

#wecare Product Guidelines

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Our strategy

We want Sustainability to be a fundamental characteristic of all our products, starting with the raw materials we source for all our product portfolio and not limiting to a capsule collection. Hence we work to identify any solutions which can be applied pervasively to our collections and which substantially contribute to our continuous improvement.

Our commitment is to “create **products** which have a **positive impact** on the planet and people who live there, **minimizing natural resources consumption**, caring for **the people** who work in our supply chain and for the environment which they live in”.

Products made in compliance with this goal can be internally classified as “#wecare product”.

This document is open to any observations or suggestions for improvement from anyone, through the email: sustainability@ovs.it

Better Choice matrix

To define the Better Choice matrix we relied on Higg Materials Sustainability Index (MSI), which scores each raw material according to the their impact on:

- Global warming;
- Eutrophication;
- Water Scarcity;
- Resource Depletion, Fossil Fuels;
- Chemistry.

Consistently to the OVS strategy to privilege raw materials from renewable sources. OVS defined a combined score for each raw material adding a penalization factor to those which derive from fossil resources.

The table below reports the classification by origin and impacts our main raw materials. A and B classes embed raw materials which, in compliance with the rules expressed by the Principle 1, make a product eligible for being a “#wecare product”.

	BETTER CHOICE		HIGH IMPACT		
	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D	Class E
Plant Origin	Recycled Cotton TENCEL™ Modal {Lenzing} Organic Cotton	LENZING™ ECOVERO™ Viscose TENCEL™ Lyocell {Lenzing} Livaeco™ Viscose {BIRLA} African Cotton Bamboo Viscose Lyocell	Viscose Creora® bio-based spandex {Hyosung} Modal Dew retted Flax	Flax	Hemp Conventional Cotton
Animal Origin		Recycled Wool			Chrome tanned leather Wool Silk
Fossil Origin		Recycled polyester (chemically and mechanically) Mechanically recycled polyamide Econyl (recycled Nylon 6)	Polyester Acrylic Synthetic leather	Polyamide 6.6 Polyamide 6 Elastan	

Every raw material in columns labeled “High Impact” should be gradually eliminated or replaced with more sustainable alternatives or with specific materials from suppliers which adopt specific technologies to reduce their environmental impact, certified by proper documentation (e.g. Environmental Product Declaration).

For example, cotton is a material with a high impact, but some farmers working for brand Supima adopts more sustainable farming practices which make that cotton eligible for a classification as “#wecare product”.

General #wecare principles

To identify the #wecare products, it is necessary to grant compliance to at least one of the 5 evaluation principles, described below.

- Principle 1: Main material sustainability impacts
- Principle 2: Certified origin of raw materials
- Principle 3: Sustainable treatments
- Principle 4: End product certifications
- Principle 5: Garments from ethical projects

Classification principles for #wecare Products

Principle 1 - Sustainability of the main material

The first Principle implies the benchmark of the fibers in the main fabric composition with their classification with the "Better Choice" table.

If the sum of the fibers in composition, identified as Better Choice, represents a percentage higher than 50% of the material composition, the garment will be classified as a "wecare product".

Example:

T-shirt 95% organic CO 5% EA: garment eligible as a #wecare product.

T-shirt 55% VI, 40% recycled PL, 5% EA: item NOT eligible as #wecare product

Products with multiple components: Outerwear jackets

In the case of outerwear jackets, the principle described above for the main fabric is considered valid and applicable to one or more of the elements which characterize the garment itself, such as **outer shell, lining and padding**. Therefore, material choices related to even just one of these components make the garment eligible for a #wecare classification.

Example:

Down Jacket Main fabric 100% PA, Padding 100% recycled PL, Lining 100% PA: garment eligible as Product#wecare;

Jacket Main fabric 60% CO 40% recycled PA, Padding 100% feather, lining 100%PL: item NOT eligible as Product #wecare;

Principle 2 - More sustainable origin of the material

If the **main material** is composed of certified fibers (see list below), the final garment will be considered a #wecare Product, in compliance with the composition requirements expressed in Principle 1.

- FSC or PEFC viscose
- Responsible Wool Standard
- Supima Cotton
- Good Cashmere Standard

Other standards are subject to evaluation by the Corporate Sustainability department

Principle 3 - Sustainability of processes

The treatments and production processes of the materials listed below make the garment a #wecare product:

In particular, products made by suppliers with production facilities certified to green building standards (e.g., LEED) can guarantee significant water and energy savings.

If a product is made with production processes that take advantage of the technologies listed below, the product can be classified as a #wecare product.

- Reverse osmosis water recycling and purification systems
- Jet dyeing with reduced liquor ratio
- Ozone washing
- Treatments with intentional replacement of hazardous chemicals
- Low impact dyeing (such as mineral dye, recycled dyestuff, etc)

Other treatment processes subject to evaluation by the Corporate Sustainability department.

Principle 4 - Finished garment certification

The end product certifications make a garment eligible as a “#wecare product” when they ensure high sustainability standards with regard to social or environmental performance and they are issued by an independent third-party.

Finished garment

- **Fairtrade**
- **Oeko Tex**
- **Blue Sign**
- **C2C**

Other certifications subject to evaluation by the Corporate Sustainability department.

Principle 5 - Garments from ethical projects

A special product made within a project is eligible as a “#wecare product” if the project is run in collaboration with not-for-profit organizations, Benefit corporations, foundations or other organizations which pursue a social or environmental goal embedded in their corporate purpose.

The purpose should be preferably consistent to the OVS Sustainability strategy and preferably focused on:

- Water stewardship;
- Diversity and inclusion;
- Education;
- Responsible consumption;
- Circular economy

The collaborations may be related to production, treatments, repairing or reconditioning, or other areas in our products lifecycle.

The eligibility of the projects is subject to evaluation by the Corporate Sustainability department.