



Proposal for a certification system for used textiles and textile waste

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WHY A CERTIFICATION SYSTEM?

Increase **separate collection** of textiles and textile waste

Increase **reuse and recycling** of textiles and textile waste

Lower the **environmental impact** of textile consumption

Increase **transparency and faith** in textile collection

Eliminate illegal collection

Strengthen Nordic **competitiveness**

KEY GOALS

- to double the share of post-consumer textiles that are collected separately across the Nordic region in 2025 compared to 2012.
- that 50 percent of collected textiles and textile waste is re-used by 2025 (either in Nordic countries or abroad), and that 90 percent of the total amount of textiles collected is re-used or where re-use is not possible, recycled.



CERTIFICATION PROCESS

How it is proposed to work

Two types of certificates (voluntary social benefit):



①

②

Nordic textile reuse and recycling commitment:

Certification system for textile collectors

ORGANISATIONS

Certification System Operator (CSO)

- Maintains the certification system and issues certification

Certification Committee

- Supports the CSO with updating the criteria and checklist, and steering the Certification system

Auditor

- Authorised by the Certification System Operator to audit and verify the information provided by the collector prior to certification.

Collector

- Collects textiles in the Nordic countries for reuse or recycling

CRITERIA

Criteria:

Criteria divided into 7 groups:

- Information, transparency and reporting
- Collecting
- Sorting
- Recycling
- Reuse (including sales)
- Environmental performance
- Social benefit

There are **two** different sets of criteria:

- one for reuse only
- one for reuse and recycling

CHECKLISTS

Checklist for collectors for: *Reuse*

A checklist of documentation required to verify that the collection has met the criteria.

Checklist for collectors for: *Reuse & recycling*

A checklist of documentation required to verify that the collection has met the criteria.

Auditor

-Authorised by the Certification System Operator to audit and verify the information provided by the collector prior to certification.

Auditor requirements

The Auditor:

1. Must be part of a certification body with accreditation for ISO 9001 *Quality Management Systems* and ISO 14001 *Environmental management systems*, thus complying with ISO 17021 *Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*.
2. Exceptions can be made if the certification body is nationally recognised and approved by the CSO in consultation with the Certification Committee.
3. Must have knowledge and understanding of the criteria of the certification system.
4. Must be impartial and objective.

Criteria for collectors
seeking certification for
collection of textiles aimed
for reuse only



23 criteria
+ 1 for social benefit

80 PERCENT REUSE
90 PERCENT REUSE AND RECYCLING

Criteria for collectors
seeking certification for
collection of textiles
aimed for reuse and
textile waste for recycling



25 criteria
+ 1 for social benefit

50 PERCENT REUSE
90 PERCENT REUSE AND RECYCLING

The checklists include the criteria, and specific documentation requirements following each criterion





Self-Assessment checklist: Collection of textiles aimed for reuse

Background

This checklist is designed to allow textile collectors to perform self-assessment within the "Standard for transparency and environmental performance" (hereafter "Standard") belonging to the certification system "The Nordic Textile Reuse and Recycling Commitment" (hereafter "The Commitment").

There are two types of certification available:

- one for collection of textiles aimed for reuse only,
- one for collection of textiles for reuse and textile waste.

Accordingly, there are two Standards:

- one describing criteria to be fulfilled by collectors seeking certification for collection of textiles for reuse only
- one describing criteria to be fulfilled by collectors seeking certification for collection of textiles for reuse and textile waste.

This document is a checklist to be used for collectors seeking for certification to collect textiles for reuse only. The collector seeking for certification should complete the following template in full and provide documentation to support the information provided.

The Standard requires that the performance of all relevant downstream actors shall be documented and available for the audit.

Once the checklist is completed by the collector, the auditor will work through the checklist, verifying the information and documentation provided by the collector. The

Self-Assessment Checklist: Collector Page 1 of 3





Self-Assessment checklist: Collection of textiles aimed for reuse and textile waste

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There are two types of certification available:

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- one describing criteria to be fulfilled by collectors seeking certification for collection of textiles for reuse only.
- one describing criteria to be fulfilled by collectors seeking certification for collection of textiles for reuse and textile waste.

