

WWW.SANE-STANDARD.COM



SANE STANDARD



VERSION 3 | RELEASE DATE: 01.08.2023

SUSTAINABLE IDENTITY UG  
Grossbeerenstrasse 33, 10965 Berlin GERMANY



---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| PRINCIPLES  | > P. 3  |
| MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS   | > P. 5  |
| 1. MATERIAL CHOICE  | > P. 5  |
| 1.1. Use of approved material   | > P. 5  |
| 1.2. Limitations related to the percentage of non-approved materials  | > P. 5  |
| 2. CHEMICAL CONTENT   | > P. 7  |
| PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS   | > P. 8  |
| 3. CHEMICAL INPUT & OUTPUT  | > P. 9  |
| 3.1. Chemical input   | > P. 9  |
| 3.2. Wastewaters  | > P. 9  |
| 4. DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS  | > P. 10 |
| 5. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  | > P. 13 |
| 6. TRACEABILITY   | > P. 14 |
| 6.1. Chain of custody   | > P. 14 |
| 6.2. Transparency   | > P. 14 |
| 7. PAYMENT OF A LIVING WAGE   | > P. 15 |
| LOGO AND CLAIM USE  | > P. 16 |
| CERTIFICATION PROCESS   | > P. 19 |
| ANNEXES   |         |
| ANNEX 1 ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS                                       | > P. 22 |
| ANNEX 2 APPROVED MATERIAL LIST  | > P. 24 |
| ANNEX 3 NOTE ON CO <sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS, ENERGY & WATER MEASUREMENT | > P. 28 |
| ANNEX 4 DEFINITIONS   | > P. 29 |
| ANNEX 5 CHANGES FROM STANDARD V.2. AND V.3.                           | > P. 30 |





---

## PRINCIPLES

---

### WHAT IS SANE

SANE is a holistic certification for sustainable fashion products.

Its purpose is to enable conscious fashion brands to communicate their sustainable commitment in a verified, credible, and desirable manner. Parallely, it allows consumers to instantly recognize ethically made products and show their positive engagement to their peers.

SANE Standard is a set of requirements and characteristics a product must fulfill to be certified SANE.

### WHAT SUSTAINABILITY MEANS TO US

Sustainability does not have a universal and established definition. In fact, producing clothes or footwear will never be 100% sustainable because it will always require the use of water and energy along with other resources and will inevitably generate some waste.

The baseline to set up this standard was to define the threshold under which a production process causes irrevocable damage to the environment, the workers, or the consumers' health.

Certified products must meet this threshold in all areas covered by the standard because it would be *inSANE* only to protect the planet while exploiting people or vice versa.

### WHAT DOES THE STANDARD COVER

SANE requirements cover the life cycle phases of a product where the environmental or human impacts are the most harmful and where single brands or production facilities are technically able to implement more sustainable processing methods.

The standard focuses, in particular, on the choice of low-impact materials, the chemical content of final products, the environmental footprint of the processing stages, and the working conditions and remuneration of workers.

The requirements are high but also realistic and achievable for large-scale fashion brands. Such production standards are already implemented by many successful companies.

### SANE SCOPE

The standard is designed for products made and sold around the world.

The final certified products can be garments, fashion accessories, footwear, and home textiles. This list might be extended in the future.





SANE certification is suitable for small, medium, and large companies from both a practical and financial point of view.

Companies can certify only a part of their collections or production if not all of their products fulfill SANE's requirements.

To ensure the credibility of the standard, production facilities need to be certified by an accredited third-party certifier unless they can prove compliance with SANE requirements upfront.

When local regulations in place have higher sustainability standards, those shall prevail; in other cases, SANE requirements apply.

To avoid unnecessary duplication of audits, SANE recognizes and accepts selected credible existing standards (see Annex 1).

It has taken 5 years of research and consultations with hundreds of the industry's stakeholders to set the first standard version. This third version was released after learning from the past year's certifications. (see changes from V2 to V3 in Annex 5)

The standard will be reviewed on a regular basis in order to meet the highest achievable level of sustainability consistently.



---

# MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

---

## 1. MATERIAL CHOICE

---

### CONTEXT

---

Material choice accounts for a large part of a fashion brand's environmental footprint. The production of material can have severe impacts in terms of water, energy, and land use, as well as air emissions and waste. Choosing sustainable material significantly reduces the environmental footprint of a product.

SANE is also mindful of the market reality and technical constraints. Products might need specific components which don't yet have an environmental-friendly equivalent to meet market standards for quality, elasticity, strength, or aesthetics.

### SANE REQUIREMENTS

---

#### 1.1. USE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

SANE-certified products must be made of SANE Approved Material (see Annex 2). Depending on the type of product, the following minimum percentages of Approved Material apply:

##### **GARMENTS AND ACCESSORIES:**

- **At least 90%** of the total product weight, including accessories, must be made of Approved Material.

##### **FOOTWEAR:**

- **PART A** - includes the upper, toe box, vamp, tongue, laces, eyelets, counter, as well as any other material making up the upper part of the shoe:  
**A minimum of 80%** of the weight of the whole part A must be made of Approved Material.
- **PART B** - includes the outsole, midsole, insole, heel, as well as any other material making up the sole of the shoe:  
**A minimum of 50%** of the weight of the whole part B must be made of Approved Material.

#### 1.2. LIMITATIONS RELATED TO THE PERCENTAGE OF NON-APPROVED MATERIALS

- The percentage of non-approved material shall not contain any of the below materials:
  - Material from threatened animals, plants, and timber
  - Mulesed wool
  - Angora hair

---

## SCOPE

---

This requirement applies equally to products made of blended material or/and made of several materials.

