circular textiles foundation

Infinitee™ EU Certification Mark Scheme: Rules & Governance

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1. Purpose of this document

This document summarises the rules and governance of the Infinitee™ Certification Mark Scheme for garments and textiles bound for sale in the EU (the "Scheme"): who owns it, what it certifies, how its requirements are developed and revised, who may participate, the application and certification process, how compliance is verified, non-compliance, complaints and appeals. We publish this document to show how the Scheme meets the requirements for certification schemes under the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive (EU) 2024/825 (as transposed) ("**ECGT**") and the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive it amends.

2. EU Scheme Owner

The Scheme is owned and operated by the Circular Textiles Foundation ("CTF", the "Scheme Owner"), UK company registration number 13790864, registered office C/O Francis Clark LLP, Melville Building East, Royal William Yard, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 3RP. CTF operates on a not-for-profit basis, promoting circularity in the clothing and textile industry and facilitating the uptake of fibre-to-fibre textile recycling. CTF does not carry on a business involving the supply of goods or services of the kind certified.

3. The certification mark

Our Infinitee™ logo is a certification mark registered at the UKIPO (No. UK00003941183, 2024) and the EUIPO (No. 019069632, 2026). Use of the certification mark is governed by the respective registered **Regulations of Use**, and that document is the definitive record of the certification mark's registration. This document does not replace the Regulations of Use, rather it aims to summarise the Scheme and explain how it meets ECGT requirements. The Regulations of Use are open to public inspection on the EUIPO register.

4. Certified characteristic

Our EU certification mark certifies that a garment or textile product is designed and produced to be technically suitable for recycling by one or more named fibre-to-fibre recycling facilities operating at commercial scale, meeting those facilities' accepted recycler parameter standards. Further details are set out in section 6 below. The design intent is to ensure a consistent supply of high-quality, processable post-consumer feedstock and to retain as much of the garment's value as possible at end of life, minimising waste and supporting the economic longevity of fibre-to-fibre recycling.

The mark does **not** certify that the product will in fact be recycled; general environmental superiority; recycled content; chemical safety; or social/labour conditions; or that a collection or take-back route for the product exists in any particular market. Permitted and prohibited claim wording is summarised in section 5.

5. Use of the certification mark and claims

The conditions governing use of the certification mark, including sanctions for misuse, are set out in the registered Regulations of Use. CTF also issues labelling and claims guidance and rules to authorised users which prescribes the wording that may accompany the mark and the form in which the mark and its QR code are applied. "Authorised

Users" are persons (usually brands) authorised by CTF, under the Regulations of Use, to use the certification mark for a certified style.

A claim made with the mark must be specific to the certified product style, not brand-wide. Generic environmental claims, such as that a product is eco-friendly, sustainable or green, must not be made with the mark or attributed to it, and the mark must not be presented as an endorsement by a public authority.

The mark and its style-specific QR code may be applied only to a style that CTF has certified and for which a valid certificate is in force. Use of the mark by any other person, or on any other product, is misuse. Anyone suspecting misuse of the certification mark can report to us at info@thectf.co.uk

6. The Recycler Parameters

6.1 When we refer to the "Recycler Parameters" in this document we mean the accepted recycler parameter standards of the named facilities recorded in the registered Regulations of Use and published at https://circulartextilesfoundation.co.uk/our-recycling-partners/. The certification requirements of the Scheme are the Recycler Parameters and the evidence requirements in section 8.3. The Recycler Parameters are published in full and free of charge.

6.2 The Scheme's technical acceptance criteria are set by the named fibre-to-fibre recycling facilities we partner with, commercially scaled recyclers that define, as their own feedstock-acceptance parameters, the material and construction requirements a garment must meet to be recyclable through their processes.

