



**Environmental criteria for sustainable public  
procurement of**

# **Workwear**

**Version March 2017**

# 1. Scope/definition

This Workwear product group includes both the supply of workwear and the relevant services offered in combination with the supply of workwear. The following products (with their corresponding CPV codes) are part of the Workwear product group. This list of products is non-exhaustive.

Products	CPV code
Clothing, footwear, baggage items and accessories	18000000-9
Occupational clothing, special workwear and accessories	18100000-0
Outerwear	18200000-1
Garments	18300000-2
Special clothing and accessories	18400000-3
Footwear	18800000-7
Protective and safety clothing	35113400-3
Personal and support equipment	35810000-2

The criteria for the Workwear product group may also be applied to products other than those listed above that contain textile fibres (linens, interior textiles, etc.) if no other criteria for such products are available.

Excluded from the scope of this product group are:




- cleaning of workwear (there is a separate product group for this).

This document describes the environmental criteria. Information about the other elements of sustainable public procurement, such as social conditions and social return, may be found on the PIANOo website, on the specific product group page: <https://www.pianoo.nl/document/10559/productgroep-bedrijfskleding>.

# 2. Most significant environmental impacts

The table below lists the sustainability themes and describes the approach to each theme for the product group. The “Approach” column presents a statement indicating the influence of sustainable purchasing and its criteria on the “sustainability” of the theme. This column also includes a reference to any requirements, award criteria or points of attention/suggestions that may be useful in implementing the approach. The product group can also have an impact on other environmental themes, but these are (at least at present) less relevant or of a much less significant level of concern, or do not as yet have a suitable set of criteria.

Themes:	Approach:	No. of requirement/ Criterion
<b>Energy and climate</b> Energy consumption in production process, transport in clothing supply chain and accompanying CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of recycled textile fibres</li> </ul>	GC2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction of water and energy consumption.</li> </ul>	AS8, AS7

<p><b>Supplies and raw materials</b> Supplies and raw material consumption during clothing production process</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of recycled textile fibres, recycling of cutting waste.</li> </ul>	GC2, ME2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• designing for recycling.</li> </ul>	GC3, AS2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• considering bio-based procurement.</li> </ul>	AS4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• separated collection, return and high-quality use of used/worn-out workwear.</li> </ul>	GC4, AS6
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extension of lifespan of workwear.</li> </ul>	AS1, AS3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transparency regarding origin.</li> </ul>	GC6
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purchasing of services involving as little packaging as possible, use of environmentally friendly packaging and the recycling of packaging.</li> </ul>	ME3, GC5
<p><b>Water and Soil</b> Water consumption and artificial fertiliser use in cultivation of natural fibres, pesticide use in cultivation of natural fibres, water use in production of clothing, chemical use in production of natural and/or chemical fibres, discharge of contaminated waste water in clothing production</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limitation of harmful substances in end product.</li> </ul>	ME1, AS3, AS8
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of organically produced natural fibres.</li> </ul>	GC1, AS3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water purification during leather production.</li> </ul>	GC7
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of recycled textile fibres.</li> </ul>	GC2, AS3
<p><b>Health and welfare</b> Animal welfare in the production of raw materials for clothing</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• taking animal welfare into account.</li> </ul>	AS5, AS3

### 3. Points of attention/suggestions

Devoting attention to the opportunities and possibilities for the most sustainable procurement possible in the preparation phase will lead to specifications that are more ambitious or which differ from the standard technical specifications and award criteria set out in this document. The table below presents points for attention and suggestions for promoting sustainability in procurement within this product group.