*For example, the following products would be eligible:*

- *a product made of 2 different materials: linen and conventional cotton, representing respectively 90% and 10% of the product's total weight*
- *a product made of a single material: a blend of 45% recycled wool, 45% organic cotton, and 10% nylon*

---

## ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

For materials marketed with specific sustainable properties (such as “recycled”, “organic”, “regenerative”, “responsible”, “bio-based”, etc.), proof of such property needs to be provided.

The Approved Material List in Annex 2 indicates which certifications are recognized by SANE to be used as proof of content.

The minimum percentage of Approved Material content applies to the entire product, independently of the material certifications.

*For instance, a fully GRS-certified material is not necessarily made of 100% recycled content, it can contain 50% or sometimes less recycled content.*

*If a garment is made of 100% GRS-certified material, it must be made of 90% recycled content to be eligible for SANE certification.*

In addition to the Accepted Certifications, the sustainable property of materials can always be proven by a SANE trade certificate.

## 2. CHEMICAL CONTENT

---

### CONTEXT

---

Chemicals are used extensively in the production of garments and footwear, and when they reach the stores, they still contain harmful substances. Consumers can be exposed to these hazardous substances through skin contact, inhalation, or unintentional ingestion of dust released from the textile.

The substances in the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) published by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) are considered harmful to human or environmental health.

---

### SANE REQUIREMENT

---

- To be certified SANE, product materials, as well as the final product, shall be free of substances listed on the ECHA Candidate List<sup>1</sup> in concentrations above the threshold specified by the REACH regulation<sup>2</sup>.

---

### SCOPE

---

This requirement applies to all components of a product and/or to the final product.

---

### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

SANE Certificate; proof of compliance with REACH regulation; laboratory test; Blue Angel; Blue sign; Cradle to Cradle: Textiles - Platinum / Material Health Certificate - Platinum; EU Ecolabel; Fairtrade Textile Standard; GOTS; Green Screen Certified™; IVN Certified BEST; LWG Manufacturer Gold Certified; Nordic Swan; Oeko-Tex® STeP; Oeko-Tex® Standard 100; Oeko-Tex® Leather Standard; Textile Exchange: GRS, RAS, RDS, RWS.

- See table in Annex 1. -

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1539328475031&uri=CELEX:32018R1513>

---

## PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS

---

In addition to the Material Requirements, SANE Standard includes environmental and social requirements throughout the production of the materials and the final product.

- The different components of the product shall be manufactured in facilities holding a SANE Scope certificate or an accepted certification.  
This applies to the proportion of Approved Material specified in 1.1. The percentage of non-approved material is not subject to this criterion.
- The final product needs to be manufactured in a facility holding a SANE Scope certificate.
- The following requirements apply to both the facilities involved in material manufacturing and those involved in the final product manufacturing, with the exception of Requirement 7., which applies exclusively to the final product manufacturing.





## 3. CHEMICAL INPUT & OUTPUT

---

### CONTEXT

---

Chemicals are used in almost every step throughout the production of a garment and can be extremely harmful to consumers, workers, and the environment.

Water pollution from the fashion industry is a significant environmental issue. Textiles treatment plants alone contribute to around 20% of industrial water pollution<sup>3</sup>. SANE ensures that the production of certified items does not add to this harmful pollution, which negatively impacts aquatic life and the health of millions living near affected river banks.

---

### SANE REQUIREMENTS

---

#### 3.1. CHEMICAL INPUT

- The substances listed in the ZDHC's Manufacturing Restricted Substance List<sup>4</sup> have been proven to be dangerous and should not be used during the processing stages, including printing and finishing.

#### 3.2. WASTEWATERS

- Wastewater from all wet processing facilities shall be treated before being released into the environment. The applicable local regulations shall be fulfilled. Where local requirements are lower, and effluent water treatment is not managed collectively by local authorities, the limit values of the Foundational Level of ZDHC's Wastewater Guidelines<sup>5</sup> shall prevail.
- 

### SCOPE

---

These requirements apply to every stage of materials and product processing using chemicals.

---

### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

SANE Scope Certificate; proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE; Blue Angel; Blue sign; Cradle to Cradle - Textiles - Platinum; EU Ecolabel; GOTS; IVN Certified BEST; LWG Manufacturer Gold Certified; Nordic Swan; Oeko-Tex® STeP; Textile Exchange: GRS.

- See table in Annex 1 -

---

<sup>3</sup> Source: World Bank - How Much Do Our Wardrobes Cost to the Environment? 2019

<sup>4</sup> <https://mrsl.roadmaptozero.com>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.roadmaptozero.com/output#guidelines>

## 4. DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS

---

### CONTEXT

---

*"There is no beauty in the finest cloth if it makes hunger and unhappiness," said Mahatma Gandhi.*

Unfortunately, the fashion industry has long been infamous for its abuse of worker rights. In addition to addressing environmental concerns, it is crucial for SANE also to guarantee fair labour practices and ensure the well-being and rights of workers involved in the production of certified articles.

SANE requirements for working conditions follow the International Labour Organization conventions and recommendations.

---

### SANE REQUIREMENTS

---

The facilities involved in the production of certified products must respect the rights and dignity of the workers by fulfilling the below requirements:

#### 4.1. DECENT WORKERS' REMUNERATION

- Wages and benefits paid for a standard working week shall, as a minimum, meet national legal standards<sup>6</sup> or industry benchmark standards<sup>7</sup>, whichever is higher.
- Deductions from wages as a disciplinary measure shall not be permitted.
- The hourly rate of workers paid per task, per piece, or under other non-regular employment contracts shall not be lower than the hourly rate of workers under regular employment doing similar tasks.

#### 4.2. CONTRACTING AND EMPLOYER RELATIONSHIP

- All workers shall be provided with a written and comprehensive contract in a language understandable for them outlining their wage conditions, social benefits, and method of payment before entering employment.
- Obligations to employees under international conventions, national law, and regulations concerning regular employment shall not be avoided through the use of short-term contracting (such as contract labour, casual labour, or day labour), subcontractors, or other labour relationships.

