



Made from responsibly sourced materials\*

Fact sheet:

# Workwear



**Products marked with the green star are designed to help customers identify items within our ranges with a focus on reducing environmental impacts. Customers can use the information provided to filter and understand more about the products they're interested in or have purchased.**

## Why workwear matters

The fashion industry globally is estimated to produce 100 billion items of clothing every year, is responsible for 2-8% of global greenhouse gas emissions and consumes about 215 trillion litres of water annually ([source: UN Alliance for Sustainable Fashion](#)). There are concerns about the impact of cotton production on soil degradation and pollution ([source: WWF](#)).

Polyester, nylon, and acrylics are usually made from oil derivatives and although recycled artificial fibres are now being used, chemical safety needs to be monitored carefully. Across the garment industry, there are concerns about the social impact of producing materials and of manufacture. Kingfisher's policies aim to address these concerns. In addition, the green star product mark criteria is based on reputable third-party certification schemes that include social impact factors.

Workwear should be hardwearing – unlike fast fashion, it is often worn to destruction, and this limits the opportunity for reuse.

In addition, workwear may have an organic certification covered by the green star Organic Certifications fact sheet. This may be selected instead of the workwear criteria.

## Criteria 1:

### How we assess green star products



Every product should meet:

- All relevant legal requirements**
- All Kingfisher policy requirements**

[You can access the Kingfisher policies here.](#) These include Human Rights, Supply Chain Workplace Standards, Animal Welfare and Sustainable Packaging.

If a product does not meet all relevant legal requirements and all relevant Kingfisher policies, it cannot be assessed for the green star product mark.

Products are also checked against a Watch List. The watch list contains several criteria or features, relevant to the product type, that if present disqualify the product from being marked with a green star. The relevant Watch List criteria can be found at the end of this factsheet. The Watch List is reviewed and revised annually.

Life cycle assessments have not been completed for every green star product, but by employing policies and the Watch List Criteria in Kingfisher's Sustainable Home Product Guidelines, many factors in the life cycle of a product are considered.

The green star 'workwear' assessment focuses on the materials' phase of the product's life cycle for products where this is a significant potential impact. Green star excludes products that may have other environmental aspects that are harmful linked to in-use or end of life disposal phases.

## Criteria 2:

### Green star programme entry



Products meeting the criteria for 'workwear' meet one of the following options:

- **Option 1: Global Recycled Standard:**
  - That the product should qualify for the [Global Recycled Standard \(GRS\)](#). Please note that the whole product should be GRS certified.
    - This scheme has aims to encourage higher use of recycled content in fabrics, to reduce the harmful impact of production on people and the environment and to assess the climate impact of processing. It employs a chain-of-custody approach to certification which provides assurance that the material has been tracked through each stage of the supply chain, improving transparency.
  - **AND** 50% or more of the whole product by weight should comprise recycled content (e.g. post-consumer-waste polyester) as verified through its GRS certification.
- **Option 2: OEKO-TEX® certified:**
  - OEKO-TEX® Made in Green, the whole product should be certified.
  - OEKO-TEX® Standard 100, the whole product should be certified.
- **In addition, for all options:**
  - Any components made from wool, rubber, leather, cotton or feather should be responsibly sourced [referencing Kingfisher's policies](#). Schemes that green star recognises for providing this assurance include Global Organic Textile Standard, Organic Content Standard, OEKO-TEX® Organic Cotton, Responsible Wool Standard, Responsible Down Standard, Forest Stewardship Council and Better Cotton Initiative.

Please note that workwear may meet the requirements of the green star Organic Certifications fact sheet. This may be selected instead of the workwear criteria.

**Providing Criteria 1 and 2 have been met, a product can be highlighted with the Green Star.**



## Reviewing and confirming green star status

- All products nominated are assessed internally by our sustainability team and submitted to NGO Bioregional for external validation. Assessments and validation aim to establish if a product meets Criteria 1 and 2.
- Once the external validation is complete, the product can then be confirmed and marked with the green star.
- A full review is conducted annually to ensure all products continue to meet the selection criteria.

To find out more about NGO Bioregional, [click here](#)

## Watch List Criteria relevant to workwear

These criteria specify features of materials and products that make them unsuitable for products undergoing Green Star assessment:

- Products containing wool, feather, palm oil, cotton, rubber, biobased materials or leather with no evidence that the materials have been responsibly sourced, referencing [Kingfisher's policies](#).
- Single use, disposable products where an effective reusable alternative is widely available, including products supplied with single-use disposable batteries.
- Specified products and materials that have been linked environmental problems:
  - Single-use personal protective equipment
  - Glitter
  - Products made from PVC or uPVC.
- Products that contain any substance in breach of Kingfisher's Chemicals Policy.
- Products where the packaging contains PVC or expanded polystyrene.

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