



Criteria for sustainable public procurement

# Workwear

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Rijkswaterstaat  
Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management

# 1. Scope/demarcation

The workwear product group includes both the supply of workwear and services offered, along with the supply of workwear. The following products (with accompanying CPV code) form part of the workwear product group. This list of products is not exhaustive.

Products	CPV code
Clothing, shoes, luggage items and accessories	18000000-9
Professional clothing, special workwear and accessories	18100000-0
Outerwear	18200000-1
Clothing items	18300000-2
Special clothing and accessories	18400000-3
Shoes	18800000-7
Protective and safety clothing	35113400-3
Personal and supporting equipment	35810000-2

The criteria of the workwear product group could optionally be applied to products other than the above-mentioned products with textile fibres (such as linen or interior textile) if no criteria are available for these products.

Industrial cleaning of workwear falls outside the scope of this product group. There is a separate product group for this with its own criteria document. However, the choice of industrial cleaning is a focal area in the present criteria document.

This document describes the environmental criteria. You can find information on the other sections of sustainable public procurement – including international social conditions and social return – on the PIANOo website, on the specific product group page: <https://www.pianoo.nl/document/10559/productgroep-bedrijfskleding>.

## Levels of ambition

The criteria are specified at various levels of ambition:

- **Level 1 - minimal:** the minimum level the tender should meet – the state of the art. This level determines the lower limit of a socially responsible tender and uses requirements.
- **Level 2 - significant:** the level that strives for a significant improvement compared to Level 1. More ambitious requirements can be imposed on this level in combination with performance-rewarding award criteria.
- **Level 3 - ambitious:** the level that strives for added value. At this level, more ambitious requirements are imposed in conjunction with performance-rewarding award criteria, and there is room for more 'experimental' criteria. Examples of experimental criteria include: functional criteria, criteria that strive for added value (rather than "less poor") or criteria that even pursue a positive contribution. In addition to text proposals being made for criteria at level 3, suggestions are made here as well which provide the procuring organisation with tools to further pursue their ambitions.

In the first column, the level of ambition to which the relevant criterion applies is specified. If several levels are specified, the criterion shall apply to each level.

The procuring organisation should make its own choice as to whether it wants to procure at Level 1, 2 or 3. Level 1 enables the procuring organisation to complete a sustainable public procurement programme in a quick and easy manner because only requirements are imposed. The result is that real frontrunners among market parties find it difficult to distinguish themselves from followers due to the absence of award criteria.

Level 2 offers procurement organisations more scope to reward frontrunners. The tender programme is slightly more extensive because the various tenderers have to be assessed in terms of award criteria. It is up to the procuring organisations to determine and describe how the award criteria are assessed.

Level 3 is comparable to Level 2, but goes even further in terms of ambition. Compared to Level 2, more commitment is required from the procuring organisation in the tender programme and during the contract period. In addition to text proposals being made for criteria at level 3, suggestions are made here as well which provide the procuring organisation with tools to further pursue their ambitions.

In the first column, the level of ambition to which the relevant criterion applies is specified. If several levels are specified, the criterion shall apply to each level.

## 2. Selection criteria

Suppliers of textile products	
SC 1 Level 2 Level 3	<p>The tenderers should be able to demonstrate what resources, expertise, documented procedures and management systems they have in order to deal with the following aspects of the product and its supply chain.</p> <p>Origin of the textile fibre: systems for tracing the origin, composition and production systems of natural and synthetic fibres to which environmental criteria apply. This includes transaction details that can be used to verify and trace the origin of raw materials used for the production and processing of yarn and unbleached fabric. Certificates of third parties with respect to the origin and traceability may optionally be used here.</p> <p>Management of chemical substances: the introduction of a limited list of chemicals, including the communication of the list of colour, printing and finishing locations, monitoring of the conformity of production sites and monitoring of the conformity of final products, including laboratory tests. Also required are inspectors for visits to sites, regulations for the conformity of textile products, as well as laboratories for testing products that are recognised in accordance with international standards (e.g. ISO 17025, ISO 17065, ISO 19011 or similar).</p> <p><i>Verification:</i></p> <p>The tenderers will be required to describe the systems and capacities they have for monitoring and verifying the origin of textile fibres and for the management of chemical substances. Furthermore, they will be required to describe the documentation, auditing and analysis systems used for monitoring the conformity of suppliers and the final product.</p> <p>The procurement methods and expertise that will be used for the management of conformity will have to be confirmed. Relevant examples of previous contracts for the supply of textile products will have to be provided in order to demonstrate how these two aspects are managed and verified.</p> <p><i>Source: EU GPP 2017</i></p>