#### 4.3. NO FORCED LABOUR

- There shall be no forced, bonded, or involuntary prison labour.
- The employer shall not retain any deposit, property, or document, such as identity papers of the workers, and workers shall be free to leave their employer after reasonable notice.

#### 4.4. NO DISCRIMINATION OR VIOLENCE

---

<sup>6</sup> "National legal standard" also called "minimum legal wage": As per ILO definition is "the minimum amount of remuneration that an employer is required to pay wage earners for the work performed during a given period, which cannot be reduced by collective agreement or an individual contract". This amount is defined by the local authority.

<sup>7</sup> "Industry benchmark standards" also called "market wage": is the remuneration paid to workers in a specific geographical area for specific tasks. The market wage is different to the minimum wage. It is usually the wage rate that brings the demand and supply of labour into equilibrium.

- There shall be no discrimination at the workplace concerning hiring, compensation, access to training, promotion, termination, or retirement based on ethnic background, caste, religion, age, disability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, childbirth, family responsibility, disease, social origin union membership, political opinions or other similar factors.
- The company shall treat all personnel with dignity and respect. The organization shall not engage in or tolerate the use of corporal punishment, mental or physical coercion, sexual and other harassment, or verbal abuse of personnel. No harsh or inhumane treatment shall be allowed.

#### 4.5. NO CHILD LABOUR

- The minimum age for workers shall not be less than 15 and comply with the national minimum age for employment, or the age of completion of compulsory education, whichever of these is higher. If the local minimum is set at 14 years in accordance with developing country exceptions under ILO Convention 138, this lower age may apply.
- No person under the age of 18 shall be engaged in labour that is hazardous to their health, safety, or morals, including night work.

#### 4.6. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND THE RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

- Workers, without distinction, shall have the right to join or form trade unions of their own choosing and bargain collectively. The employer shall not interfere with or obstruct the formation of unions or collective bargaining.
- Workers' representatives shall not be discriminated against and shall be able to carry out their representative functions in the workplace.
- Where the right to freedom of association and/or collective bargaining is restricted under law, the employer shall facilitate, and not hinder, the development of alternative forms of independent and free workers' representation and negotiations.

#### 4.7. WORKING HOURS

- The company must comply with applicable legal and industry standards regarding working hours. In any case, workers should not be asked to work more than 48h per week on a regular basis.
- Workers shall be provided with at least one day off for every 7-day period.
- Overtime must be voluntary; paid at a premium rate no less than 125% of the regular rate per hour; not used on a regular basis and not exceeding 12h per week.

#### 4.8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The working environment shall be safe and hygienic, bearing in mind the prevailing knowledge of the industry and of any specific hazards.
- Systems shall be in place to detect, assess, avoid, and respond to potential threats to the health and safety of workers. Effective measures shall be taken to prevent workers from having accidents, injuries, or illnesses, arising from, associated with, or occurring during work.



- Where hazards remain after effective minimization or elimination of the causes of all hazards in the workplace environment, the organization shall provide personnel with appropriate personal protective equipment as needed at its own expense. In the event of a work-related injury, the organization shall provide first aid and assist the worker in obtaining follow-up medical treatment.
- Hazardous chemicals and other substances shall be managed appropriately.
- Workers shall receive regular and documented health and safety training, which shall be repeated for new or reassigned workers.
- All personnel shall have the right to remove themselves from imminent serious danger without seeking permission from the organization.
- Access to clean toilet facilities and potable water, and, if appropriate, sanitary facilities for food storage shall be provided.
- Accommodation, where provided, shall be clean, safe, and adequately ventilated, and shall have access to clean toilet facilities and potable water.

#### 4.9. WORKERS COMPLAINT MECHANISM

- There should be an anonymous complaint mechanism in place to allow workers to be heard without putting their job at risk.

---

#### SCOPE

---

These requirements are applicable to all units involved in the material and product manufacturing.

---

#### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

SANE Scope Certification; Proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE; Blue Angel; Fair Labor Association; Fairtrade Textile Standard; Fair Wage Certified; Fair Wear Foundation; GOTS; IVN Certified BEST; Nordic Swan; Oeko-Tex® STeP; SAI/SA8000; Textile Exchange: GRS; WFTO.  
- See table in Annex 1 -





## 5. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

---

### CONTEXT

---

SANE requirements and certification process are rigorous in order to be credible. The involvement of key company personnel is a critical success factor.

---

### SANE REQUIREMENTS

---

- There should be a system in place to monitor performance to ensure compliance with SANE requirements or equivalent accepted standards and corrective action when necessary.
  - The management should identify the risks related to the unit operations and the subcontractors.
  - The employees and subcontractors should be informed of SANE requirements or equivalent accepted standards.
  - Sufficient documentation should be available to prove compliance.
  - At least one employee of the company shall be designated as a contact person for SANE compliance-related matters.
- 

### SCOPE

---

These requirements apply to all units involved in the material and product manufacturing.

---

### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

Not Applicable



## 6. TRACEABILITY

---

### CONTEXT

---

Traceability, transparency, and a clear chain of custody are important components of SANE requirements to ensure the credibility of the claim on final products.

---

### SANE REQUIREMENTS

---

#### 6.1. CHAIN OF CUSTODY

SANE uses a segregated chain of custody:

- SANE Approved Materials and/or certified products must be identified and stored separately in all production facilities.
- Facilities must keep comprehensive documentation and records of the origin, type, incoming quantities, processing, flow within the unit, outgoing quantities, and destination of Approved Material or certified products.
- Facilities must be able to provide material traceability documentation proving compliance with SANE Material Requirements.

#### 6.2. TRANSPARENCY

- All subcontractors involved in the manufacturing of SANE Approved Materials and/or certified products shall be disclosed and shall comply with SANE requirements and be audited if required.
- 

### SCOPE

---

These requirements apply to all units involved in the material and product manufacturing.

