

Proposed Terminology, Definitions, Standards & Trends in the Bedding Industry, as presented by the Specialty Sleep Association (2010)

100% natural = see “natural”.

all natural = see “natural”.

biobased products = commercial or industrial goods (other than food or feed) composed in whole or in significant part of biological products, forestry materials, or renewable domestic agricultural materials, including plant, animal, or marine materials. Third-party testing by an ISO 9001 certified lab that conducts the ASTM D6866 (or the Standard Test Methods for Determining the Biobased Content of Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous Samples Using Radiocarbon Analysis) is required to substantiate use of this term. It is recommended that the percentage of biobased material by component accompany use of this term. It is helpful to know that USDA guidance recommends a minimum of 12% biobased product for bedding (does not include mattresses at this time) and a minimum of 51% for any undefined product category. Also see “natural.” (Source: Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002/2008 (FSRIA))

biodegradable = the entire product or package will completely break down and return to nature, i.e., decompose into elements found in nature within a reasonably short period of time after customary disposal. Should be substantiated by competent and reliable scientific evidence. Claims of degradability, biodegradability or photodegradability should be qualified to the extent necessary to avoid consumer deception about: (1) the product or package's ability to degrade in the environment where it is customarily disposed; and (2) the rate and extent of degradation. (Source: FTC) Capable of decomposing under natural conditions. (Source: BIFMA Sustainability Standard)

blending = mixing the same fiber in organic and conventional quality in one product. (Source: Global Organic Textile Standard)

certified organic = there are a number of third-party organizations that govern the certification of agricultural operations based on organic standards. The most well known are the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Global Organic Textiles Standards (GOTS). Currently the USDA Certified Organic label is available only for food. The Global Organic Textiles Standards (GOTS) are dedicated to fiber and textile handling and production. To use the phrase “certified organic” a product must meet the GOTS definition for organic and be certified by an organization approved by the International Working Group (ISW) for the GOTS. Licensing and labeling are governed by the ISW for the GOTS. (Source: USDA, Global Organic Textile Standard)

chemicals of concern = A chemical that makes a significant contribution to one or more of the following life cycle impact categories: 1) persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT); 2) reproductive toxicant; 3) carcinogen; and/or 4) endocrine disruptor. (Source: BIFMA Sustainability Standard)

eco-friendly = see “environmentally friendly”.

eco-label = labels that identify a preference for a product or service, within a specific product or service category, based on the environmental impact of the product or service throughout its life. In contrast to symbols or claim statements developed by manufacturers and service providers, an eco-label is awarded to specific products or services by an impartial third party based on defined environmental leadership criteria; trademarks and symbols are not ecolabels unless they have been achieved through such a qualified process. Examples of eco-labels are the “Global Organic Textiles Standards (GOTS)”, “Green Seal™”, and “GREENGUARD®”. (Source: Consumers Union)

eco-safe = see “environmentally friendly”.

eco-smart = see “environmentally friendly”.

environmentally friendly = used to refer to goods and services considered to inflict minimal or no harm on the environment. To make consumers aware, environmentally friendly goods and services often are marked with eco-labels. But because there is no single international standard for this concept, the International Organization for Standardization and Federal Trade Commission consider such labels too vague to be meaningful. Environmental claims and labels should be accompanied by a specific, quantifiable disclosure of what environmental or ecological attributes have been tested. In the case of alleging a product is preferable, testing against other products may be necessary. Similarly defined terms are green, ecologically safe, eco-safe, eco-friendly, ecosmart, and environmentally preferable. (Source: EPA, ISO, FTC)

environmentally preferable = products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. See also “environmentally friendly”. (Source: EPA)

environmentally preferable purchasing = requires the identification of environmental attributes pertinent to a product or service and the acquisition of a product or service with those attributes. Environmentally preferable purchasing can be based on a single attribute (e.g., percentage of recycled content, level of energy efficiency), but is most meaningful when multiple attributes (e.g., recycled content plus no or low emissions of volatile organic compounds) are disclosed. This allows the purchaser to make choices based on environmental attributes that are relevant based on individual circumstances while avoiding products that fail to disclose other important environmental impacts. (Source: EPA)

environmentally sensitive = manufacturing facilities and ranching or farming operations (sheep) are conducted in a way that takes into account the surrounding environment. Examples are minimization of waste, treatment of wastewater, facilities built with storm water management plans, and parking areas designed to minimize impervious surfaces. (Source: Grow Smart Maine.)

