Traceability Checklist for Cotton & Textile Suppliers
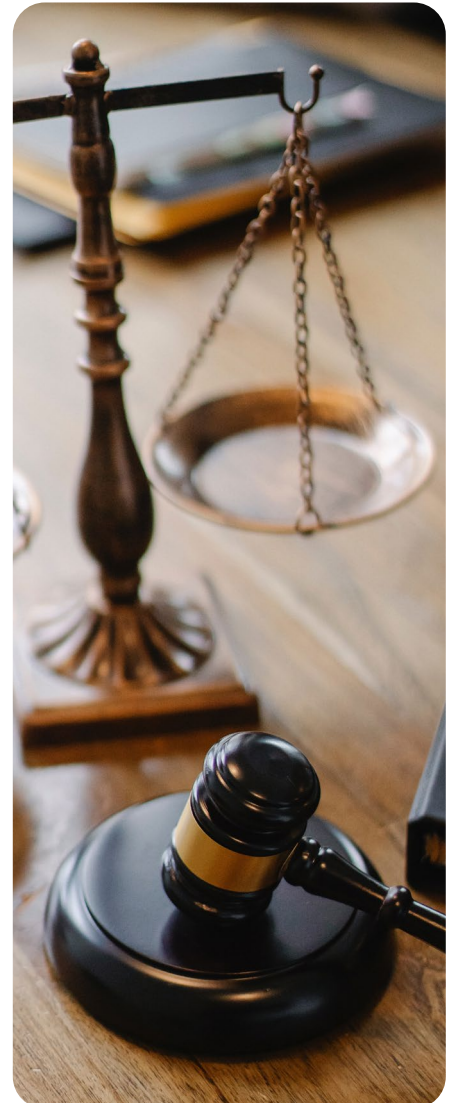
Brands and retailers are willing to work with suppliers who demonstrate commitment towards sustainability and ethical practices. Use this checklist below as guiding questions to evaluate, improve, and maintain traceability within your supply chain.
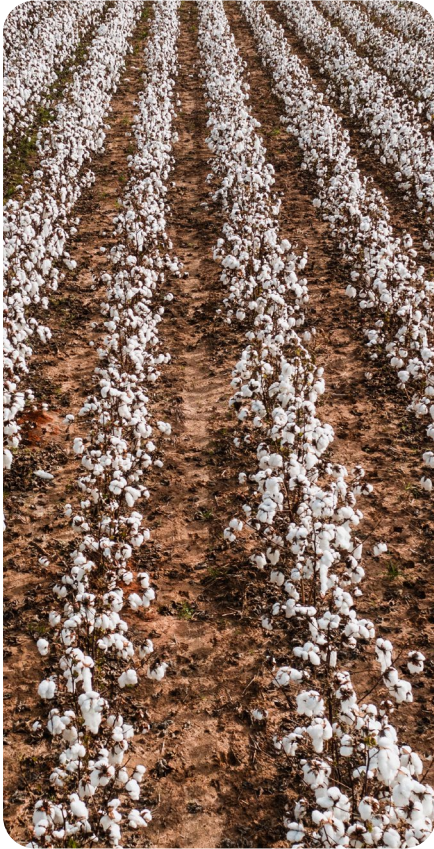
1. UNDERSTAND THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

☐ Are you aware of and compliant with all the key local and global laws affecting the cotton and textile industry?

☐ Do you know the implications of non-compliance with laws like Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), the EU forced labor ban, the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) and others?

☐ What measures have you taken to ensure that no part of your operations involves forced labor or human rights violations?

☐ Do you have a system in place to manage the risk of regulatory non-compliance?

☐ How are you proving that you have no ties to banned regions, through sourcing, subsidiaries or manufacturing?

💡 *Consider implementing a traceability technology to comply with global regulations and avoid losing access to key markets.*

2. ASSESS YOUR TRACEABILITY STRATEGY

☐ How much time and resources are you dedicating to prove traceability?

☐ Are you using paper trails and certifications as your main methods for traceability?