---

### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

SANE Scope Certificate; Blue sign; Fairtrade Textile Standard; GOTS; IVN Certified BEST; Nordic Swan; Textile Exchange: GRS;

## 7. PAYMENT OF A LIVING WAGE (final product manufacturer only)

---

### CONTEXT

---

Fair working conditions are a crucial component of SANE Standard, and it takes it one step further. Decent working conditions only make sense if the remuneration of labour allows workers to fulfill their basic needs. The concept of a Living Wage<sup>8</sup> is the most widely accepted definition for “a remuneration covering basic needs.”

---

### SANE REQUIREMENTS

---

Manufacturers of final SANE-certified products must comply with the following requirements in addition to the previous ones:

- Wages and benefits paid should always be sufficient to meet the basic needs of workers and their families, including some discretionary income.
- The local living wage shall be calculated based on the Anker Methodology<sup>9</sup> to quantify the basic needs in remuneration equivalence.
- Any gap between the living wage and the workers' remuneration will have to be compensated to fill the Wage Gap<sup>10</sup>. This compensation cannot lead to the reduction of workers' remuneration.

In some regions, the Market Wage<sup>8</sup> for apparel and footwear workers is far below the Living Wage. Where it is not economically viable for an employer to pay a Living Wage to the workers, a compensation mechanism can be accepted.

See SANE Guideline for Payment of a Living Wage: <https://sane-standard.com/living-wage-guideline/>

---

### SCOPE

---

For apparel production, this requirement applies to production facilities where fabric marking, cutting, assembling, stitching, ironing, and embroidery are handled. For footwear production facilities, where material cutting, assembly, lasting, soling, and finishing take place.

Given the market reality, this requirement is innovative and progressive. It will first be applied to the final production step and subsequently expanded to encompass the entire supply chain.

---

### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

SANE Scope Certificate; proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE; Fairtrade Textile Standard; Fair Wage Certified. - See table in Annex 1 -

---

<sup>8</sup> As per the Global Living Wage Coalition definition: “A Living Wage is the sufficient remuneration received for a standard workweek by a worker to afford a decent standard of living. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs, including a provision for unexpected events”.

<sup>9</sup> Anker methodology: [www.globallivingwage.org/about/anker-methodology](http://www.globallivingwage.org/about/anker-methodology)

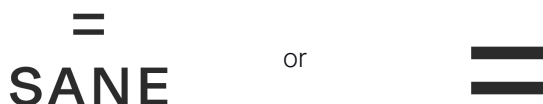
<sup>10</sup> Wage Gap: the difference between the local Living Wage and actual workers' remuneration. Workers' Remuneration calculation shall include social benefits covering essential needs as per the Living Wage definition.

## LOGO AND CLAIMS USE

The purpose of this section is to clarify how, where, and when the SANE logo can be used and which claim can be made about the certification.

### SANE LOGO

SANE logo means the following:



### SANE CLAIMS

SANE claims mean any statement related to SANE Standard, certification process, or a certified product.

#### PRODUCTION UNITS

Production units granted a SANE Scope Certificate can communicate about their certification and use the SANE logo and claims for marketing purposes. The logo design file will be provided by the authorized certifier issuing the certificate.

#### MATERIAL

Material included in a Scope Certificate Material List of a production unit can be promoted as “certified SANE” by the Scope certificate holder.

#### FINAL PRODUCTS

Any representation of the SANE logo, part of the SANE logo, or claim about the SANE Standard in relation to a product can exclusively be related to a product fully certified SANE. This means only products included in a SANE Product Certificate. Any product-related representation of SANE logo must be accompanied by SANE brand's reference number, SANE's URL, and the brand QR code provided by SANE (leading to the brand page on SANE's website).

### PRODUCT LABELLING

#### SANE CERTIFICATION HANGTAG

SANE can provide hangtags for certified products with an individualized QR code and product reference.

Alternatively, SANE can provide the hangtag design file to print.

The QR code brings consumers to a product page on the SANE website. Product pages show essential product details: reference, name, color, origin, certificate number, etc. On each SANE product page, there is a link redirecting consumers to the corresponding brand e-shop page.





Brands can also use the SANE logo and claims on their own hang tags, exclusively on tags attached to certified products and in compliance with SANE CLAIMS requirements.



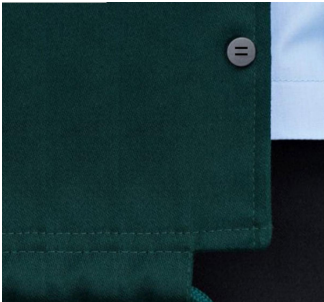



The logo design file will be provided by the SANE to brand owners of products certified SANE.

## LOGO ON CLOTHES

SANE's underlying concept is the belief that the fashion industry would benefit from consumers showing their honest effort to be more sustainable. SANE encourages brands to feature the SANE logo on the exterior of certified products, making it a globally recognized symbol of conscious production and consumption.

However, SANE also respects those who wish to remain discreet and don't want to show their commitment externally. Therefore, there are 3 different levels of visibility of the SANE logo on clothes.

## LEVELS OF VISIBILITY

| HIDDEN   | DISCREET   | CLEAR  |
|--|--|--|
| Inside label   |  displayed externally   |  <b>SANE</b> displayed externally   |
| SANE label can be placed inside the product in color or monochrome. Alternatively, the SANE logo can be placed on the brand's labels. SANE label and logo design files will be provided by SANE after certification. | SANE "=" sign can be used on the exterior of certified products in any colour or size. The only restriction is to use the exact "=" sign as in the design file provided by SANE. | The SANE logo can be used on the exterior of certified products in any colour or size. The only restriction is to use the exact logo as in the design file provided by SANE. |
|   |   |   |
|   |   |   |

## PRODUCTS PACKAGING

The SANE logo or any statement related to SANE certification shall not be printed on or affixed to any reusable packaging material (e.g. box, bag, hangers).