essentially non-toxic = see “non-toxic”.

fire retardants = a chemical used as a coating for or component of a combustible material to reduce or eliminate a tendency to burn. (Source: References and Guidelines for “16 CFR 1640”.)

green = has positive environmental attributes or objectives. When applied to a product, the term implies that the immediate and residual environmental impacts of products and services have been assessed. See “environmentally friendly”. (Source: The Green Business League)

greenwash = the act of misleading consumers regarding the environmental practices of a company or the environmental benefits of a product or service. (Source: Terrachoice Environmental Marketing, Inc.)

hypoallergenic = products that have been tested against similar products and that have been proven to produce fewer allergic reactions. (Source: FDA)

life cycle impact = the total impact of a system, function, product or service from the extraction of raw materials through its end-of-life management.

life cycle assessment (LCA) = a quantification of the level of energy and raw materials used as well as the solid, liquid and gaseous wastes produced at every stage of a product's life or process. Life cycle assessments or LCAs can be conducted for the whole process or for part of a process. (Source: EPA)
A tool for the systematic evaluation of the environmental aspects of a product or service system through all stages of its life cycle consistent with ISO 14040. An analytical tool to implement life cycle thinking, inclusive of both product and process. An LCA is generally quantitative and requires that the results be normalized to a functional unit. (BIFMA Sustainability Standard)

life cycle inventory (LCI) = a process of quantifying energy and raw material requirements, atmospheric emissions, waterborne emissions, solid wastes, and other releases for the entire life cycle of a product, process, or activity. (BIFMA Sustainability Standard)

life cycle thinking = a conceptual approach that addresses environmental problems from a whole-systems or holistic perspective. The essential difference from an LCA is that the results are not normalized to a functional unit, and the results may be expressed qualitatively or quantitatively.

made with x % organic materials = 70% - 95% or more of the fibers must be of certified organic (or in conversion) origin. The remaining balance up to 30% may be made of non-organic fibers. Regenerated and synthetic fibers are limited to 10% (resp. 25% in the US). Blending is not permitted. GOTS certification is required to use this phrase. (Source: Global Organic Textile Standard)

made with x % organic - in conversion materials = see “made with x % organic materials.” GOTS certification is required to use this phrase. (Source: Global Organic Textile Standard)

natural = this phrase is not governed by a federal agency or other entity at this time. Its use in the industry implies a definition that describes the products material origin. The definition of “biobased” from the USDA is recommended through this report for use by the bedding industry. The recommended definition is: commercial or industrial goods (other than food or feed) composed in whole or in significant part of biological products, forestry materials, or renewable domestic agricultural materials, including plant, animal, or marine materials. Third-party testing by an ISO 9001 certified lab that conducts the ASTM D6866 (or the Standard Test Methods for Determining the Biobased Content of Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous Samples Using Radiocarbon Analysis) is required to substantiate use of this term. It is recommended that the percentage of biobased material by component accompany use of this term. It is helpful to know that USDA guidance recommends a minimum of 12% biobased product for bedding (does not include mattresses at this time) and a minimum of 51% for any undefined product category. Also see “biobased products.” (Source: Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002/2008 (FSRIA))

nature friendly = see “environmentally friendly”.

non-toxic = testing has demonstrated that a product will not pose any significant risk to people or the environment. (Source: FTC)

organic = 95% or more of the fibers must be of certified organic (or in conversion) origin. The remaining balance up to 5% may be made of nonorganic fibers including defined regenerated and synthetic fibers. Blending is not permitted. This term is regulated by both USDA and the Global Organic Textile Standards (GOTS) but this definition comes from GOTS. Certification by GOTS is required. It is not recommended to use this term without certification. (Source: Global Organic Textile Standard)

organic - in conversion = farmers who want to switch their farming operations over to an organic operation must embark on a three year process for the change. During the first two years, the farmer will focus on improving the soil in which the produce will be grown. The first year any food produced can't be labeled as organic. During the second year, any produce that is grown can be labeled to be "In Conversion" to signify that the production process of the produce is coming close to organic standards. In the third year any produce that is grown can be labeled organic. Certification by GOTS is required. (Source: Global Organic Textile Standard)