No.	Points of attention/suggestions (AS)
AS1	<p><b>Avoid unnecessary purchasing</b> Consider whether purchase is necessary or whether reuse/repair of existing workwear is possible.</p>
AS2	<p><b>Sustainable design</b> In the design phase, consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the technical life span;</li> <li>• replacing individual components rather than the entire item of clothing;</li> <li>• design for recycling/disassembly;</li> <li>• use of recycled materials;</li> <li>• design for reuse.</li> </ul>
AS3	<p><b>Define sustainability needs</b> Include sustainability specifications in the schedule of requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opt for clothing that is simple to dry-clean.</li> <li>• If less desirable fabrics are standard practice, find out if alternative fabrics are available.</li> <li>• Do not request chemical treatments/materials unless they are absolutely vital for the purpose for which the relevant items of clothing are being purchased.</li> <li>• Have company logos applied in such a manner that they can be easily removed.</li> <li>• Find out if there is a standard product range from which you can order.</li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a single contract for the supply, maintenance and cleaning of the clothing.</li> </ul>
AS4	<p><b>Considering bio-based procurement</b> In many cases, bio-based textile fibres are preferable over fossil-based textile fibres (such as plastics). Survey (with the market where possible) the possibilities, the pros and any cons of use of bio-based textile fibres for your procurement needs, and give them an appropriate place in your procurement documents. More information can be found on <a href="https://www.pianoo.nl/themas/maatschappelijk-verantwoord-inkopen-duurzaam-inkopen/mvi-themas/biobased-inkopen">PIANOo</a> SPP Theme Bio-based Procurement (https://www.pianoo.nl/themas/maatschappelijk-verantwoord-inkopen-duurzaam-inkopen/mvi-themas/biobased-inkopen), where the guide to bio-based procurement and the Guidelines to Bio-based Procurement have also been made available (https://www.pianoo.nl/themas/maatschappelijk-verantwoord-inkopen-mvi-duurzaam-inkopen/handreikingen-mvi-0/handreikingen-biobased-inkopen).</p> <p>If you include a requirement that the material used must be bio-based, ask for descriptions of the material used and documentation supporting claims such as “bio-based”, “sustainable biomass” and “compostable”. This will make the assessment easier and give the purchaser the opportunity to check, upon delivery of the goods, whether the items supplied are in fact those agreed. It is also important not to require the production of specific certificates, because this may put producers to unnecessary expense when alternative evidence would also suffice.</p>
AS5	<p><b>Taking animal welfare into account</b> Take animal welfare into account in the production of workwear (and footwear) wherever animal products are used in the manufacture of the materials. Common examples of animal products used in this production include leather, fur, wool and down. This can be done by restricting the use of such materials wherever possible, or by asking tenderers how animal-friendly their production process using these materials is.</p>
AS6	<p><b>Central collection of workwear</b> Investigate whether added value can be created by centrally collecting worn-out workwear. By bundling and centralising worn-out workwear through an internal logistics channel, the Dutch Government is attempting to increase scale in order to achieve a constant supply of a certain quality, to attract the interest of relevant market parties in reusing these materials.</p>
AS7	<p><b>Opt for clothing which is simple to clean</b> Consider choosing clothing that is relatively simple to clean and not easily soiled.</p>

AS8	<p><b>Adopt criteria from the sustainable clothing and textiles agreement</b></p> <p>If you wish to go further than the criteria mentioned in this document, you may adopt criteria from the Sustainable Clothing and Textiles Agreement. More information about that agreement may be found through the Social and Economic Council (SER) (<a href="https://www.ser.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/2010-2019/2016/20160704-convenant-duurzame-kleding-en-textiel.aspx">https://www.ser.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/2010-2019/2016/20160704-convenant-duurzame-kleding-en-textiel.aspx</a>).</p>
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## 4. Selection criteria

Not defined for this product group.