## COMMUNICATION MATERIAL (WEB, ADVERTISING, SOCIAL MEDIA...)

The SANE logo or claim shall always be associated with specific certified products, materials, or units and not with the entire brand.

If the SANE logo or claim appears in a general communication about the brand (i.e. sustainability section, about us, certifications), it must be clearly specified whether only certain products or all products are certified SANE.

The SANE logo or claim shall not be associated with another brand logo.

## MISUSE OF CLAIM

All claims or use of the SANE logo shall be honest, shall not be misleading, and can be proved through certification documents.

SANE will use legal action to stop and remedy unauthorized or misleading claims related to SANE.



---

# CERTIFICATION PROCESS

---

To be fully certified SANE, a product needs:

- To be made of material complying with Material Requirements 1 to 6;
- Made in a production unit holding a SANE Scope certificate (Requirements 3 to 7), and
- Hold a SANE Product Certificate.

---

## PRE-ASSESSMENT

---

### 1 > PRE-ASSESSMENT

FREE ONLINE PRE-ASSESSMENT [~20 min]

The applicant fills in a free online questionnaire to determine if a product/unit is eligible for SANE certification. -> [Link to pre-assessment questionnaires.](#)

### 2 > PRE-ASSESSMENT REPORT by SANE

SANE assesses if the company products and/or manufacturing unit(s) are eligible. SANE may request additional documentation or proof of compliance during this stage.

SANE then issues a report including eligibility, certification steps, estimated cost, and timeline. The report also specifies which manufacturing units need an online, partial, or complete audit and enclose a list of accredited third-party certifiers for the region.

---

## MATERIAL ASSESSMENT

---

### 3 > MATERIAL PRODUCTION AUDIT

Unless the company can prove during the pre-assessment that the material fulfills SANE requirements, the material manufacturer(s) must be audited by an accredited third-party certifier.

The audit can be on-site, virtual, or based on documentation, depending on the proof of compliance provided during the pre-assessment.

If the audit is successful, the unit will be granted a SANE Scope certificate. A SANE Scope Certificate proves that the holder is authorized to produce SANE-certified products. It doesn't mean all goods produced in its facilities are automatically certified SANE.

SANE Scope Certificate is valid for one year. After 12 months, a control audit shall take place to reassess SANE requirements.

For Scope Certificates based on another accepted certification, the SANE scope certificate has the same validity date as the certification of reference.

### 4 > MATERIAL APPROVAL

If the applicant can provide sufficient proof that the material complies with SANE requirements (e.g.,: SANE Scope Certificate or other accepted certification), such material is approved to be used to make SANE certified product.

---

## MANUFACTURER ASSESSMENT

---

### 5 > MANUFACTURER AUDIT

Unless the company can prove during the pre-assessment that the final product manufacturer fulfills SANE requirements, the manufacturer(s) must be audited by a third-party certifier.

### 6 > MANUFACTURER SCOPE CERTIFICATE

If the outcome of the audit is successful, the manufacturer will be granted a SANE Scope certificate.

Alternatively, if sufficient proof of compliance is provided during the pre-assessment, a SANE Scope certificate will be issued without audit.

SANE Scope Certificate is valid for one year. After 12 months, a control audit shall take place to reassess SANE requirements.

For Scope Certificates based on another accepted certification, the SANE scope certificate has the same validity date as the certification of reference.

---

## SANE PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

---

### 7 > PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

If sufficient proof showing that the product material and manufacturing comply with SANE requirements are provided, the product can be certified SANE.

The applicant will receive a SANE Product Certificate following the payment of the corresponding fee<sup>11</sup>.

The Product Certificate is valid for one year. After one year, upon completion of volume reconciliation of the certified products production, the certificate can be extended if the production conditions remain unchanged.

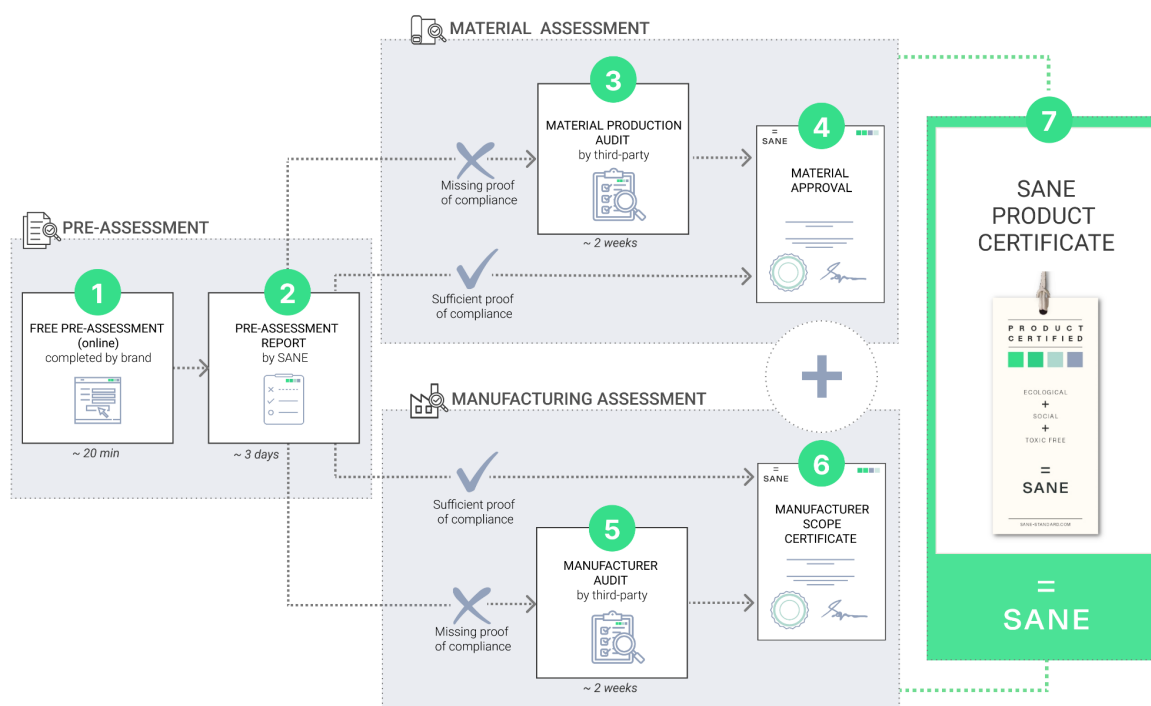
For the products assessment and the payment of the certification fees, it is possible to combine products by Product Group if they are made of the same material, sourced from the same material supplier, and produced in the same facilities.

