



Green Button 2.0 – the government-run certification label, becoming even more comprehensive

The government-run Green Button label certifies textiles produced in a socially and ecologically sustainable manner that are sold by companies that act responsibly. The Green Button combines requirements for corporate due diligence processes with requirements for sustainable production. The latter are verified via recognised certification labels. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is the owner of the Green Button certification scheme.

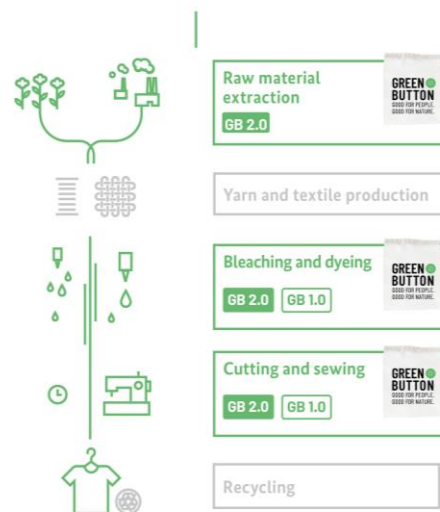
THE GREEN BUTTON AT A GLANCE



Adherence to corporate due diligence processes
evaluated in five core elements for the Green Button:



Requirements for production
verified via credible certification labels for the following production stages:





Which companies can apply for the Green Button?

The Green Button is aimed at all companies that manufacture and/or sell textile goods. This includes both manufacturers of such goods and trading companies that sell third-party products as their own brands.



Which products can be labelled with the Green Button?

In principle, all textiles or products made of textile material that consist of approved fibres and materials and are labelled with the required recognised certification labels can be labelled with the Green Button. Toys and fabrics are excluded. You can find a detailed list [here](#).

What added value does the Green Button offer?

- **The government sets the requirements:** This creates trust and reliability. Independent certification bodies monitor compliance.
- **Being prepared:** In the long term, taking responsibility is being regulated nationally and at the EU level. Licensed Green Button companies systematically address the issues that are also embedded in the German Supply Chain Due Act (LkSG).
- **Improved risk management:** The Green Button helps with systematic risk management along textile supply chains and thereby improves crisis resilience.
- **Orientation in the purchasing of sustainable textiles:** With the Green Button, companies make their existing commitment visible to consumers.
- **Sustainable public and private procurement:** The Green Button can be integrated into the procurement process in various ways. The Secretariat advises procurement agencies with a wide range of support services.
- **Media presence, campaign work, and advertising measures** actively promote awareness of the Green Button – the licensed companies also benefit from this and can therefore make their sustainability commitment better known.



Which stages of the supply chain are covered by the Green Button?

Corporate due diligence processes apply to the **entire supply chain(s)** of a company – so does the Green Button. For example, a risk analysis must cover all stages of the textile supply chain.

The Green Button requirements for production, of which companies provide proof via recognised certification labels, were expanded for the Green Button 2.0: In the introductory phase, the Green Button covered the production stages of „cutting and sewing“ (**garment manufacturing**) as well as „bleaching and dyeing“ (**wet processes**). With the [Green Button Standard 2.0](#), requirements for **fibres/materials** have now also been added.



Who verifies whether the requirements are met?

Independent auditors from authorised certification bodies verify compliance with the Green Button requirements. For this purpose, they must undergo an intensive and comprehensive training programme with a final examination.

Is the Green Button limited to Germany?

No, the Green Button is a global certification label. The Green Button can be used outside Germany as well as by companies from abroad. There is also an English logo variant of the label - the registered trademark Green Button. This version can be used by companies especially in non-German speaking countries.

Green Button 2.0

The certification label was launched in September 2019, and since then the requirements of the Green Button have been developed further, supported by an independent expert advisory board and by means of two public consultations. The new 2.0 version of the standard came into effect on **1 August 2022**.

What are the most important changes?

in requirements for corporate due diligence processes:

- **Important steps towards living wages**
- **Risk analysis covers the entire supply chain**
- **Broader embedding of due diligence processes in the company**
- **Greater involvement of local people**
- **Sustainability targets for senior management**

in requirements for production:

- **For the first time, requirements for the material and fibres used**
- **Further development and adaptation of existing requirements at the level of garment manufacturing and wet processes**
- **No exemption for company-owned certification labels and production in the EU**

Since when has the Green Button 2.0 been in effect?

Since 1 August 2022, only audits according to the Green Button 2.0 are conducted for new companies. For previously licensed companies, a transitional period until 31 July 2023 applies, within which they must complete the examination according to the 2.0 version of the standard.

For the fulfilment of the requirements for production, a transitional period applies for all companies until 31 July 2024. This means that the requirements for production processes according to the Green Button 2.0 will only be binding for all companies after 31 July 2024. Until then, articles can continue to be produced and labelled according to the Green Button 1.0.

For more information, please visit our website at www.green-button.de.

Please feel free to visit our periodic [information webinar](#).

You have questions about the Green Button or are interested in a cooperation?

Contact us via our [form](#).

As a company, are you interested in the certification label and would like to receive further information?

Submit a [non-binding application](#).

We look forward to hearing from you!
Your Green Button Team