package = a container providing a means of marketing, protection, or handling of a product and shall include a unit package, an intermediate package, and a shipping/transport container as defined in American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D 996. "Package" shall also mean and include such unsealed receptacles as carrying cases, crates, cups, pails, rigid foil, and other trays, wrappers and wrapping films, bags, and tubs. (BIFMA Sustainability Standard)

pre-consumer recycled materials = made totally or partially from material destined for disposal or recovered from industrial activities-like defective

aluminum soda cans or trimmings from paper production. (Source: EPA) It is recommended that environmental marketing claims associated with recycled content specify whether the content is either pre- or post- consumer and to what component the recycled claim applies. Additionally, specifying a percentage of recycled content by weight or mass for a specific component that can be substantiated by documentation is helpful.

Material diverted from the waste stream during a manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it. (Source: ISO 14021)

post-consumer recycled material = material from products that were used by consumers or businesses and would otherwise be discarded as waste. (Source: EPA) It is recommended that environmental marketing claims associated with recycled content specify whether the content is either pre- or post- consumer and to what component the recycled claim applies. Additionally, specifying a percentage of recycled content by weight or mass for a specific component that can be substantiated by documentation is helpful.

Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of material from the distribution chain." For the purposes of the calculation, the term 'product' refers to the final product as delivered to the construction site and incorporated in the works. (Source: ISO 14021)

renewable = A material that is replenishable and replenished on some reasonable time scale. Renewable material sources include, but are not limited to wood, grass fibers, plant-based plastics, and bio-based fuels. (Source: BIFMA Sustainability Standard)

recyclable = means that the manufacturer or seller of the products has proof that the products can be collected and used again, or made into useful products. Claims are relevant only if products are readily collected for recycling. (Source: FTC Green Guides)

recycled content = proportion, by cost or weight, of recycled material in a product or packaging. Only pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled materials are considered to be recycled content. (Source: EPA) It is recommended that pre-consumer or post-consumer be specified and that components with recycled content be identified. See also "recycled materials," "pre-consumer recycled content," and "post-consumer recycled content."

recycled materials = materials that have been diverted from the waste stream and reprocessed and remanufactured to form part, or all of a new product. (Source: EPA) See also "recycled materials," "pre-consumer recycled content," and "post-consumer recycled content."

sustainable development = meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Source: Brundtland Report, World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)

synthetic = a substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources. Substances created by naturally occurring biological processes are not synthetic. (Source: USDA)

Certification Programs & Standards

This section provides a helpful reference for certification programs and standards relevant to the mattress and bedding industry. Efforts have been made to make this a comprehensive resource, but due to the rapidly changing marketplace and variety of products, it may not be all-inclusive.

American Humane Certified = a voluntary, fee-based service available to producers of animals in agriculture. The program provides independent, third party audited verification that the care and handling of animals on enrolled farms meet the animal welfare standards set forth by American Humane Certified. Producers who meet the standards may use the American Humane Certified label on their products. Certifies wool products are produced humanely. Annual independent on-site audits of more than 200 science-based standards and measures conducted by Professional Animal Auditor Certified Organization (PAACO) trained and certified auditors. Online Compliance Resources to provide regular mandatory audit updates, and monitoring throughout the year. State-of-the-art, web-based independent video monitoring that provides 24/7, real-time monitoring and instant alerts of potential problems to the producer and American Humane.

BioPreferred = labeling program developed by USDA. Commercial or industrial products must be composed in whole or in significant part of biological products including renewable domestic agricultural materials and forestry materials or an intermediate ingredient or feedstock. Bedding and linen currently includes textile products for bed coverings. 12% biobased content is the minimum for bedding, 51% for any category not yet defined by the USDA. Currently in public comment phase of program. Some textile products from the “bed and bath” market sector are listed on the website. The information from the BioPreferred Catalog merely lists the description from the manufacturer’s website.

CertiPUR-US® = a voluntary testing, analysis and certification program developed by members of the global foam industry in response to an increase in substandard imported foams. CertiPUR-US® tests for durability, content and indoor emissions. CertiPUR-US® is an extension of the European CertiPUR® program developed in 2002 by EUROPUR, the association of European flexible polyurethane foam block manufacturers. Home furnishings items, such as upholstered furniture and mattresses, that carry the CertiPUR-US® seal contain flexible polyurethane foam products that have been tested and certified by an independent laboratory to meet specific criteria for physical performance, indoor emissions and environmental stewardship.

Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) 16 CFR 1640 = 2006 federal regulation that imposes a strict national flameproof mattress standard mandating that all new mattresses withstand a two-foot wide blowtorch, open – flame test for 70 seconds.

Forest Product Certification = several certification programs exist to help distinguish wood products as originating from sustainably managed forests using sustainable harvesting and supply chain management. Programs certifying products that are made available in the United States are: Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and American Tree Farm System (ATFS).

Global Organic Textiles Standards (GOTS) = define requirements to ensure organic status of textiles, from harvesting of the raw materials, through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing up to labeling to provide a credible assurance to the end consumer.

GREENGUARD® Indoor Air Quality Certified = Performance based standards to define goods with low chemical and particle emissions for use indoors, primarily building materials, interior furnishings, furniture, cleaning and maintenance products, electronic equipment, and personal care products.

Green Housekeeping Seal of Approval = is now available for cleaning and beauty products, but will soon be expanding to include a variety of other consumer products. The seal is overseen by the Good Housekeeping Research Institute. The metrics used to earn the seal address a variety of issues, including but not limited to chemicals, energy, material content, packaging, emissions, and corporate social responsibility.

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) = responsible for the ISO 9000, ISO 14000, ISO 27000, ISO 22000 and other international management standards, including the ISO 14000 series which describes the essential features of environmental management systems, eco-labeling, and life cycle assessments. It is not a certification itself but rather a standard to which some certifications adhere.

Lanham Act = the Lanham Act is a federal law that provides for private litigation between competitors and governs advertising claims to prevent false advertising.

Made in the USA = products need a content consisting of 51% or more of domestically produced or manufactured parts, labor and or value-added content or any combination thereof.

Montreal Protocol Act = originally signed in 1987, the signatories agreed to phase out Ozone-depleting substances (ODS), including CFCs to be replaced by less harmful HCFCs. We are now entering the Montreal Protocol's second stage, which aims to phase out HCFCs by 2030 for developed countries and 2040 for developing countries. An amendment submitted in 2007 would speed up the phase out of HCFC. Foam is considered a store for ODS and therefore

impacted by this Act.

OEKO-TEX = sets globally uniform test criteria for safe use of chemicals in textiles, tests textiles during and after manufacturing processes, and certifies textiles as ecologically safe for humans. Standards are Oeko-Tex 100 (products), Oeko-Tex 1000 (processes), and Oeko-Tex Standard 100Plus (combined product and process requirements).

Organic Exchange = The OE 100 Standard is for tracking and documenting the purchase, handling and use of 100% certified organic cotton fiber in yarns, fabrics and finished goods. The OE Blended Standard is for tracking and documenting the purchase, handling and use of certified organically farmed cotton fiber in blended yarns, fabrics and finished goods. The standard applies to all goods that contain a minimum of 5% organic cotton.

Scientific Certification Systems = SCS builds their own standards and acts as an independent third party verifier for a variety of certification programs. Examples include: Recycled and Material Content, Biodegradable, No added formaldehyde, FSC Chain of Custody, Pesticide Free.

Sustainable by Design = Developed by the American Home Furnishings Alliance, the program provides a roadmap for home furnishings companies to create a corporate culture of conservation and environmental stewardship. The program assesses four key areas: environmental impact of domestic facilities, environmental impact of supply chain, global climate impact, and overall corporate environmental footprint.

Sustainable Furnishings Council = A green furnishings organization, SFC is a non-profit coalition of suppliers, manufacturers, retailers, and designers formed to promote sustainable practices within the furnishings industry. In 2008, SFC launched a public advertising and in-store tagging program for consumers to identify retailers and products that exceed SFC threshold sustainability standards. SFC maintains three levels: Standard for retailers and manufacturers committed to improve their sustainability performance, Exemplary for retailers and manufacturers meeting or exceeding proven levels of performance, and the Designer specifically aimed at furniture designers. The Exemplary Level addresses: reducing Stockholm chemicals throughout supply chain; life cycle certification; reuse and end of life management; social equity; independent third party audited Social Equity Supplier Conduct; educational content for climate change; use of Green-e certified renewable energy; tree-free approach to all documents; recycling and reduced packaging; and innovation credits.