Upon request and a rapid assessment by SANE, products belonging to the same Product Group can be added to a Product Certificate after its release.

---

<sup>11</sup> See: <https://sane-standard.com/SANE-Certification-Costs-2023>

# CERTIFICATION PROCESS MAP



# ANNEX 1 - ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

To avoid unnecessary duplication of audits, SANE recognizes and accepts selected credible existing standards. Material or facilities holding such certification will be exempt from auditing for the corresponding requirement.



























If a material or a facility holds an accepted certification covering all SANE requirements, it can be certified SANE without additional audits.

If some of the SANE requirements are not covered by any of the material or facility certification(s), a partial audit will be required to assess those specific areas.

## MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

| 1. Material Choice   |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| See SANE Approved Material List - Annex 2 or <a href="https://sane-standard.com/approved-material-list/">https://sane-standard.com/approved-material-list/</a> |  | ✓ |
| 2. Chemical content  |  |   |
| <b>SANE Certificate</b>  |  | ✓ |
| Proof of REACH compliance  |  | ✓ |
| Laboratory test  |  | ✓ |
| Blue Angel   |  | ✓ |
| Blue sign  |  | ✓ |
| Cradle to Cradle - Textile - Platinum  |  | ✓ |
| C2C - Material Health Certificate - Platinum   |  | ✓ |
| EU Ecolabel - Textiles   |  | ✓ |
| Fairtrade Textile Standard   |  | ✓ |
| GOTS   |  | ✓ |
| GreenScreen Certified™   |  | ✓ |
| IVN Certified BEST   |  | ✓ |
| LWG Manufacturer Gold Certified  |  | ✓ |
| Nordic Swan  |  | ✓ |
| Oeko-Tex® STeP   |  | ✓ |
| Oeko-Tex® Standard 100   |  | ✓ |
| Oeko-Tex® Leather Standard   |  | ✓ |
| TE - Global Recycled Standard (GRS)  |  | ✓ |
| TE - Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)   |  | ✓ |
| TE - Responsible Down Standard (RDS)   |  | ✓ |
| TE - Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)   |  | ✓ |

## PRODUCTION FACILITIES

| ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS   | SANE REQUIREMENTS   |   |                            |   |   |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|---|---|
|   | 3.<br>Chemical<br>input & output  | 4.<br>Decent<br>working<br>conditions   | 5.<br>Management<br>System | 6.<br>Traceability  | 7.<br>Living wage<br>(final product<br>manufacturing)                               |
| <b>SANE Scope Certificate</b>          |    |    | N/A                        |    |  |
| Proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE   |    |    |                            |   |  |
| Blue Angel                             |    |    |                            |   |   |
| Blue sign                              |    |   |                            |    |   |
| Cradle to Cradle - Textile - Platinum  |    |   |                            |   |   |
| EU Ecolabel - Textiles                 |    |   |                            |   |   |
| Fair Labor Association                 |   |    |                            |   |   |
| Fairtrade Textile Standard             |   |    |                            |    |  |
| Fair Wage Certified                    |   |    |                            |   |  |
| Fair Wear Foundation                 |   |  |                            |   |   |
| GOTS                                 |  |  |                            |  |   |
| IVN Certified BEST                   |  |  |                            |  |   |
| LWG Manufacturer Gold Certified      |  |   |                            |   |   |
| Nordic Swan                          |  |  |                            |  |   |
| Oeko-Tex® STeP                       |  |  |                            |   |   |
| SAI/SA8000                           |   |  |                            |   |   |
| TE - Global Recycled Standard (GRS)  |  |  |                            |  |   |
| WFTO                                 |   |  |                            |   |   |

---

## ANNEX 2 - APPROVED MATERIAL LIST

---

The SANE Approved Material List has been elaborated by sustainability experts throughout many years of research on the measured environmental impact of fibers and materials most commonly used in the fashion industry. It takes into account prevailing benchmarks<sup>12</sup> and scientific studies<sup>13</sup>, industry recognition, availability, and scalability of each material as well as credible certifications<sup>14</sup> and laboratory testing when relevant.

The list is designed to evolve with the market sustainability standards and will be submitted to multi-stakeholders for periodic reviews.

The list of Approved Materials can be found at: <https://sane-standard.com/approved-material-list/>.

---

<sup>12</sup> Benchmark of reference: *Kompass Nachhaltigkeit*; *Siegel Klarheit*; *Standards Map* by ITC; *Label Checker* by CIR; *Textile Exchange. Preferred Fibers Market Reports until 2022 and Portfolio Options*; *Made-By. 2018. Environmental Benchmark for fibres*; *Higg Index MSI*; *Footwear Environmental Footprint Guide* by FDRA; *Material Index* by CFDA.

