

A hand is shown from the side, holding a small, transparent glass globe. Inside the globe, a vibrant green landscape with rolling hills and a small body of water is visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural environment. The overall image conveys a message of sustainability and environmental stewardship.

# **SUSTAINABLE SOURCING POLICY FOR RENEWABLE RAW MATERIALS**

# INTRODUCTION

Sustainable supply chain is one of the main pillars of Ontex's sustainability strategy. On the one hand, nearly **25% of our raw materials originate from renewable sources**. On the other, over **80% of our products include or depend on such raw materials**. Therefore, we believe that it is important to establish solid requirements for sustainable sourcing and transparency in our supply chain of materials of natural origin. In this policy we aim to set out a general framework for these requirements. It is complemented by the existing [Supplier Code of Conduct](#) and [Ethical Sourcing Requirements](#).



## SCOPE

This policy applies to all Ontex suppliers of wood, cotton, and other materials of renewable origin considered as 'direct materials'.

- **Wood-based materials:** pulp, airlaid, tissue, viscose, silicone paper, paper and cardboard packaging and auxiliary components
- **Cotton-based materials:** cotton fibers, yarns, cotton-based and enhanced non-wovens
- **Other materials of renewable origin:** biobased and biomass-balanced plastics (non-wovens, SAP, etc).

Recycled fibers are out of scope of this policy.



## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The general underlying principle for all such raw materials supplied to Ontex is their **traceability and sustainable origin** verified through sub-supplier disclosure, documentation (sourcing declarations and other evidence) and applicable third-party certifications. Ontex will carry out regular risk assessments and exercise its due diligence, complemented by supplier audits to track compliance. However, Ontex expects its suppliers to flag any potential vulnerabilities which might disrupt the responsible supply chain.

Ontex expects full cooperation from its business partners in establishing and ensuring continuous compliance with this policy. Violation of this policy may result in requests for corrective actions.







## REQUIREMENTS FOR WOOD-BASED MATERIALS

All virgin fibers in wood-based materials supplied to Ontex shall originate from forests which have been:

- **Legally harvested** in compliance with local, national and international legislation
- Harvested with respect of human, labour and land rights
- Harvested with **no threat to high conservation values**
- Harvested with **no conversion** to plantations or other non-forest use
- Harvested in forests with **no genetically modified trees**

Whenever possible, a preference in packaging shall be given to recycled over virgin wood fibers.

Ontex is committed to implementing and maintaining its chain of custody requirements in accordance with applicable PEFC (07-32-261) and FSC® (FSC-C081844) standards.

Therefore, it requires that all its suppliers of wood-based materials procured centrally by Ontex Group hold valid FSC or PEFC Chain-of-Custody certificates and **supply materials with FSC or PEFC certified claims**. Whenever this is not possible, controlled claims might be considered on a case-by-case basis.



## REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTON-BASED MATERIAL

Cotton fibers for production of cotton tampons shall originate from **organic farming** with:

- No use of genetically modified seeds
- No use of hazardous synthetic chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers)

The cotton fibers should meet the requirements of the National Organic Program (NOP) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Additionally, if applicable, the cotton fibers should comply with the requirements of other organic standards outlined by the IFOAM Family of Standards. Ontex also requires that all its suppliers of cotton fibers for the production of cotton tampons are certified to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) and **supply only GOTS certified fibers**. However, with the rise of alternative sustainability programs for cotton farming, the organic requirement might be revised in future versions of this policy. The above-mentioned restrictions pertinent to organic farming, resulting in safety and environment benefits when compared to conventional cotton farming, have led to Ontex's preference for organic sources for cotton.

In addition to the use of organic cotton fibers, Ontex would like to promote the use of organic cotton in all other cotton-based and/or cotton-enhanced materials. However, in view of the existing raw material contingency and market conditions, this is not always possible. A decision on allowing non-organic cotton, including cotton certified by alternative certification schemes, can be taken on a case-by-case basis. It will imply a prior risk assessment and joint decision-making by Ontex purchasing, sustainability and regulatory affairs specialists.



A large, vertical aerial photograph of a dense, green forest occupies the left side of the page. A wooden boardwalk or path is visible, winding through the trees in the lower half of the image. The foliage is thick and vibrant green, with some brownish patches visible on the ground or lower branches.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER MATERIALS OF RENEWABLE ORIGIN

All renewable feedstock used for the production of biobased and biomass-balanced plastics supplied to Ontex **shall originate from responsibly managed cultivation areas** safeguarding:

- High biodiversity and high carbon stock areas
- Soil, water and air quality
- Workers' safety
- Human, labor and land rights
- Compliance with local, national and international legislation
- Good management practices striving for continuous development

Ontex encourages that all its suppliers of such materials obtain **certifications for sustainable feedstocks and supply chains**, for example, REDcert<sup>2</sup>, International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC+), or other comparable certification systems.



## REPORT CONCERNS

If you are aware of a violation of this Sustainable Sourcing Policy for Renewable Raw Materials, we expect you to speak up immediately and report it so it can be addressed. By doing so, you give us the opportunity to deal with the issue. Please refer to our [Speak up page](#) on the Ontex intranet site to know more about the speak up process.

In case of questions concerning our Sustainable Sourcing Policy for Renewable Raw Materials, please get in touch with [sustainability@ontexglobal.com](mailto:sustainability@ontexglobal.com) or [julia.maximova@ontexglobal.com](mailto:julia.maximova@ontexglobal.com)

