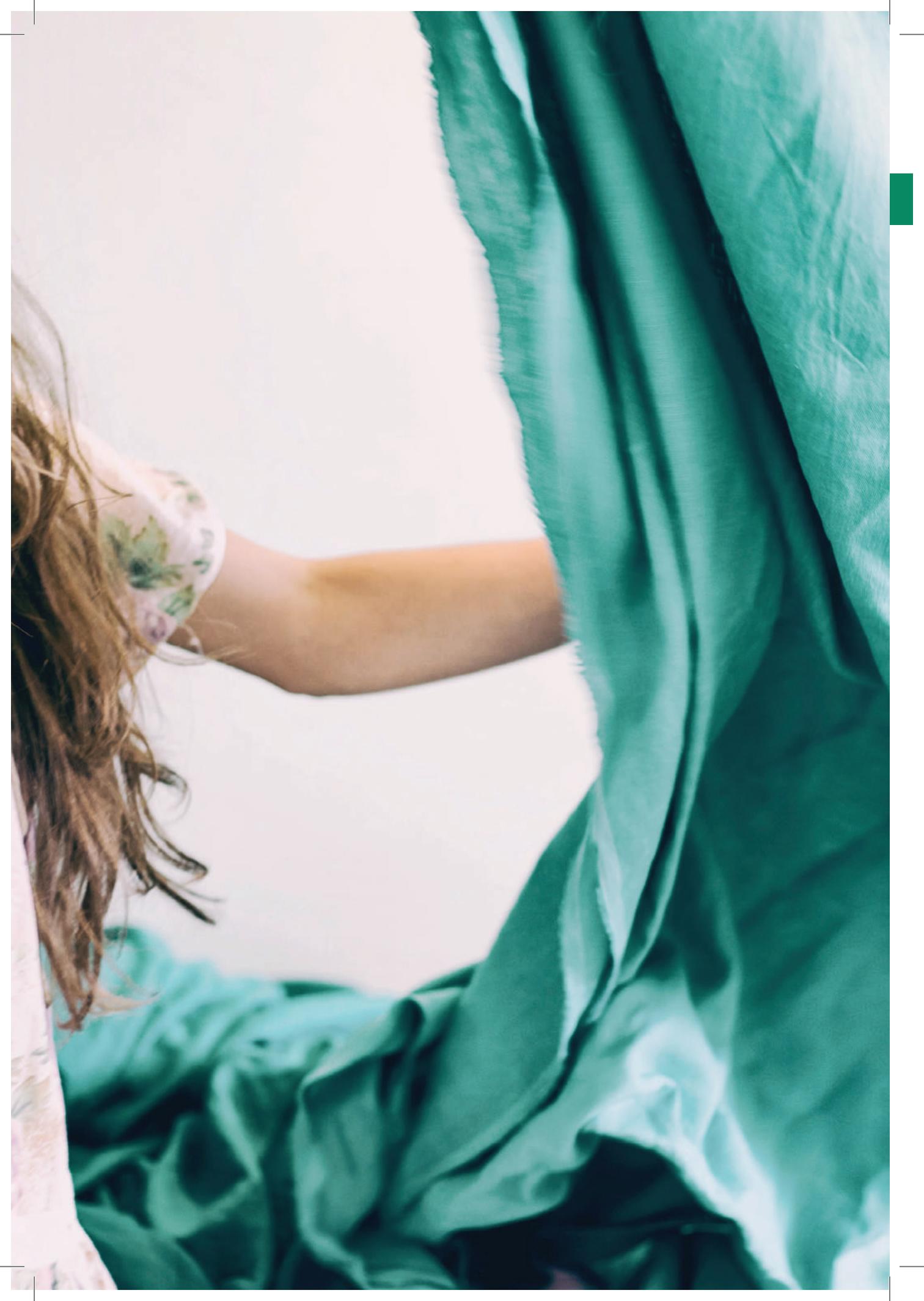
It is hard work. Tough calls and sacrifices are our daily bread, but, with our eyes on the future, we keep going along the only path we know as true and fair. Aiming at a cotton product that could be qualitatively and ethically good.



Certified by ICEA  
ICEA-TX-65



Certified by ICEA  
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# Textile Exchange

We continue our successful series of EFocus publications with a sixth booklet, just as we continue working with Textile Exchange. We have already made its acquaintance in the fourth volume of the series, which was devoted to the GRS (Global Recycle Standard), but Textile Exchange does not limit itself only to that one standard. It is an international non-profit organization, monitoring and promoting an ensemble of six certificates, all of which apply to the textile industry.

