

# BCI STANDARD SETTING AND REVISION PROCESS

## SECOND DRAFT GUIDELINES – DECEMBER 2016

Second public consultation	05 December, 2015 to 15 January 2017
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### General Introduction

The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is an international collaboration to encourage the adoption of better management practices in cotton cultivation to achieve measurable reductions in key environmental impacts, while improving social and economic benefits for cotton farmers, small and large, worldwide.

It is a collaborative global process, involving a wide range of stakeholders — from farmers and their representatives, to researchers and extension agents, and others along the cotton value chain all the way to the brand owners and retailers. BCI engage with these stakeholders in an open, inclusive and constructive dialogue. It is composed of membership categories including producers, retailers / brands, civil society, and suppliers / manufacturers.

This global multi-stakeholder initiative recognises the wide array of issues connected with cotton cultivation, each with differing importance depending on regional circumstances. In order to effectively address the key negative impacts of cotton cultivation, BCI acts on the most significant issues, within certain cotton growing regions, while striving for continuous improvement and expansion of its activities to additional regions over time.

In order to stay at the forefront of the ever-changing sustainable cotton production environment, the BCI Standard is revised every 5 years. A Standard Setting and Revision Committee is entitled to provide technical support towards the revision of the Standard. Stakeholders have the opportunity to bring their advice and expertise, evaluate impacts on affected stakeholders and decide the degree of change that will be incorporated in the draft.

The elaboration process of a revised version of the Production Principle and Criteria (PPC) implies to work on five specific documents:

**1- The Project team working document:** This is a paper summarising all potential changes to bring to the current version of the standard in term of content and structure. All

comments/suggestions/remarks from stakeholders and the secretariat on how to improve the standard are integrated in the document. It is a monitoring tool only for use by the Project team.

**2- The Pre-draft:** It is the Standard Setting and Revision Committee work document from which members will elaborate. This document integrates all change deemed as relevant by the Project team in the Project team working document. The pre-draft is sent to the Standard Setting and Revision Committee members three weeks before the first meeting.

**3- First Consultation draft:** This is the revised version of the standard approved by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee after their first meeting and sent out for a first public consultation.

**4- Second Consultation draft:** This is the revised version of the PPC approved by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee after their first meeting and sent out for a second public consultation.

**5- Final draft:** This is the ultimate version approved by the Standard Setting and Revision Committee after second public consultation.

This document is the second draft of revised Principle and Criteria prepared by the BCI Standard Setting and Revision Committee members for the second public consultation.

## 1. Project and Process Information

The BCI standard review process started in March 2015. Key milestones and timeline are provided on the dedicated webpage: [bettercotton.org/standard-revision](http://bettercotton.org/standard-revision)

Below is a summary of the progress to date and next steps:

	Timeline	Activity
2015	Jul	Introductory call
	September	Pre-draft and background documents elaboration
	September 30th	1 <sup>st</sup> committee meeting
	Nov-Dec	Public consultation 1 (60 days, all stakeholders)
	Dec -Jan	Analysis and preparation of 2nd draft
2016	January 20th*	2nd committee meeting
	June	Implementing Partner consultation

	December	Public Consultation 2 (30 days, all stakeholders)
2017	March	3 <sup>rd</sup> committee meeting and final draft Submission to BCI Council
	May	BCI Council approval at BCI Berlin Conference 2017

\*Actual dates depend on technical committee and consultation outcomes. Additional consultations may be necessary if results are inconclusive or lead to diverging views requiring further research.

## 2. How to review the draft

There is one PDF document compiling all sections + 1 document for the annexes.

Change suggested by the secretariat are organised as follows:

- In **brown** for new elements.
- ~~Strikethrough~~ for removed elements.

There are 9 sections in the draft:

- Preamble.
- Principle 1: Minimise the Harmful impact of crop protection practices.
- Principle 2: Use water efficiently and care for the availability of water.
- Principle 3: Care for the health of soil.
- Principle 4: Conserve Biodiversity.
- Principle 5: Care for and preserve the quality of fibre.
- Principle 6: Promote decent work.
- Principle 7: Operate a management system.
- Annexes.

Standard structure is organised as follows:

- “Criteria”: Overarching requirement.
- “Indicators”: Requirement supporting interpretation by users and auditors.
- “Intent”: Explanatory note providing rationale behind the requirement.
- “Guidance for implementation”: Support on how to best comply with the requirement.
- “Farmer category”: On the right side of each indicator, a 3 part box representing the 3 farmer category notifies to which category the requirement applies. A tick is placed in the corresponding box.
- “Minimum/Improvement”: Ticks in the farmer categories boxes have a colour code: Orange for Minimum requirements and Blue for Improvement requirements.
- “Theme”: Each principle has a theme. Is it notified in the right side of each criterion page.

-  : **Minimum requirements**
-  : **Improvement requirements**

Every stakeholder is invited to provide comments on proposals regarding the ambition and scope, structure and content of the proposed version. For this purpose, we have inserted guiding questions to support you in the review but of course you are encouraged to comment directly on any requirement or propose new wording altogether in the “General comment” box at the end of each criteria. Please make sure you refer to the right criteria when you make a comment in this box.

All feedback will be analysed and used to draw up the next draft that will be submitted to the BCI Standard Setting and Revision Committee in March 2017.

**We encourage you to give explanations, analysis and examples underlying your statements.**

**Your feedback is very important to us so that we can identify important points to address.**

Two options are available to comment on the draft:

- Through the [online survey](#). We encourage you to opt for this option if you have an internet connection.
- Using the PDF version by filling in answer boxes and sending your comments to the project manager, **Gregory Jean** at [gregory.jean@bettercotton.org](mailto:gregory.jean@bettercotton.org). **Please use that option only if you do not have an internet connection.**

**All comments need to be sent back before 15 January 2017.**