## 5. Technical specifications

No.	Technical specifications (ME)
ME1	<p><b>Substances present in final product</b></p> <p>The quantities of toxic substances in the workwear to be supplied do not exceed the limit as stipulated in the Öko-Tex 100 label.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i></p> <p>The body responsible for determining the limit values adjusts some of these values annually. The Öko-Tex 100 label is awarded for a period of 12 months, regardless of any changes to the limit values in the interim period. The limit values can be consulted here: <a href="https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/business/certifications_and_services/ots_100/ots_100_limit_values/ots_100_limit_values.html">https://www.oeko-tex.com/en/business/certifications_and_services/ots_100/ots_100_limit_values/ots_100_limit_values.html</a>.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be asked to demonstrate that the quantities of harmful substances in the workwear to be delivered do not exceed the limit values. Products with a recently awarded Öko-Tex label will be assumed to meet this requirement.</p>
ME2	<p><b>Recycled fibres (applicable to towels and overalls made of cotton)</b></p> <p>A minimum of 10% of the percentage by weight of the end product is represented by recycled textile fibres, i.e. fibres originating exclusively from cuttings or unsold stocks sourced from textile and clothing manufacturers or from post-consumer waste.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be asked to demonstrate the origin and the percentage of the recycled fibres used with the aid of the "RCS - TE Recycled Content Standard" Control Union Certificate or an equivalent certificate. This is a specific quality mark that is accessible to all. If the clothing is Control Union certified regarding the recycled fibres, it means it contains at least the percentage of recycled fibre stated on the item.</p>
ME3	<p><b>Use of recycled materials for packaging</b></p> <p>Where cardboard boxes are used, they must have a recycled material content of at least 80%. Where plastic bags or plastic sheets are used for the final packaging, they must have a recycled content of at least 75%. This minimum requirement will not apply if bio-based material is chosen.</p> <p><i>Verification</i></p> <p>The tenderer may be asked to provide a sample of the product packaging with the proposal, together with an accompanying statement declaring that this criterion has been satisfied.</p> <p><i>Source: EU GPP office equipment</i></p>

## 6. Award criteria

No.	Award criteria (GC)
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GC1	<p><i>(This criterion only applies to workwear containing cotton or other natural fibres)</i></p> <p><b>Organically grown cotton or other organically produced natural fibres</b>  The tenderers indicate the amount of organically grown cotton or other organically produced natural fibres, expressed in percentage by weight of the end product.</p> <p>The higher the percentage of organic cotton or other organically produced and natural fibres used, the higher this component of the tender will be rated. To be considered as such, the fibres must be produced in accordance with Regulation (EC) no. 834/2007.</p> <p><i>Verification:</i>  The tenderer may be asked to demonstrate the source of the fibres used and the organic nature of the production, for example with the EU logo or approved national logos for organic production.</p> <p>If the workwear bears one of the following certifications, the percentage of organic cotton in the clothing will be assumed to be 100%: GOTS, EKO. If the clothing is Organic Exchange certified, it means that it contains at least the percentage of organic cotton stipulated on the item.</p> <p><i>Source EU GPP</i></p>
GC2	<p><b>Recycled fibres</b>  The tenderers must indicate the percentage by weight of the end product represented by recycled textile fibres, meaning fibres originating exclusively from cuttings or unsold stocks sourced from textile and clothing manufacturers or post-consumer waste. The higher the percentage of recycled textile fibres, the higher this component of the tender will be rated.</p> <p><i>Verification</i>  The tenderer may be asked to demonstrate the origin and percentage of the recycled fibres used with the aid of the “RCS – TE Recycled Content Standard” Control Union Certificate or an equivalent certificate. This is a specific quality mark that is accessible to all. If the clothing is Control Union certified regarding the recycled fibres, it means it contains at least the percentage of recycled fibre stated on the item.</p> <p><i>Source EU GPP</i></p>
GC3	<p><b>Design for recycling</b>  The tenderers must indicate what steps they took in the design of the workwear to promote high-level recycling (no downcycling; upcycling permitted) at the end of the product lifespan. The higher the percentage of the workwear tendered that is suitable at the end of the product lifespan for high-level recycling, the higher this component of the tender will be rated.</p> <p>Recycling is defined as (definition from EU Framework Regulation on waste products 2008/98/EG): any useful application by which waste products are reprocessed into products, materials or substances for their original purpose or for another purpose. This comprises the reprocessing of organic waste, but does not include energy reclamation or reprocessing into materials intended to be used as fuel or filling material.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i>  The design of the clothing determines, to a large degree, the recyclability of the textile fibres. By taking this into account in the design phase, textile fibres can be recycled at a higher level at the end of the lifespan of the workwear. There are several options to do this: limiting the number of types of textile fibres used in the workwear and disassembly options of the clothing at the end of the lifespan.</p> <p><i>Verification</i>  The tenderer may be asked to demonstrate the measures taken to facilitate high-level recycling of the textile fibres at the end of the lifespan. In providing this information the tenderer will indicate the percentage of textile fibres suitable for each individual application.</p>
GC4	<p><i>(This criterion applies only to invitations to tender that also include collection at the end of the product lifespan as a component)</i></p> <p><b>Collection, recycling and high-quality use of worn-out workwear</b>  The higher the percentage of the workwear included in the collecting, recycling and high-quality use programme during the term of the contract with the users, the higher this component of the tender will be rated.</p>