## 3. Requirements, award criteria and suggestions

Wellbeing Ecology	Substances present in the final product
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<p>REQUIREMENT</p> <p>Level 1</p> <p>Level 2</p> <p>Level 3</p>	<p><b>Limit values for harmful substances according to the Öko-Tex 100 label</b></p> <p>The quantities of harmful substances in the workwear to be supplied do not exceed the limit values as specified in the Öko-Tex 100 label. <i>Explanation</i></p> <p>The institution that has determined the limit values reviews some of these values annually. The Öko-Tex 100 label is awarded for a 12-month period, regardless of any changes that occur in the limit values in the meantime. The limit values can be found here: <a href="https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/business/certifications_and_services/ots_100/ots_100_limit_values/ots_100_limit_values.html">https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/business/certifications_and_services/ots_100/ots_100_limit_values/ots_100_limit_valu es.html</a>.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate that the quantities of harmful substances in the workwear to be supplied do not exceed the limit values. Products with a recently allocated Öko- Tex label meet this requirement in any event.</p>
<p>REQUIREMENT 2</p> <p>Level 1</p> <p>Level 2</p> <p>Level 3</p>	<p><b>nanomaterials</b> If the tenderer wants to apply nanomaterials, the following criteria shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The supplier shall notify the use of nanomaterials via a report to the system manager or the assortment manager.</li> <li>– The report should include a risk assessment and the risk management measures to be taken if nanomaterials are released (unintentionally).</li> <li>– The risk assessment should be based on the publication “Guidance for working safely with nanomaterials and nanotechnology products (guidance for employers and employees) version 1.0 May 2011” (to be downloaded via the Internet, publication commissioned by FNV, VNO/NCW and CNV).</li> <li>– Regulations and legislation by the Dutch government shall apply, in anticipation of European policy.</li> </ul> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate that no nanomaterials have been applied. If nanomaterials have been applied, the tenderer may be requested to provide a risk assessment of these materials in accordance with the publication “Guidance for working safely with nanomaterials and nanotechnology products (guidance for employers and employees) version 1.0 May 2011” (to be downloaded via the Internet, publication commissioned by FNV, VNO/NCW and CNV).</p>

Materials Circular	Recycled fibres
<p>REQUIREMENT 3</p> <p>Level 1</p> <p>Level 2</p> <p>Level 3</p>	<p><b>For towels, overalls, polo shirts and aprons made of cotton: recycled fibres</b></p> <p>At least 10% of the weight percentage of the final product shall be represented by recycled textile fibres that exclusively originate from waste originating from consumers.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate the origin and percentage of recycled fibres used with the help of the ‘RCS – TE Recycled Content Standard’ Certificate from Control Union or a similar certificate. This is a specific quality label that is available to everyone. Clothing with a Control Union label for recycled fibres consists of the specified percentage of recycled fibres in any event.</p>
<p>GC2</p> <p>Level 2</p> <p>Level 3</p>	<p><b>Use of recycled material for textile</b></p> <p>Tenderers shall specify the weight percentage represented by recycled textile fibres in the final product. That is to say, fibres that exclusively originate from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Waste before consumption (including polymer and fibre production waste)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– cuttings or unsold stocks of textile and clothing manufacturers</li> <li>– used textile or textile originating from wearers of clothing</li> <li>– waste from textile and all manner of fibre and textile products – non-textile waste including PET bottles and fishing nets.</li> </ul> <p>The higher the percentage of recycled textile fibres used, the higher the valuation of this section of the tender. The use of textile is valued more highly than the use of non-textile waste.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate the origin and percentage of recycled fibres used with the help of the ‘RCS – TE Recycled Content Standard’ Certificate from Control Union or a similar certificate. Clothing with a Control Union label for recycled fibres consists of the indicated percentage of recycled fibres in any event. <i>Source: EU GPP 2012 (amended in 2018)</i></p>
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<b>Materials Ecology</b>	<b>For textile made of cotton or other natural fibres: organic production</b>
GC3 Level 2 Level 3	<p><b>More points for organic textile</b></p> <p>A higher valuation will be given if the cotton or the textile of other organic fibres has been produced organically.</p> <p>In order to be considered as such, it is imperative that the fibres have been manufactured in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate the origin of the fibres used and the organic nature of their production, for example with the EU logo or approved national logos for organic production.</p> <p>If the textile has a GOTS or EKO certification, the cotton content in the clothing consists of 100% organic cotton in any event. If the textile has an Organic Exchange certificate, the cotton content in the clothing consists of the specified percentage of organic cotton in any event.</p> <p><i>Source: EU GPP 2012</i></p>

Add REQUIREMENT x6 (Transport of goods) from ‘Criteria in several documents’.