This document is a checklist to be used for collectors seeking for certification to collect both textiles aimed for reuse and textile waste. The collector seeking certification should complete the following template in full and provide documentation to support the information provided.

The Standard requires that the performance of all relevant downstream actors shall be documented and available for the audit.

Self-Assessment Checklist: Collector Page 2 of 3

Examples of criteria

Criterion 1.4:

All collected textiles shall be documented with weight and source of origin.
(The minimum requirement is to weigh collected textiles at reloading stations and in shops)

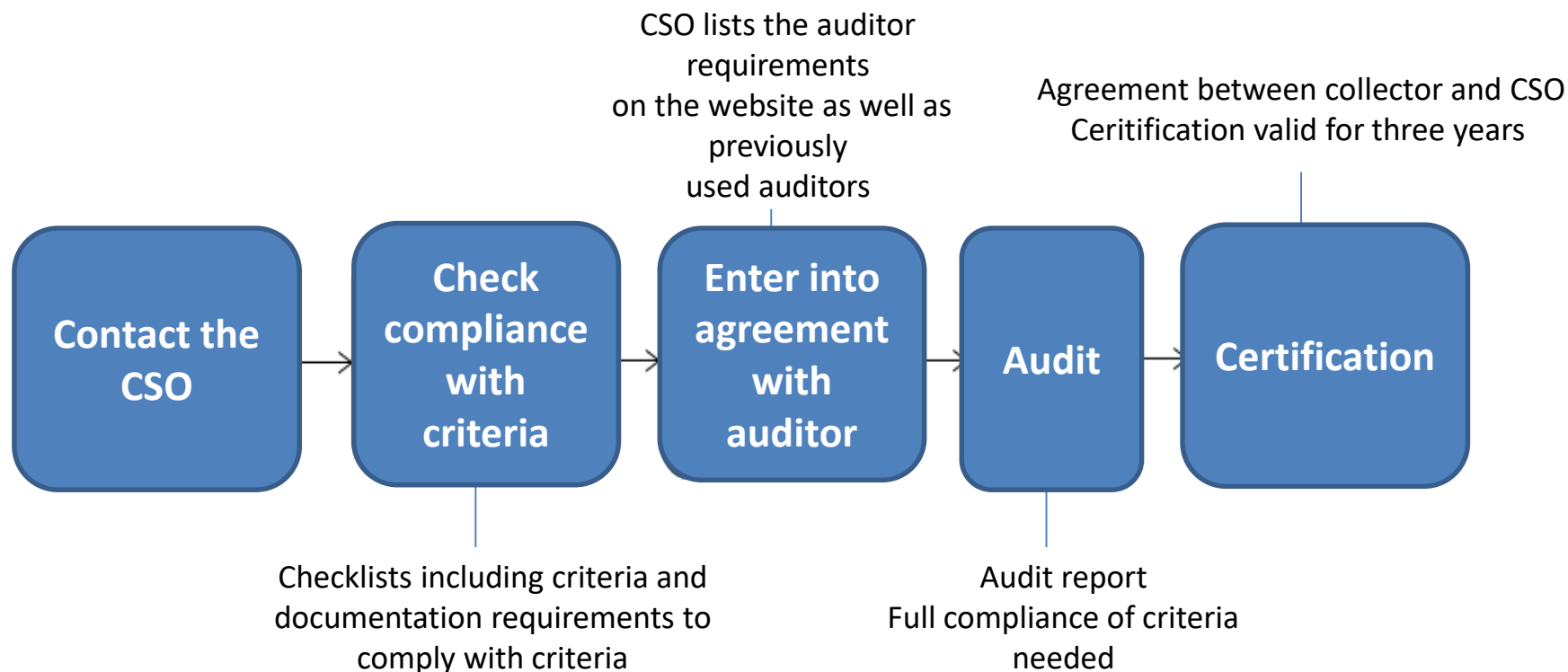
Criterion 2.6:

Textile containers shall only be placed after having achieved documented permission for doing so by the local authority and/or land owner.

