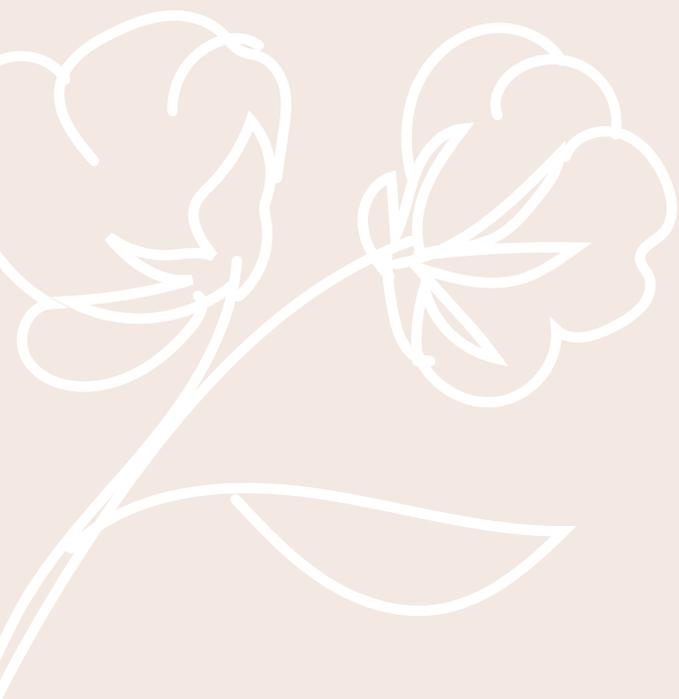




**COTTON  
MADE IN  
AFRICA**

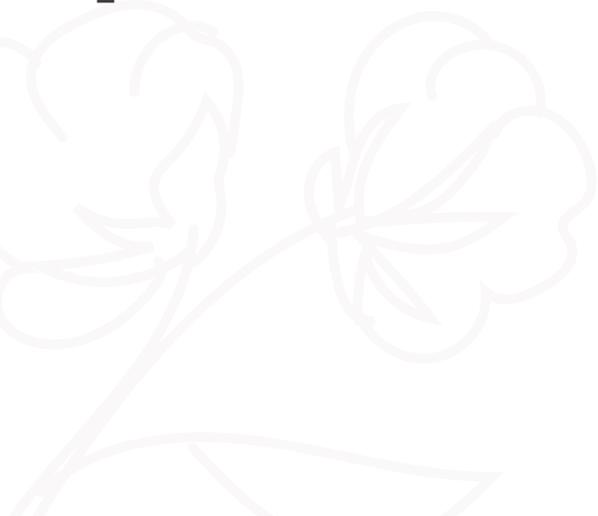


# **Guidelines for Mass Balance (MB) Implementation**



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The Cotton made in Africa standard can be implemented with two systems – CmiA Mass Balance System (MB) or CmiA Hard Identity Preserved System (HIP)<sup>1</sup>.

# 1 General Requirements

To be labelled with the “*Supporting the Initiative Cotton made in Africa*” logo, the final product must be composed of at least 5% cotton, with the remaining percentage comprising any other, non-cotton fibre.

Every single product labeled with CmiA needs to contain CmiA fabrics from a CmiA registered fabric producer/trader and CmiA yarns from a CmiA registered spinning mill/yarn trader. A retailer/ brand and its supply chain can choose an already CmiA registered spinning mill or can register one of his preferred “not yet registered” spinning mills with CmiA.

Every registered CmiA spinning mill receives a one-year valid CmiA certificate; validity of CmiA certificates should be regularly checked here: <https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/Spinning-Mills-Fabric-Producers-CmiA.xlsx>. **For a CmiA production all other supply chain levels must be registered beforehand with CmiA as well.**

**The Mass Balance system is not a content claim**, but about increasing the demand for CmiA cotton. The CmiA cotton has not have to be physically in the yarn/ fabric/ final product, but the CmiA registered spinning mill must physically purchase CmiA cotton<sup>2</sup> from one of the CmiA nominated cotton traders<sup>3</sup> and prove that to CmiA.