The criteria below will be replaced with Requirementx1, GCx1 and GCx2: Packaging. (see document ‘Criteria in several documents’)


Materials Circular	<b>Design for recycling</b>
GC4 Level 2 Level 3	<p>The tenderers should specify what measures they have taken in the design of workwear in order to promote high-quality recycling by the end of the lifespan. If the design ensures that the materials can be separated and processed in a simpler and better way by the end of the lifespan of the product, this section of the tender will receive a higher valuation.</p> <p>Based on the definition from the EU framework directive for waste materials 2008/98/EC, recycling is understood to mean: any useful application that enables waste materials to be reprocessed into products, materials or substances, for the original purpose or for a different purpose. High-quality recycling includes the reprocessing of natural materials for the recovery of raw materials, but it does not include energy recovery, nor reprocessing into materials intended for use as fuel or padding material.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i></p> <p>Reduction in energy use during usage, reuse of products and preservation of materials are key elements in the development of a circular design. The design of the clothing strongly determines the level of recyclability of textile fibres. By taking this into account in the design phase of workwear, textile fibres can be recycled at a higher quality level at the end of the lifespan of workwear. There are various options for this: a reduction in the number of different types of applied textile fibres and disassembly options for the clothing by the end of the lifespan.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate what measures have been taken to ensure high-quality recycling of textile fibres by the end of the lifespan, and to indicate how this results in an improvement of the separation and processing process and therefore in an improvement to the quality of recycled textile fibres.</p>

Materials Circular	<b>If collection by the end of the lifespan forms part of the request: a higher collection rate, a higher recycling rate and the high-quality application of discarded workwear will receive a higher valuation</b>
GC5 Level 2 Level 3	<p>The more the tenderer is committed to the collection, recycling and high-quality application of workwear returned during the term of the contract with users, the higher the valuation of this element of the tender.</p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to indicate what currently happens to the supplied textile by the end of the lifespan. How much (as a percentage of available textile) is collected? What percentage is recycled? What new application may be given to the recycled material? In addition, the tenderer should indicate the percentages and applications they expect to achieve for the textile they would supply in this assignment.</p> <p>Based on the definition from the EU framework directive for waste materials 2008/98/EC, recycling is understood to mean: any useful application that enables waste materials to be reprocessed into products, materials or substances, for the original purpose or for a different purpose. This includes the reprocessing of organic waste, but it does not include energy recovery, nor the reprocessing into materials intended for use as fuel or padding material. The application in cleaning cloths and insulation material is rated as having low value, while the application in clothing or the replacement of new textile is rated as having high value.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i></p> <p>This award criterion should fit within the business operations of the contracting organisation in terms of the recycling of discarded workwear. See also AS6.</p>

	<p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be requested to demonstrate that discarded clothing can be returned to them when offered by the client(s). The tenderer hereby indicates how the discarded clothing is recycled and for what application(s) the recycled material will be deployed.</p> <p>The tenderer can earn points by demonstrating that they are currently committed to the collection, recycling and high-quality application of the textile they supply. The tenderer can furthermore earn points for the planned percentages for this specific assignment.</p>
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Soil ecology	<b>For leather: water purification with leather production</b>
GC6 Level 2 Level 3	<p><b>Additional points for water purification with leather production</b></p> <p>If the tenderer can demonstrate that the water used in the tanning process is not returned to the ecosystem in unpurified form, it will be possible to earn additional points for this element.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be asked to specify the origin of the leather – this concerns both the manufacturing country/countries and the production facility/facilities of all the items offered. In addition, they may be asked to describe the method of water purification and/or reuse.</p>

	<b>For textile products with over 50% wool: waste water</b>
REQUIREMENT 4 Level 1 Level 2 Level 3	<p><b>Limit values for pollution in waste water with wool production</b></p> <p>The waste water discharges from wool-scouring, either directly from treatment on-site or indirectly from off-site wastewater treatment, measured in g COD (chemical oxygen demand)/kg greasy wool must be <math>\leq 25</math> g for coarse wool and lamb's wool and <math>\leq 45</math> g for fine wool. Fine wool is defined as merino wool of <math>\leq 23.5</math> microns in diameter.</p> <p><i>Verification:</i></p> <p>Upon delivery of the goods, the tenderer will provide compliant monitoring data for the processing lots from which the wool used in the contract originates.</p> <p>COD calculations will relate to the wool throughput in kg in respect of the wastewater flow in litres from each processed lot of wool.</p> <p>Monitoring data must be obtained by third party testing according to ISO 6060 or equivalent from wastewater from any wool-scouring site from which wool is purchased.</p> <p>Transaction records shall be provided on the basis of which the wool-scouring site shall be inspected in terms of the wool that is used to manufacture the products.</p> <p><i>Source: EU GPP 2017</i></p>