Endowed with an extremely clear vision of both the long-term and the short-term future, Textile Exchange imagines a textile industry which is capable of preserving and valuing the environment. The end goal is ambitious: to make sure that by 2030 this industry reduces its carbon emissions by 45% compared to 2020. In order to achieve this, this organization intends to provide its partners with reliable data and reports, and to encourage the creating of a community based on shared values.

Textile Exchange strategy can be summarized in five key points:

- ✓ To encourage the adoption of sustainable fibres and materials;
- ✓ To promote creating informed supply chains, through the acquiring of standards and certifications;
- ✓ To make collective action possible within the textile industry;
- ✓ To promote the knowledge and spread of the results achieved in terms of sustainability;
- ✓ To use the Sustainable Development Goals, as defined by the UN, as a framework for action.

ARCOT

Nm 2/36.000

COMPOSIZIONE

50% lana Merino RWS 17,5 micron - 30% cotone ORGANICO  
20% cashmere

UTILIZZO

Nm 2/36.000

COMPOSITION

50% 17,5 micron RWS Merino wool - 30% ORGANIC cotton  
20% cashmere



Certified by ICEA  
ICEA-TX-63  
Contains 50% RWS wool and  
30% OCS organically grown cotton

## Organic Content Standard

As well as the GRS, which is a standard that guarantees that certified products are made up of at least 20% of recycled material and, moreover, ensures that important social and environmental standards are met, our firm has adopted another standard developed by Textile Exchange; this is proof of our enduring environmental effort which, during the course of the years, has deepened and broadened itself more and more.

We are talking about the so-called OCS (Organic Content Standard). This standard is internationally recognised and on a voluntary basis and is specifically designed to monitor the conservation chain of the material coming from certified, environment-friendly companies. In other words, OCS's responsibility is to supervise and guarantee a certain standard of the local chain of supply of organically-grown raw materials, from the company that makes them down to the final consumer.

Beware though: do not trust pale copies of the original. A certified OCS firm can pride itself with having, inside its products, raw material coming from sustainable agriculture, but that does not mean that all of its products in their entirety are completely organic. This is because the standard does not mention any restrictions in regards to how the products are made. It is therefore incorrect to affirm: "This product is 100% organic", whereas it would be truthful and accurate to say: "This product is made out of 100% organic raw materials".



## Five key points

In the same way that the strategy of Textile Exchange can be articulated in five key points, the fundamental elements of OCS are also five:

- ✓ **Verifying the organic content.** Only material coming from environmentally-friendly companies certified on the basis of one of the IFOAM standards can be accepted by OCS.
- ✓ **The custody chain.** This certificate guarantees that the organic identity of the product is maintained by the producer right up until it arrives to the final consumer.
- ✓ **A reliable and credible certificate.** Every single step of the supply chain is supervised by a third party which is independent and professional.
- ✓ **Communication you can trust.** Only the products that have all the proper requirements can be labelled as OCS.
- ✓ **Encouraging the involvement of stakeholders.** The OCS standard is run with the contributions of producers, suppliers, brands and vendors from all over the globe.

Through promoting this standard, the organization means to provide a valid and concrete contribution to the spreading of organic agriculture throughout the world, and, with more than 6.000 firms already on board and the number of requests of earning the standard increasing steadily, it would appear it is reaching its goal.



## Behind the scenes of organic cotton

But what does it mean, actually, to promote the farming of organic cotton? The consequences of such a choice are numerous and they touch a great deal of areas that one would not think about at a first glance.

Organic cotton farming does not allow the use of chemical substances, it does not damage the soil, and it requires a lot less water and energy than conventional cotton farming. This is all relevant data per se, but it acquires even more weight if we bear in mind that cotton is very often farmed in particularly dry areas of the planet by using artificial irrigation. On the contrary, organic cotton farming uses rainwater and the absence of any chemicals means that the water in that area can be preserved clean and safe to use.

Apart from having a less damaging impact on the environment, there are also extremely important social factors relating to this standard to be kept in mind. Within the year 2025 two thirds of the world's population is expected to have to deal with water shortages of some kind. Thanks to the promoting of organic farming, the farmers are allowed to preserve their water resources and, at the same time, to live and work in a safer and more controlled environment.

