

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a crystal ball. The crystal ball reflects a lush green landscape with trees and a path. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green field.

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

# INTRODUCTION

Sustainable supply chain is one of the main pillars of Ontex's sustainability strategy. Nearly **25% of our raw materials originate from renewable sources**. 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. The Executive Management Committee holds primary accountability in ensuring that the commitments outlined by this Policy are met.

Approved on 27.01.2025 by:  
Gustavo Calvo Paz, CEO



## 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 (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**.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR COTTON-BASED MATERIAL

Due to a higher product risk associated with tampons, cotton fibers for production of 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**.

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. If organic is not possible, other environmentally and/or socially "**preferred**" schemes can be considered:

- Recycled
- Fair Trade
- Cotton made in Africa (CmiA) cotton
- cotton grown to the standards set by the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI and its benchmarked equivalencies)
- CottonConnect REEL cotton
- REGENAGRI.

An aerial photograph of a bamboo plantation. The bamboo stalks are densely packed and appear as a textured green carpet. In the lower portion of the image, there are several rows of rectangular wooden planters or raised beds, each containing a small section of bamboo. The ground between the planters is a mix of brown soil and some sparse vegetation.

## 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)**

