Supplier Authentication Toolkit: Sustainable Textile Vendors

This toolkit helps you authenticate textile suppliers—especially those claiming sustainability certifications like GOTS, OEKO-TEX, Fair Trade, or ISO standards. It includes verification steps, tools, websites, red flags, and a checklist.

# Step 1: Certification Verification

## GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard)

• Website: https://global-standard.org/public-database
• Ask for their license number and certificate PDF
• Cross-check using the GOTS database
• Red Flags:
 - No license number
 - “Pending” status
 - Altered or expired certificate

## OEKO-TEX

• Website: https://www.oeko-tex.com/en
• Use the Label Check tool: https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/label-check
• Ask for certificate number and verify
• Red Flags:
 - Expired certificate
 - Certificate issued to a different company

# Step 2: Legal and Business Verification

• MERSIS (Turkish Registry): https://mersis.gtb.gov.tr/
• ImportGenius, Panjiva, Kompass (shipment data)
• Europages, Alibaba (verified suppliers)
• LinkedIn and Google Maps for presence verification

# Step 3: Request and Analyze Documentation

• GOTS/OEKO-TEX certificates
• Business license
• Company bank info
• Past buyer references

# Step 4: Online Presence Audit

Check the following platforms:
• Website – Contact info, product range, T&Cs
• LinkedIn – Employee activity
• Instagram – Comments and branding consistency
• Trustpilot – Reviews and reputation

# Red Flags to Watch For

• No certificate numbers
• Inconsistent company names
• High-pressure sales tactics
• PO Box or no valid address
• Generic email domains like Gmail

# Bonus Tools

• Google Reverse Image Search / TinEye – Detect stolen images
• PDF Metadata Reader – Spot forged documents
• Whois Lookup – Verify domain registration

# Checklist Summary

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Task | Tools / Resources |
| Verify GOTS certificate | https://global-standard.org/public-database |
| Verify OEKO-TEX label | https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/label-check |
| Legal registration in Turkey | https://mersis.gtb.gov.tr/ |
| Search import/export history | ImportGenius, Panjiva, Kompass |
| Confirm online presence | LinkedIn, Google Maps, Website |
| Request sample and business docs | Email directly |
| Validate certificate authenticity | PDF metadata tools, official databases |