Choosing organic cotton entails all of this. It means choosing to invest in the preservation of water resources, in cleaner air, in a healthier soil and, most importantly, in the health and the future of the farmers.



# Responsible Wool Standard

Cotton is Emilcotoni's fibre of choice, but the high quality of the fibres we select means that they can be used to spin with the best fibres of animal origin: cashmere, wool, vicuña, alpaca, yak ... Over the span of the years our firm has been able to gradually increase its offer, all while maintaining as the guiding light of our entire creative process values such as the high quality of our raw materials and the longevity of the finished product.

As a consequence of this, we have had to increase the number of standards we have equipped ourselves with; and this is how a third Textile Exchange framework, Responsible Wool Standard, has taken its place within the pantheon of Emilcotoni certificates. The name might let you imagine what it is concerned with, but it does not let on the whole picture. The primary objective of this standard is, in fact, the animals' wellbeing, but it does not overlook two other very important themes linked to sheep farming: the managing of the soil and protecting the people working in that field.

The three most important objectives of this standard can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ To guarantee that the wool comes from sheep which are treated responsibly and from companies that are aware of how to manage the soil in the best way possible;
- ✓ To create benchmarks for the industry for looking after the animals, managing the soil and social assistance;
- ✓ To provide an iron-clad supply chain in order to guarantee to consumers that the wool out of which a particular article of clothing is made of is, in fact, RWS.



## A 360 degrees responsibility

This standard's name does not refer only to being responsible for how animals are treated. In order to be able to obtain a RWS certificate a company must provide evidence of meeting a series of strict criteria in three main areas: the wellbeing of the animals, how they manage the land and the wellbeing of their employees.

To determine if the animals are well-kept, for instance, one will look to see if they are provided with enough food and water, and if they are made to live in an environment which is conducive to their health, safety and comfort. At the same time the company is judged on whether it can successfully prevent the spreading of disease amongst the animals, how it treats the sick ones, and in what conditions the animals are made to travel.

Moreover, a company is also accurately evaluated on its ability to manage the land it has at its disposal. Each and every candidate for the standard has to have in place and to enforce a policy that has as an objective to better the quality of the soil, to prevent any kind of water waste and to respect the biodiversity of the environment.

The meeting of the criteria for certain standards regarding the treatment of employees (regular contracts, appropriate pay, health conditions and safety in the work place ...) is something that each and every standard Emilcotoni adheres to has in common, as well as with its Code of Ethics; this is a further proof of how it is not possible to talk about sustainability without also taking into consideration respecting and valuing human resources.