<sup>13</sup> Studies of reference: Rex, D., Okcabol, S. and Roos, S., RISE, 2019. *The environmental impact of the textile and clothing industry.* N. Šajn, 2019. *Possible sustainable fibers on the market and their technical properties. "Fiber Bible" part 1 Report.*, Stockholm, Sweden; Sandin, G., Roos, S. & Johansson, M., 2018. *Environmental impact of textile fibers – what we know and what we don't know. "Fiber Bible" part 2. D2.1.2.1 Report.*, Stockholm, Sweden; Laitala, K., Grimstad Klepp, I., Henry, B., 2018. *Does Use Matter? Comparison of Environmental Impacts of Clothing Based on Fiber Type*; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2010. *The role and business case for existing and emerging fibres in sustainable clothing*, London, UK.

<sup>14</sup> Accepted Certification acronyms meaning: GRS: Global Recycle Standard; GOTS: Global Organic Textile Standard; OCS: Organic Cotton Standard; FSC: Forest Stewardship Council; RWS: Responsible Wool Standard; LWG: Leather Working Group; RCS: Recycled Claim Standard; RDS: Responsible Down Standard; ROC: Regenerative Organic Certified;



# SANE APPROVED MATERIAL LIST

## FOR GARMENTS, ACCESSORIES AND UPPER PART OF FOOTWEAR (PART A)



### NATURAL FIBERS

#### APPROVED MATERIALS

#### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

RECYCLED COTTON

*GRS*

ORGANIC COTTON

*GOTS, OCS, bioRe*

REGENERATIVE COTTON

*ROC*

OTHER APPROVED COTTON

*Fairtrade Certified Cotton*

LINEN

-

HEMP

-

RAMIE

-

NETTLE

-

PINEAPPLE FIBER

-

BANANA FIBER (ABACÁ and BANANA PRODUCTION WASTES)

-

CORK

-

JUTE

-

COCONUT FIBER

-

KAPOK

-

WOOD FIBER (MECHANICALLY EXTRACTED)

*FSC*



### ANIMAL FIBERS

#### APPROVED MATERIALS

#### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

RECYCLED WOOL

*GRS*

APPROVED WOOL

*RWS, ZQ, SustainaWOOL GOLD*

ORGANIC WOOL

*GOTS, OCS*

REGENERATIVE WOOL

*ZQRX*

SCRAP WOOL

*SANE Trade Certificate*

ALPACA

-



|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| APPROVED CASHMERE | <i>RWS, Sustainable Cashmere Standard, GOTS</i>     |
| RECYCLED CASHMERE | <i>GRS</i>  |
| ORGANIC SILK      | <i>GOTS</i>   |
| APPROVED LEATHER  | <i>LWG Gold, IVN Naturleder, Blue Angel Leather</i> |
| RECYCLED LEATHER  | <i>RCS 100, GRS</i>                                 |
| APPROVED DOWN     | <i>RDS</i>  |
| RECYCLED DOWN     | <i>GRS</i>  |



## SEMI-SYNTHETIC FIBERS

### APPROVED MATERIALS

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| LYOCELL                                  | <i>FSC</i>          |
| APPROVED VISCOSE                         | <i>FSC</i>          |
| SEAWEED FIBER                            | -                   |
| MYCELIUM LEATHER                         | -                   |
| REGENERATED FIBERS FROM RECYCLED TEXTILE | <i>GRS; RSC 100</i> |
| REGENERATED FIBERS FROM ORGANIC WASTES   | <i>GRS; RSC 100</i> |



## SYNTHETIC

### APPROVED MATERIALS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| RPET - RECYCLED POLYESTER (mechanically and chemically) | <i>GRS</i>   |
| RECYCLED POLYAMIDE (recycled nylon)                     | <i>GRS</i>   |
| BIO-BASED LEATHER ALTERNATIVE FROM WASTE MATERIAL       | <i>USDA Biobased Certification, DIN-Geprüft Biobased or OK biobased + RCS 100 or GRS</i> |



## UP-CYCLED MATERIAL

### APPROVED MATERIALS

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| PRE-CONSUMER WASTE  | <i>SANE Trade Certificate</i> |
| POST-CONSUMER WASTE | <i>SANE Trade Certificate</i> |





---

## SANE APPROVED MATERIAL LIST FOR FOOTWEAR SOLE (PART B)

---

The below materials are authorized for the production of SANE-certified footwear soles in addition to the above list.



### PLANT-BASED MATERIAL

#### APPROVED MATERIALS

#### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

NATURAL RUBBER

---

FSC

---

RICE HUSK

---

-



### SYNTHETIC

#### APPROVED MATERIALS

#### ACCEPTED CERTIFICATIONS

---

RECYCLED EVA

---

GRS

---

RECYCLED RUBBER & RECYCLED CAR TYRES

---

GRS

---

UPCYCLED CAR TYRES

---

-

---

BIO-BASED FOAM AND THERMOPLASTICS

---

*USDA Biobased Certification, DIN-Geprüft  
Biobased or OK biobased*

The SANE Approved Material List shall not be shared or circulated without the accompanying SANE logo.



---

## ANNEX 3 - NOTE ON CO<sup>2</sup> EMISSIONS, ENERGY & WATER CONSUMPTION MEASUREMENT

---

The production of footwear and apparel requires significant amounts of energy throughout various stages of production, including fibre production, fabric manufacturing, dyeing processes, transportation, and distribution. The emission level largely depends on the type of machinery and processes used in a particular factory and the energy mix in the region where each production stage occurs. The fact that some factories use renewable energy and the distance between production stages also affect emissions volume.

The fashion industry is also a major consumer of freshwater. A huge quantity of freshwater is used for our clothes' dyeing and finishing processes. Also, cotton requires a significant amount of water to grow but is often cultivated in warm and dry areas, necessitating even more irrigation water.