	<p>The tenderer may be asked to state what happens to the textiles it has supplied at the end of their lifespan. How much (in terms of the percentage of available textiles) is collected? What percentage is recycled? To what new use can the recycled material be put? The tenderer should also state which percentages and uses it expects to obtain for the textiles it would supply as part of this contract.</p> <p>Recycling is defined as (definition from EU Framework Directive on waste products 2008/98/EG): any useful application by which waste products are reprocessed into products, materials, or substances for their original purpose or for another purpose. This comprises the reprocessing of organic waste, but does not include energy reclamation or reprocessing into materials intended to be used as fuel or filling material. Use in cleaning cloths and insulation material is rated as low-value, and use in clothing or as an alternative to new textiles as high-value.</p> <p><i>Explanation</i> This award criterion must be suitable for the operations of the contracting authority in relation to the reuse and recycling of the worn-out workwear. See also AS6.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to demonstrate that it will accept returns of this worn-out workwear from the client(s). In demonstrating this the tenderer must indicate how the worn out clothing is to be recycled and what application(s) the recycled material will be used for. The tenderer may earn points by demonstrating that it is already arranging the collection, recycling and high-value use of the textiles it supplies. The tenderer may also earn additional points based on the scheduled percentages for this specific contract.</p>
GC5	<p><b>Recycling packaging</b> The greater the provision made by the tenderer for better recycling of the packaging, the higher this component of the tender will be rated. The tenderer may earn points by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- avoiding multi-layers, black plastic and combination packaging;</li> <li>- using packaging which is readily recyclable.</li> </ul> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- whether multi-layers, black plastic and combination packaging are used;</li> <li>- whether the packaging is readily recyclable, where “readily recyclable” is defined as: can be separated by hand into elements of a single material and/or packaging which is suitable for multiple use.</li> </ul> <p>The tenderer may be asked to send a sample of the packaging.</p>
GC6	<p><b>Transparency regarding the origin of textiles</b> If the tenderer undertakes to keep a list recording the place where a particular product is produced and/or processed for all the products it supplies, additional points may be earned for this component. This will involve the following details for each step in the chain (raw material production/cultivation, thread production/spinning, dyeing and bleaching, cloth production and assembly):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the country;</li> <li>• the region;</li> <li>• the factory or farm where the step in the chain is performed.</li> </ul> <p>If the tenderer undertakes to meet this award criterion, it must be able to provide the information digitally, in the form of an Excel spreadsheet, within one week of the contracting authority requesting such information.</p>
GC7	<p><i>(This criterion applies only to leather)</i> <b>Water purification during leather production</b> If the tenderer can demonstrate that the water used during the tanning process does not return untreated into an ecosystem, additional points may be earned with this component.</p> <p><i>Verification</i> The tenderer may be asked to state the origin of the leather, including the country or countries of production and also the production facility or facilities for all the articles offered. It may also be asked to give a description of the water purification method and or reuse method.</p>

## 7. Contract provisions

Not defined for this product group.