

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

BCI membership is renewed annually upon fee payment

Members wishing to terminate their membership shall give three months' advance notice in writing by emailing membership@bettercotton.org. Fees already paid for current membership year are not refundable.

1. Terms of Payment

- 1.1 Membership fees are payable on an annual basis.
- 1.2 Invoices will be sent electronically by email by default and as hard copy by post upon request only.
- 1.3 Invoices will be considered as received on the next business day following the day the documents were emailed.
- 1.4 Membership fee invoices are payable within 30 days of receipt.
- 1.5 After 30 days a reminder will be sent by the BCI Secretariat. Fee payments will be considered late if received after 30 days of receipt of the invoice. A fee of up to 5 % of the initial amount invoiced may be charged for late payments.
- 1.6 Failure to pay membership fees for 5 months or longer may result in suspension and/or termination of membership.
- 1.7 Fees are reviewed annually by the BCI Council.

2. Adherence to the Better Cotton Initiative Code of Practice

The adherence of members to the Better Cotton Initiative Code of Practice is fundamental to the integrity, credibility and success of Better Cotton.

A violation of the BCI Code of Practice may lead to the suspension and / or termination of membership. A breach of the BCI Code of Practice includes, but is not limited to the following:

Practice contradicting the spirit of BCI, its mission, aims and strategic principles

- 2.1 Endangering the interests or the reputation of the Better Cotton Initiative and of Better Cotton.
- 2.2 False representation of BCI and Better Cotton.
- 2.3 Making misleading or unsubstantiated claims about the production, procurement or use of Better Cotton and the impact associated with it.
- 2.4 Being listed on a Default list.
- 2.5 Behaving in a manner contradictory to the BCI anti-trust guidelines.
- 2.6 Taking part in anti-competitive practices.

Lack of commitment and engagement

- 2.7 Lack of strategy and annual targets to procure Better Cotton (brands and retailers only).
- 2.8 Neglect to provide financial capacity investment contributions (brands and retailers only).
- 2.9 Lack of engagement e.g. no attendance at BCI events/ workshops/webinars.
- 2.10 Failure to report back performance to BCI annually according to guidelines provided by BCI.
- 2.11 Failure to demonstrate progress through this report (2.10)

3. Termination of membership

Under the BCI Statutes, a member ceases to be a member of the Association if the member:

- 3.1 becomes insolvent
- 3.2 is wound-up or is dissolved
- 3.3 resigns that membership by written notice to the BCI Secretariat with a notice period of at least three months
- 3.4 or is expelled from the Association, according to art. 3.5-9.

The Council may expel a member if it determines that:

- 3.5 the member no longer meets the definition specified for the member's membership category
- 3.6 the member no longer meets the membership criteria
- 3.7 the member fails to adhere to the BCI Code of Practice or to pay membership fees, on an annual basis, in accordance with the membership fee structure
- 3.8 the member fails to pay their membership fees on an annual basis, and in accordance with the membership fee structure
- 3.9 the member is endangering the interests or the reputation of BCI.

In case of expulsion, the Council must give the member at least 30 days written notice of the expulsion, stating the grounds for the expulsion and allowing the member to provide a written submission stating why they should not be expelled, with such submission to be received prior to the proposed date of expulsion. The Council's decision whether or not to expel a member is final.