	<b>For textile products with over 50% synthetic cellulose fibres (e.g. viscose, modal, lyocell)</b>										
REQUIREMENT 5 Level 1 Level 2 Level 3	<p><b>Sulphur emissions in the air</b></p> <p>Where viscose and modal fibres are concerned, the sulphur content in emissions of sulphur substances in the air originating from the fibre production process – expressed as an annual average – must not exceed the values in table a.</p> <p><i>Table a. Emission of sulphur content for viscose and modal</i></p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Fibre type</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Performance (g S/kg)</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staple fibre</td> <td>30 g/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filament fibre</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>– Wash tunnel</td> <td>40 g/kg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>– Integrated washing</td> <td>170 g/kg</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Fibre type</b>	<b>Performance (g S/kg)</b>	Staple fibre	30 g/kg	Filament fibre		– Wash tunnel	40 g/kg	– Integrated washing	170 g/kg
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	<p><i>Explanation:</i> Synthetic cellulose fibres. This type of fibre can be used instead of cotton for a variety of clothing items or interior textiles for which a softer formulation is required. Blending with synthetic fibres is also an option in order to reduce wear and facilitate drying of the fabric.</p> <p><i>Verification:</i> Once the contract has been awarded, the tenderer will have to provide the necessary monitoring data, transaction data and data on the production of parties, in order to demonstrate effective compliance on the part of supplier(s) and related production sites with regard to the manufacturing of the fibres specified in the contract. Compliant monitoring data shall be submitted for the production sites where the specific fibre products are manufactured which will be used in the performance of this contract.</p>
<p>REQUIREMENT 6 Level 2 Level 3</p>	<p><b>Halogenated emission from pulp</b> Pulp used for the production of the fibre product specified in the contract will be bleached without using elemental chlorine. The resulting total amount of chlorine and organically bound chlorine in the processed fibres (OX) must not exceed 150 ppm. The amount of air-dried pulp in waste water from pulp production (AOX) must not exceed 0.170 kg/t.</p> <p><i>Verification:</i> Once the contract has been awarded, the tenderer shall provide a test report for the relevant fibre product and its production line, from which compliance with the OX or AOX requirement becomes evident. This should be done on the basis of the appropriate test method or a similar test method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– OX: ISO 11480 (controlled combustion and micro coulometry).</li> <li>– AOX: ISO 9562.</li> </ul>

See document 'Criteria\_in\_several\_documents' :

- GCx3 and GCx4: Add plan for circular economy
- EISx5: Due diligence. Add criterion

Materials Circular	Identifying additional criteria
<p>SUGGESTION 1 Level 2 Level 3</p>	<p><b>Sustainable design</b> Consider requirements in terms of sustainability for the design phase as early as in the procurement phase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– technical lifespan versus usage time;</li> <li>– replaceability of separate parts versus replacement of entire items of clothing;</li> <li>– reuse of recycled material and other sustainable materials;</li> <li>– design for disassembly and recycling for high-quality product reuse and recycling of materials (see also GC4)</li> <li>– Using logos, emblems, flags and other identifying features in a way that facilitates reuse (for example via removal or overprint)</li> </ul>
<p>SUGGESTION 2 Level 2 Level 3</p>	<p><b>Identifying requirements in terms of sustainability</b> Include sustainable specifications in the programme of requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– choose sustainability in the design;</li> <li>– select clothing that allows for easy and industrial cleaning;</li> <li>– investigate whether less desirable materials can be replaced with sustainable materials;</li> <li>– do not request chemical treatments / materials that are not required for the purpose for which the relevant clothing is procured;</li> <li>– have company logos, emblems, flags et cetera applied in such a way that they can be easily removed or deactivated;</li> <li>– use functional specifications</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– use functional descriptions as far as possible; reflect on the technical specifications you want to provide. To what extent are they truly functional?</li> <li>– reflect on the procurement volume. Supply in small volumes is generally an impediment to circular textiles. For example, would the procurement of a large volume of fabric be a solution for colour differences in recycling?</li> </ul> <p>Seek options to increase efficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– investigate whether it is possible to use a standard assortment;</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– look into the options to arrange supply, management and cleaning of clothing in one contract;</li> </ul>
SUGGESTION 3 Level 3	<p><b>Adopting criteria from the covenant for sustainable clothing &amp; textile</b></p> <p>If you want to go further than the criteria specified in this document, you could adopt criteria from the covenant for sustainable clothing &amp; textiles. You can find more information on this covenant via the Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER) (<a href="https://www.ser.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/2010-2019/2016/20160704-convenant-duurzame-kleding-en-textiel.aspx">https://www.ser.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/2010-2019/2016/20160704-convenant-duurzame-kleding-en-textiel.aspx</a>)</p>

## 4. Contract provisions

Not specified for this product group.