☐ Can you confidently and accurately trace your cotton?

☐ What exact location(s) is your cotton sourced from?

Paper trails are prone to human error and can easily be falsified. Brands and retailers are looking to partner with suppliers who have implemented innovative, advanced traceability methods such as forensic testing.

3. GAIN VISIBILITY INTO YOUR RAW MATERIALS

☐ Do you outsource any part of your production?

☐ How do you vet and select your outsourcing partners?

☐ Are your employees and subcontractors committed to the same level of sustainability standards as your company?

☐ How are you identifying nodes in the supply chain at risk of blending and mislabeling?

Gain deep visibility into your outsourcing risks by conducting on-site audits and proactively testing materials. Partner with like-minded suppliers who are committed to sustainability, and regularly monitor for any potential violations.

4. PROVIDE CHAIN OF CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION

☐ Are you providing transaction certificates?

☐ Are there well-documented records of purchase orders (POs), invoices, and shipping documents that trace the cotton back to its source?

☐ How are you verifying the accuracy of these documents?

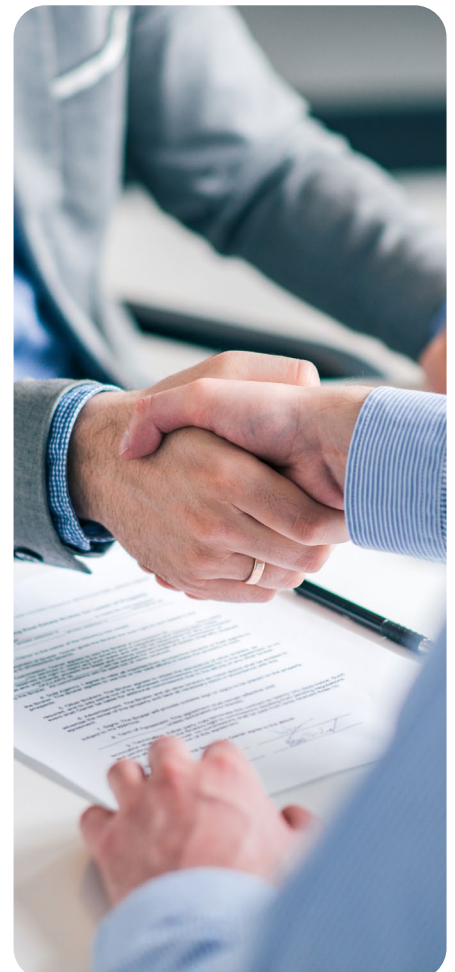☐ How are you preserving and protecting these documents against fraud or tampering?

💡 *ERP systems are prone to human error and falsified data. Digital and paper chain of custody documentation are no longer enough to back up origin claims.*

5. COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CUSTOMERS

☐ How are you communicating your cotton sourcing and production processes with your customers?

☐ Have you taken any steps to integrate your customers' traceability requirements into your existing systems and processes?

☐ How are you training your staff to maintain the standards required by your customers?

☐ Are you conducting any independent audits to validate your product origin claims?

💡 *Foster trust and transparency with your customers by openly communicating and implementing systems to fulfill their traceability needs. Regularly audit and verify your traceability processes to avoid loss of business.*

Prove compliance and gain customer trust **with Oritain**

Oritain, a leader in forensic origin verification, uses objective, science-based technology to verify supply chain documentation and claims. Suppliers partner with Oritain to get to the truth of their supply chain.

Global Leader in Origin Verification

We've captured over 90% of the world's cotton producing countries to ensure global regulatory compliance.

Reputation Protection

Test your products with confidence, knowing they're highly resistant to replication or tampering.

Farm to Factory Traceability

Our technology traces cotton from its natural source to the factory, eliminating the need for additional tracers or additives.

Scientific Assurance

Verify the origin of your products with isotope testing, powered by forensic science and data science.

Tailored Services

We support businesses at every stage of their supply chain traceability journey.

Seamless Integration

No changes or integration needed, meaning zero downtime to operations.