6.2 These named recyclers are chemical, thermochemical and mechanical recyclers based in the UK and near-shore in Europe, with proven capability to process post-consumer textile waste. Because the criteria are set by the recyclers themselves rather than by CTF or by the brands, the Recycler Parameters reflect actual recycling capability in operating facilities rather than theoretical recyclability, and a certified garment is one those recyclers have confirmed they could accept. CTF expresses these Recycler Parameters as the Scheme's written criteria and reviews them with the named facilities, together with the Scheme's independent verifier, as the commercial fibre-to-fibre landscape matures and new recyclers are added; products are verified against them, as explained in sections 8 and 9. Where a recycler's parameters change, the process for certification is reviewed accordingly (see section 7).

7. Revision of the certification requirements

7.1 Recycler-led parameter changes. Where a named facility changes its own feedstock-acceptance parameters, or a facility is added to or removed from the Scheme, the published Recycler Parameters are updated to reflect that change. Because those parameters are set by the facility and not by CTF, no consultation applies. CTF confirms the change with the facility and with the Independent Verifier, publishes the revised parameters with a stated effective date, and notifies Authorised Users. Certificates in force on that date remain valid until expiry (if applicable), and products already placed on the market may continue to bear the mark.

7.2 Material amendments are subject to a consultation period of 30 days, notified to all Authorised Users and published at https://circulartextilesfoundation.co.uk/

8. The certification process

Certification is granted style by style, not to a brand as a whole. A summary of the process is as follows:

8.1 Certification routes. CTF offers three routes to certification. The Recycler Parameters and the evidence requirements are the same on every route; the route determines how evidence is submitted and how the Independent Verifier's checks under section 10 are applied.

(a) Route 1, Supported Certification: for brands new to the Scheme or certifying between one and ten styles. CTF provides hands-on guidance, and the Independent Verifier verifies every style before certification.

(b) Route 1.2, Transitional Certification: for trained brands moving towards independent submission. The brand prepares its own submissions, which CTF assesses against the Recycler Parameters, and the Independent Verifier carries out sample testing.

(c) Route 2, Brand Certification Submission: for experienced brands certifying at scale, with trained staff and product lifecycle management systems capable of accurate data capture. CTF assesses each submission against the Recycler Parameters using its certification platform, and the Independent Verifier carries out periodic independent audits. For very simple ranges, a brand may instead submit directly to the Independent Verifier, which manages the submission and reports the outcome to CTF.

CTF decides which route is available to an applicant, and may move an Authorised User to a more closely supervised route where audit findings or non-conformities indicate that its data or processes are unreliable.

8.2 Applicants undertake CTF-approved training in designing products to meet the Recycler Parameters, and in all cases appoint a named contact responsible for its submissions.

8.3 For each style submitted, the applicant supplies the information set out in the Certification Checklist, which is available here https://circulartextilesfoundation.co.uk/checklist/. Each submission must reflect the product as manufactured at bulk.

8.4 The evidence is assessed and the product verified by an independent third party, as set out in further detail in section 10.

8.5 Where the verification requirements are satisfied, CTF issues a certificate identified by a unique certificate number, together with a style-specific QR code. Certificates are specific to a product style and production run and are renewable on reassessment.

8.6 Any change to the bill of materials, materials, suppliers or production that affects conformity must be notified to CTF before implementation, and may require reassessment.

9. Open access, decision criteria and fees

Participation in the Scheme is open on transparent, fair and non-discriminatory terms to all traders willing and able to comply with the Recycler Parameters, regardless of size or location. The sole decision criteria for certification are conformity with the Recycler Parameters and completeness of the required evidence.

Fees are published at https://circulartextilesfoundation.co.uk/fees/ . Where CTF-approved training is a condition of authorisation, it is available to any applicant on the same published terms. Refusals are reasoned in writing and subject to appeal under section 13, and an applicant may resubmit after addressing the grounds for refusal.