The water needed to produce a single product is highly dependent on various factors, including the type of production processes and machinery used and whether the factories are recycling their industrial water. Additionally, the location of each stage of production can greatly impact water usage, as water stress and availability can vary significantly between regions.

Due to the complexity and the global nature of the fashion supply chain, using industry averages (secondary data) is not deemed a viable option to accurately measure a product's energy or water consumption and the carbon footprint of individual production processes. Therefore, an accurate calculation requires a professional life cycle analysis (LCA) using data from the actual facilities and supply chain (primary data). However, conducting a comprehensive LCA with verified primary data ranges from €4,000 to €8,000 per product. Given the large number of products that a brand releases each year, this cost may be unaffordable for many companies.

SANE recognizes the importance of the measurement of product energy consumption, carbon emission, and water usage. The material choice accounts for a large part of a fashion brand's environmental footprint; it is, therefore, one of the main criteria for a material to be included in SANE's Approved Materials List (see requirement 1.1).

Further calculation of carbon emission and water consumption, including manufacturing processes, transportation, distribution, post-purchase phase, and end-of-life, will also be included in SANE's requirements as soon as reliable data for specific production processes is available at a reasonable cost on a global scale.

---

## ANNEX 4 - DEFINITIONS

---

### Accredited third-party certifier

Certification body authorized by SANE to execute an audit and grant certification under the SANE Standard.

### Approved Material

An Approved Material is a material listed in SANE Approved Material List. The list is available in Annex 2 and at <https://sane-standard.com/approved-material-list/>.

### Facility / Production Unit

A site where a product or material is processed, manufactured, or transformed.

### Industry benchmark standards / Market Wage

The remuneration paid to workers in a specific geographical area for specific tasks. The market wage is different from the minimum wage. It is usually the wage rate that brings the demand and supply of labour into equilibrium.

### Living Wage

As per the Global Living Wage Coalition definition: "A Living Wage is the sufficient remuneration received for a standard workweek by a worker to afford a decent standard of living. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs, including a provision for unexpected events".

### National legal standard Wage / Minimum Legal Wage

As per ILO definition, the national minimum legal wage is "the minimum amount of remuneration that an employer is required to pay wage earners for the work performed during a given period, which cannot be reduced by collective agreement or an individual contract". This amount is defined by the local authority.

### Product Group

Refers to all products commercialized by the same company, made of the same material, sourced from the same material supplier, and produced in the same facilities.

### Subcontractor

Individual or entity providing processing or manufacturing services for another entity without taking legal ownership of the products.

### Wage Gap

Difference between the local living wage and actual workers' remuneration. In this context, the workers' remuneration calculation shall include social benefits covering essential needs as per the Living Wage definition.

### Worker

All hired labor personnel, including temporary, sub-contracted, and permanent workers.

---

## ANNEX 5 - CHANGES FROM STANDARD V.2. AND V.3.

---

In order to bring clarity to meet the market evolution and the needs of applicants, SANE has introduced the following changes from its Standard Version 2 and Version 3:

- Clarification of the terminology and description of the requirements.
- Clarification of the structure of the requirements and certification process

### 1.1 USE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

- Inclusion of specific requirements for footwear production
- Changes in the material list. See previous list at:  
<https://sane-standard.com/wp-content/uploads/SANE-APPROVED-MATERIAL-LIST-V.2-16.05.2022.pdf>

### 2. CHEMICAL CONTENT

- Separation of requirements for chemical content (2.) and chemical inputs (3.1.)
- Introduction of the following accepted certifications: SANE Certificate; laboratory test; Blue Angel; Cradle to Cradle: Material Health Certificate - Platinum; EU Ecolabel; Green Screen Certified™; IVN Certified BEST; LWG Manufacturer Gold Certified; Oeko-Tex® STeP; Oeko-Tex® Standard 100; Oeko-Tex® Leather Standard; Textile Exchange, RAS, RDS, RWS.
- Exclusion of the following accepted certifications: Oeko Tex® Eco Passport

### 3. CHEMICAL INPUT & OUTPUT

- Introduction of the following accepted certifications: SANE Scope Certificate; proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE; Blue Angel; EU Ecolabel; Fairtrade Textile Standard; IVN Certified BEST; LWG Manufacturer Gold Certified; Oeko-Tex® STeP.

### 4. DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS

- Introduction of the following accepted certifications: SANE Scope Certification; Proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE; Blue Angel; Fair Wage Certified; IVN Certified BEST; Nordic Swan; Oeko-Tex® STeP; Textile Exchange: GRS.
- Exclusion of the following accepted certifications: Oeko-tex Made In Green

### 6. TRACEABILITY

- Clarification of the chain of custody system
- Introduction of the following accepted certifications: SANE Scope Certificate; Blue sign; Fairtrade Textile Standard; GOTS; IVN Certified BEST; Nordic Swan; Textile Exchange: GRS;

### 7. PAYMENT OF A LIVING WAGE

- Dissociation of the Guideline for Living Wage payment from the Standard document
- Introduction of the following accepted certifications: SANE Scope Certificate; proof of compliance with local regulation if higher than SANE; Fairtrade Textile Standard;

### LOGO AND CLAIMS USE

- Removal of the obligation for certified product to carry SANE hangtag.
- Clarification of the claim requirements

### CERTIFICATION PROCESS

- Introduction of the pre-assessment
- Clarification of the process
- Dissociation of the certification from the Standard document. Change of the SANE fee structure.



© 2023 Copyright SUSTAINABLE IDENTITY UG.

Copyright

This publication is protected by copyright. Information or material from this publication may be reproduced in unaltered form for personal, non-commercial use.

All rights reserved. SANE and SANE logo are trademarks of SUSTAINABLE IDENTITY

Feedback and suggestions about SANE STANDARD can be sent to [info@sane-standard.com](mailto:info@sane-standard.com).  
SANE team will try to take them into account for the release of the next version of the standard.