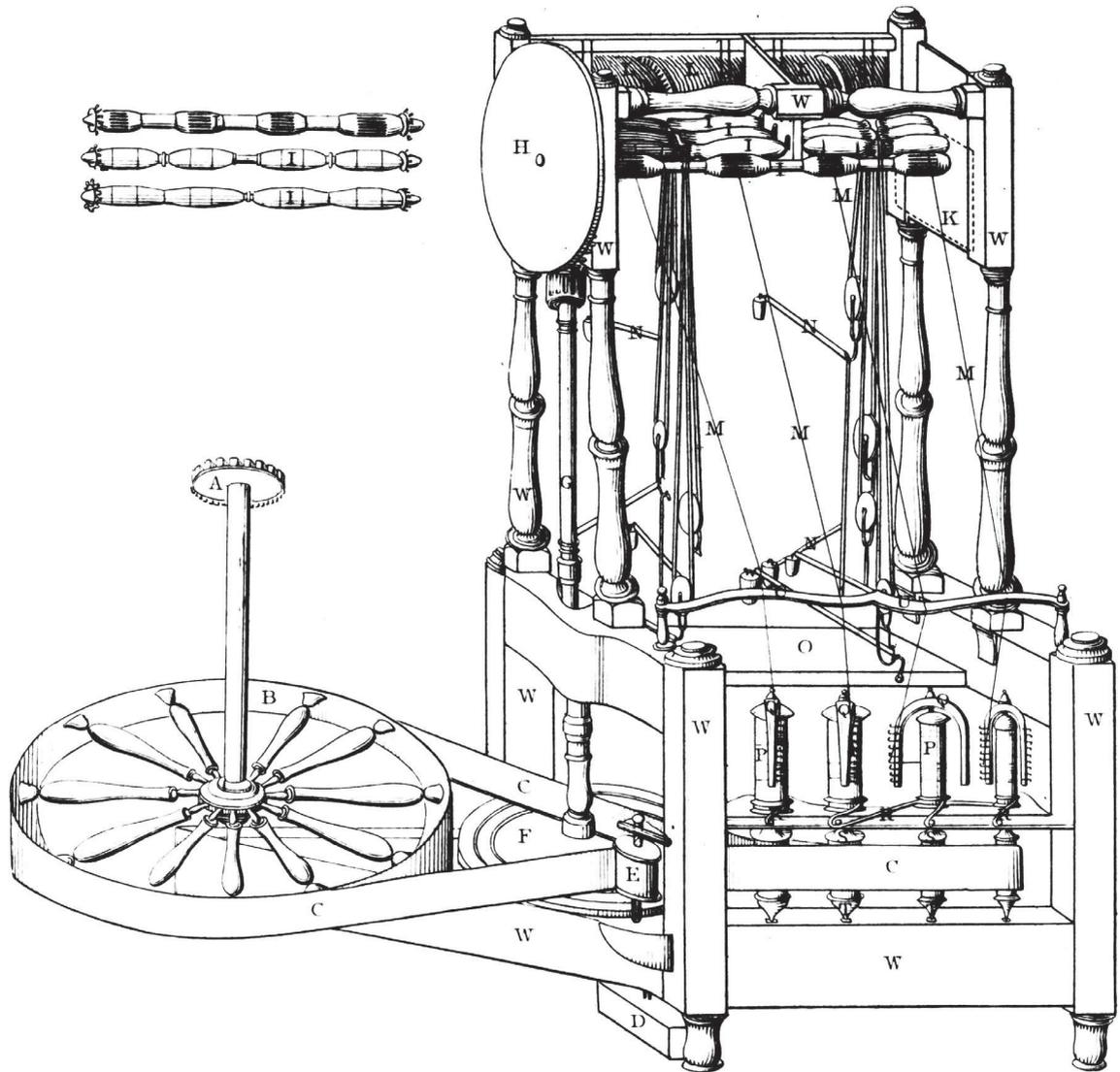
## Arcot: innovation and ethics

Down to the facts: in the course of the year 2021 Emilcotoni has created a new product which manages to combine extraordinary technical qualities to the observance of both the standards we have talked about in the first few pages of this booklet. It is called Arcot, and it is the true gem of our company's winter collection.

Its name is a homage to the English engineer Richard Arkwright, who in 1775 managed to get the patent of a new kind of spinning wheel which could automatically spin the yarn. His invention was the key to a swift development of the technicalities of woollen carded spinning; so much so, that when he died at the end of the 18th century, there were more or less thirty thousand people working in factories which used machines deriving from his patent.

Within Arcot the two souls that make up Emilcotoni combine with each other in a perfect match: on one hand, the search, careful and precise, for the best raw material on the market, and on the other hand, the responsibility we have willingly taken upon ourselves to be accountable to our employees, clients and suppliers. This particular item, in facts, is made out of a combination of exquisite cashmere, organically-farmed cotton in compliance with OCS regulations, and extra-fine Merino wool (17,5 micron), certified Responsible Wool Standard.

*Sir Richard Arkwright's Spinning Machine.*  
*Patent 1769.*



## Cotton in winter? Yes, please!

Taking full advantage of its thirty-years long experience, Emilcotoni has never stopped looking for creative solutions to best use its finest raw materials. Arcot is a perfect example of this, being the first item of clothing from Emilcotoni to undergo the process of woollen carded spinning.

This type of process allows the yarn to preserve a warm and soft handfeel, typically associated with winter. The carded spinning is habitually used with cashmere and wool as an alternative to combed spinning, but it is still considered a novelty when applied to high-quality cotton. The end result? An item that really is one of its kind.

Made out of the best material, designed and created in Italy with style and expertise, the Emilcotoni yarns have managed not only to maintain a certain standard throughout the years but also to increase their value and quality. The same logic applies to Arcot, with it revealing, with every new wash, the softness and richness typical of its handfeel, and therefore placing itself confidently as on the absolute must-haves for the winter season.

# *Emilcotoni*

Emilcotoni S.p.A.

Viale dell'Industria 12

29122 Piacenza (Italy)

Tel. +39 0523 606913

[info@emilcotoni.it](mailto:info@emilcotoni.it)

[www.emilcotoni.it](http://www.emilcotoni.it)