10.Independent verification and monitoring

10.1 The independent third-party verifier for the Scheme is currently Testex AG (the "**Independent Verifier**"). The Independent Verifier is a separate legal entity from CTF. It applies its own accredited methods and reaches its own

verification conclusions, carrying out its testing under laboratory accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025. Its fees for sample testing are contracted directly with the applicant and are not routed through CTF.

10.2 The Independent Verifier's checks are applied according to the certification route under section 8.1:

(a) on Route 1, CTF and the Independent Verifier verify every style against the Recycler Parameters before certification;

(b) on Route 1.2, CTF assesses each brand-led submission against the Recycler Parameters, and the Independent Verifier carries out sample testing;

(c) on Route 2, CTF assesses each submission against the Recycler Parameters using its certification platform, and the Independent Verifier carries out periodic independent audits at a frequency informed by previous audit findings; and

(d) where a brand submits directly to the Independent Verifier, the Independent Verifier assesses the submission and reports the outcome to CTF.

10.3 Ongoing monitoring of certified products is carried out by the Independent Verifier. On every route, CTF and the Independent Verifier may request and test samples of any certified product at any time.

10.4 CTF is the certifying body and issues, suspends and withdraws certificates. It issues a certificate only where the requirements of the applicable route are satisfied, and it does not overturn a verification outcome of the Independent Verifier.

11.Non-compliance: correction, suspension and withdrawal

11.1 Grounds. CTF acts under this section where a certified product is found not to meet the Recycler Parameters; where a change to the bill of materials, materials, suppliers or production affecting conformity was not notified; where the conditions governing use of the mark or CTF's labelling and claims guidance are breached, including use of the mark on an uncertified or modified style; where an Authorised User fails to cooperate with sampling or audit; where false or misleading information is supplied; where the mark is used after a certificate has expired; or where scheme fees are not paid.

11.2 Correction, suspension and withdrawal. CTF requires correction within 30 calendar days and, where goods not meeting the Recycler Parameters have been supplied under the mark, requires their removal from sale. Failing correction, or where the non-conformity is material or deliberate, CTF suspends or withdraws the right to use the mark for the affected styles or, for systemic failures, for the Authorised User. On withdrawal the Authorised User must cease all use of the mark in labelling, marketing and online listings for the affected styles within 30 days, and relabel or delabel stock already labelled. Reinstatement after withdrawal requires a full new certification assessment.

11.3 Consumer-facing effect. On suspension or withdrawal the style-specific QR code is switched to a Scheme-hosted page informing customers, sorters and processors that the certification requirements are not currently met, and the register is updated.

11.4 Decisions under this section are reasoned, notified in writing, and subject to appeal under section 12.

12.Complaints and appeals

12.1 Any person, including consumers, brands, recyclers and non-governmental organisations, may complain about a certified product, about use of the certification mark, or about the operation of the Scheme, by writing to info@thectf.co.uk . A complaint may be made anonymously, although anonymity may limit CTF's ability to report back.

12.2 CTF acknowledges a complaint within 5 working days and gives its outcome within 30 working days, extendable with reasons. A substantiated complaint is dealt with under section 11.

12.3 An applicant or Authorised User may appeal a refusal, suspension or withdrawal within 21 days of the decision, stating its grounds. An appeal is decided by a panel independent of the person who took the original decision. A suspension or withdrawal remains in effect pending appeal where consumer-facing claims are affected.

12.4 Nothing in the Scheme limits any person's legal rights, including the right to bring proceedings before the competent courts and the right to raise a concern about a misleading environmental claim with the national consumer protection authority in the relevant Member State.

13. Register and certificate status

CTF publishes the current status of each certificate, as valid, suspended or withdrawn, on the Scheme register. Each certified style carries a QR code resolving to that record.

14.Records

CTF and the Independent Verifier retain assessment records, test reports, audit reports, decisions, complaints and appeals for six years, and make them available to accreditation bodies and enforcement authorities on lawful request.

15.Document control

Version 1.0, September 2026. This document is reviewed at least annually; the next scheduled review is September 2027.