Criterion 6.2 (for certificate for collection of textiles for reuse and recycling:

At least 50% of collected textiles shall be reused (annually) either by charity reuse, domestic sales or by export to an organization guaranteeing the level of reuse.

Certification process



CERTIFICATION SYSTEM OPERATION

The CSO role

- Registration of new organisations that wish to certify their business.
- Administration of system fees.
- Administration of registration documents, criteria document and checklist.
- Selection of third party auditors.
- Issuing certificates.
- Labels and communication materials.

Way forward

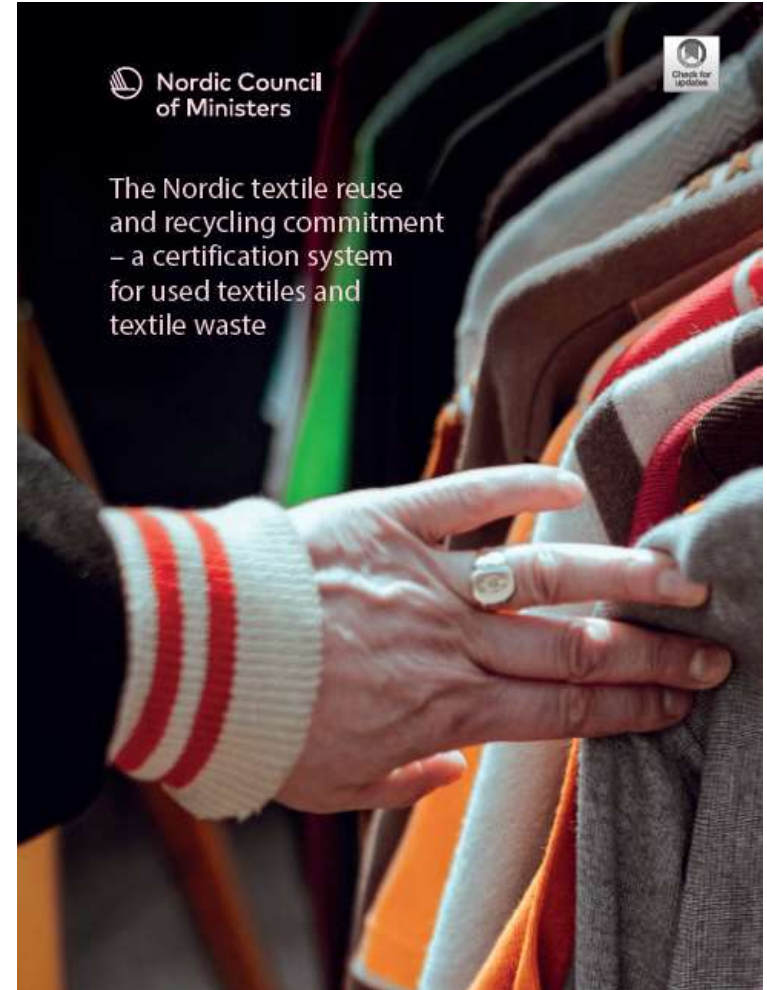
- The Nordic countries have different opinions on how to move forward with the certification system
- As the certification system is aimed to be Nordic there are a lot of details to decide on
- ”Nordisk ämbetsmannakommitté för miljö- och klimatfrågor (ÄK-MK)” (under the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) for environment) decided in February 2018 to postpone the decision on how to move forward with the certification system. The question will be raised again on a meeting in June 2018. Decision will be taken on whether or not the Nordic Waste Group will be granted money to find a CSO.

To remember:

A certification system for textile collectors is hopefully soon in place to:

- Increase separate collection, and reuse and recycling, of used textiles and textile waste.
- Give a guarantee to consumers and municipalities that the collected material is treated in a transparent way with high reuse and recycling.

Report from the project,
can be found on: www.norden.org





THANK YOU!

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