

Better Cotton Platform: Key Changes for Fabric Mills in 2019

Introduction

As part of BCI's commitment to continual improvement, we are making some changes to how Better Cotton Claims Units (BCCUs) can be transferred through the supply chain, via the Better Cotton Platform (BCP). The changes are designed to protect the credibility of BCI's chain of custody system and to simplify the transfer of BCCUs.

The following key changes will be actioned in the coming months.

- As of 1 January 2020, companies wishing to transfer Better Cotton Claim Units (BCCUs) must do so electronically through the Better Cotton Platform (BCP). Starting on this date, members or BCP non-member suppliers¹ will no longer be able to transfer BCCUs using the manual entry option that is currently available in the BCP.
- If a company is already a member of BCI or a BCP non-member supplier, no action is required.
- Paper/hard copy Output Declaration Forms (ODFs) will no longer be accepted as a transaction entry method in the Better Cotton Platform.
- BCI Retailer and Brands Members will have until 31 March 2020 to manually add BCCUs to their accounts for ODFs generated before 31 Dec 2019.
- The annual BCP access fee will be reduced from €750 to €500 on 1 June 2019.
- There will be a 20% promotional discount available for companies that sign up for a new BCP account between 1 June – 30 September 2019.

Key Dates



¹ A BCP non-member supplier is a company that is not a BCI member but has access to the BCP and can transfer BCCUs electronically using a supplier, end-product manufacturer, non-lint trader or sourcing agent account type.

Visit the BCI [website](#) for further information.

Apply for a Better Cotton Platform Account

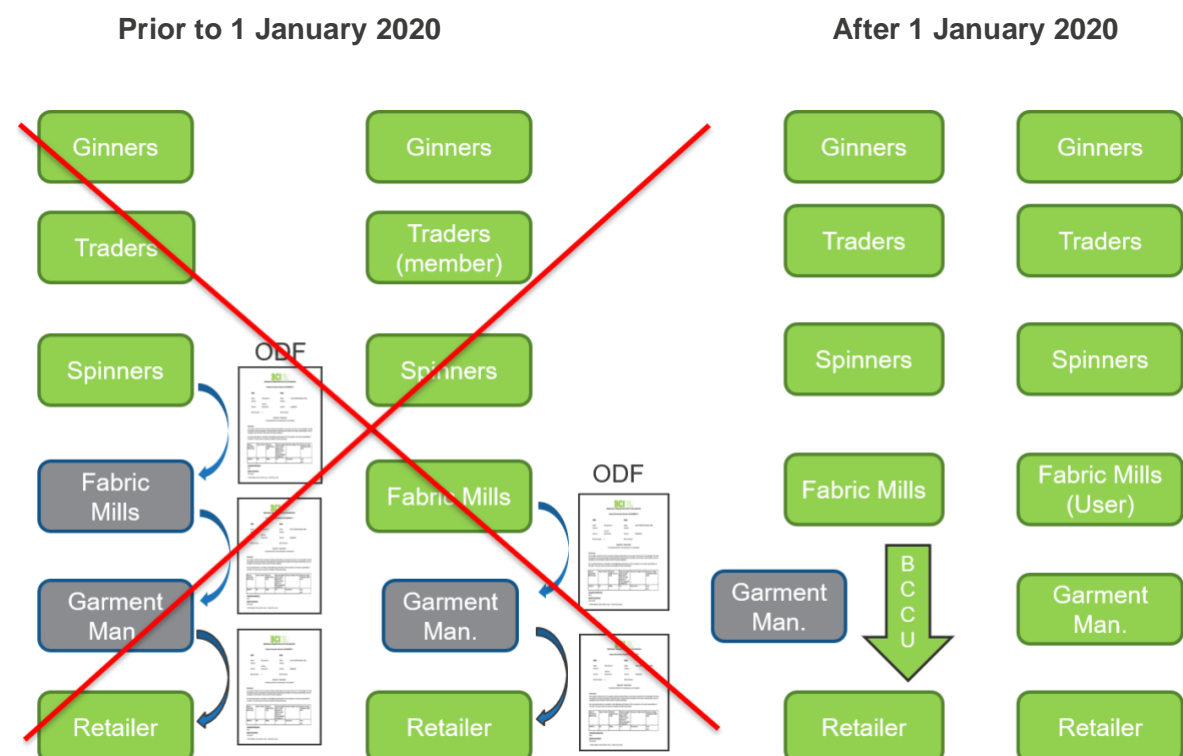
Changes for Fabric Mills

Up until 1 January 2020, fabric mills have three options for participating in the Better Cotton supply chain:

1. If they have a Better Cotton Platform (BCP) account, they can receive BCCUs electronically into their BCP account from their direct suppliers and then **pass on BCCUs electronically to their direct customer**.
2. If they have a Better Cotton Platform (BCP) account, they can receive BCCUs electronically into their BCP account from their direct suppliers and then **pass on BCCUs electronically to the end-user (retailer and brand), bypassing their direct customer**.
3. If they do not have a Better Cotton Platform (BCP) account, they can **receive an Output Declaration Form (ODF) from their direct supplier**, which they then must send to their customer via email.

After 1 January 2020, **the third option (ODF) will no longer be allowed**. The first two options will remain available.

Please see the changes depicted below:



What Does This Mean for a Fabric Mill?

This means that, to be part of the Better Cotton Chain of Custody, **the fabric mill will have to have a Better Cotton Platform (BCP) account.**

You would then be able to receive BCCUs from your supplier electronically into your BCP account and send BCCUs either to your direct customer or to the end-user (retailer and brand).

Please note that spinners will not be able to send ODFs to you as of 1 January 2020. To receive BCCUs from your suppliers after this date, you will need a BCP account for your company.

If you already have a BCP account, no action is required.

If you do not have a BCP account, signing up is easy. Please [apply for a Better Cotton Platform Account](#) online.²

Benefits of Obtaining a BCP Account

If you do not obtain an account, the BCCUs will not be able to flow from the suppliers to the retailers. Your participation is a crucial link for the Chain of Custody to function.

Helping the BCCUs to reach the retailers is very important for your customers. The retailers require the BCCUs in order to be able to make claims about how they are supporting more sustainable cotton.

It is also very important for the farmers who are growing Better Cotton. The more BCCUs that reach retailers, the more funding retailers contribute towards training millions of cotton farmers across the world on more sustainable farming practices.

There are currently more than 400 brands who are members of BCI and are all demanding that their supply chain supports them in sourcing as Better Cotton. Joining BCI is therefore not only a sustainability benefit but also a business opportunity. Having a BCP account will help to secure your relationship with current BCI members, and open doors for future business with the growing number of BCI retailer and brand members.

Cost of Obtaining a BCP Account

Access to the BCP costs €500 per year. If you sign up before 30 September 2019, there is a promotional discount of 20% (cost of €400 per year).

Further Information

For more information on these changes, including a list of FAQs, visit the BCI [website](#).

If you have any questions, please email membership@bettercotton.org

² If you are a fabric mill in China, you will not be able to sign up online. Please e-mail us at membership@bettercotton.org for further assistance.