



RESPONSIBLE SOURCING POLICY COTTON

LAST UPDATED JULY 2026

SCOPE

This policy applies to all cotton used in all River Island products. It sets out our requirements for responsible cotton sourcing, with the aim of reducing environmental and social impacts while supporting greater transparency and traceability across our supply chain.

PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT

At River Island, we recognise our responsibility to source cotton in a manner that minimises environmental impact and supports the livelihoods of the communities involved in its production. As one of the most widely used fibres in our products, cotton plays a significant role in our supply chain. However, cotton cultivation can be associated with a range of environmental and social challenges, including high water consumption, soil degradation, biodiversity impacts, and risks to labour and human rights.

Through this policy, River Island is committed to driving more responsible cotton sourcing practices, increasing supply chain transparency, and supporting the transition towards lower-impact cotton production.

TARGETS

- River Island is committed to sourcing 100% of our cotton from responsible sources by 2030. We define responsible sources as Better Cotton (BCI), certified recycled cotton and certified organic cotton.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Due to significant labour and human rights concerns, River Island prohibits the use of cotton sourced from the Xinjiang Region of China or Turkmenistan. Any products found to contain cotton originating from these regions will be subject to order cancellation or return to vendor (RTV).
- Cotton originating from Uzbekistan must be fully traceable to farm level through a recognised certification or traceability programme. Uncertified cotton from Uzbekistan will not be accepted.
- The use of conventional cotton is not permitted in any River Island product. All cotton used in River Island products must, as a minimum, be sourced as Better Cotton (BCI) under the mass-balance chain of custody model. While Better Cotton represents River Island's minimum sourcing requirement, suppliers are strongly encouraged to transition towards cotton sources that offer lower environmental impacts and improved traceability.
- Suppliers must transfer BCI Cotton Claim Units (BCCUs) to River Island via the BCI Cotton Platform (BCP) within 30 Days post shipment.
BCP ACCOUNT: 1004004-1 – River Island

PREFERRED SOURCES

River Island regularly reviews its preferred fibre portfolio to ensure recognised standards continue to deliver credible environmental, social, and traceability outcomes.

Our suppliers are key partners in delivering River Island's responsible materials strategy and 2030 commitments. We expect suppliers to actively support this transition by sourcing from preferred cotton programmes, improving traceability and adopting recognised certification schemes. Suppliers should refer to the Supplier Materials Toolkit for detailed guidance on approved standards and certification requirements.

River Island currently recognises the following cotton sources as preferred:

- **Recycled cotton** certified to Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)
- **Organic cotton** certified to Organic Content Standard (OCS)

Where suppliers wish to source cotton from alternative programmes or standards not listed within this policy, prior written approval must be obtained from the River Island Sustainability Team before any purchasing commitments are made.

SUPPLIER REQUIREMENTS

Suppliers are responsible for ensuring full visibility of their cotton supply chain and compliance with the requirements set out in this policy.

Suppliers must:

- Maintain transparency regarding the origin and sourcing route of all cotton used in River Island products.
- Maintain valid cotton certifications and ensure all relevant certification information is uploaded and kept up to date within River Island's designated testing and transparency platform, SGS – RI Interactive. Suppliers must provide certification records to River Island upon request.
- Review the Supplier Materials Toolkit for detailed guidance on approved standards and certification requirements.