

Better Cotton Chain of Custody Guidelines v1.3

Overview

Introduction

BCI released a revised version of the Better Cotton Chain of Custody Guidelines (v1.3) on 1 May 2018. This document replaces the previous v1.2 and will become effective by **1 August 2018**. The revision focused mainly on minor changes, including removing outdated content, clarifying existing requirements, and including more information on supply chain monitoring. BCI's basic Chain of Custody model remains the same – product segregation between farm and gin level, and mass balance after gin level.

Summary of key changes

- Revised three-part structure, divided into Chain of Custody (CoC) requirements for Implementing Partners, Gins, and Other Supply Chain Organisations (including suppliers/manufacturers, spinners, traders, brands/retailers, etc.)
- The Better Cotton Tracer has been renamed the *Better Cotton Platform (BCP)*, although the functionality of the system remains the same
- Mandatory use of the BCP has been expanded, but with a gradual implementation timeframe - by 1 January 2020, all supply chain organisations buying and selling Better Cotton products will be required to use the BCP (this includes garment mills, fabric manufacturers, sourcing agents and others for whom the BCP is currently optional)
- Responsibilities have been clarified between gins and Implementing Partners with respect to control of Better Cotton between farm and gin level
- More specific requirements for gins buying Better Cotton from middlemen, including being able to trace cotton back to licensed BCI Farmers
- Timelines have been clarified for entering data into the BCP – 30 days for gins to enter purchases/ sales and 60 days for other supply chain organisations
- Transaction reference numbers (such as invoice or delivery slip) are now mandatory to enter into the BCP for each purchase/ sale of Better Cotton products
- Reduced timeline for maintaining records related to Better Cotton products – now 2 years instead of 5 years
- Requirements for using the BCP to enter purchase/ sale transactions have been updated and clarified, including the use of Output Declaration Forms (ODFs)
- Additional detail is now included on BCI's supply chain monitoring approach and penalties for non-compliance. This includes remote documentation checks, as well as second and third-party audits

For more detail

Refer to the full Better Cotton Chain of Custody Guideline v1.3 and the Summary of Changes document, available on the [BCI website](https://bettercotton.org/about-better-cotton/better-cotton-standard-system/chain-of-custody/): <https://bettercotton.org/about-better-cotton/better-cotton-standard-system/chain-of-custody/>