According to the Mass Balance System the spinning mill is free to process the purchased CmiA cotton and choose between 3 options:

- Process all of the CmiA cotton one-to-one and sell the yarns as “CmiA Mass Balance” yarns (eventually also blend the cotton with any non-cotton fibres),
- OR**
- mix some of the CmiA cotton with any other cotton (and if necessary other fibres) of a different origin and sell the total amount of the yarns as “CmiA Mass Balance” yarns
- OR**
- choose any other cotton (put CmiA cotton on stock) and process it into yarn. This total amount of yarns can also be sold as “CmiA Mass Balance” yarns.

<sup>1</sup> Additional information is outlined in the CmiA Chain of Custody Guideline.

<sup>2</sup> <https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/CmiA-Cotton-Companies.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/Cotton-Trader-CmiA.pdf>

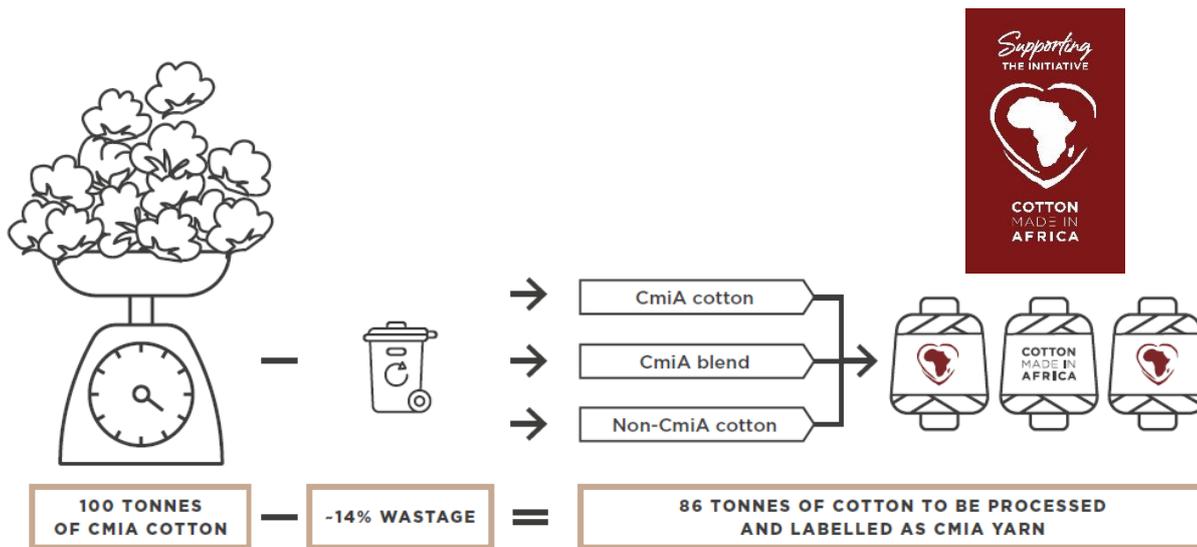


Figure 1: The process from CmiA cotton to CmiA MB yarn

In all three options, the entire amount of cotton yarn, including wastage, is deducted from the spinning mill's cotton balance<sup>4</sup>, regardless of whether any CmiA cotton was physically used in the yarn. When the spinning mill is producing blended yarns (i.e. mixed with other fibres), only the cotton share of the total yarn amount will be deducted.

CmiA verifies the mass balance through its Tracking System SCOT to ensure that the spinning mill is not selling more CmiA-labelled yarns than it has purchased CmiA cotton. This method is not about making sure, that the CmiA cotton is physically in the product – its more about making sure, that we increase the demand for CmiA cotton and ensure that the “bookkeeping” is correct.

**Only the CmiA Mass Balance logo (“Supporting the Initiative Cotton made in Africa”) may be used for items produced according to the CmiA Mass Balance System.**

## 2 Implementation Requirements

To ensure a smooth and easy implementation of CmiA and transparency throughout the entire supply chain **all direct production partners should be informed that it is a CmiA Mass Balance order.**

A remark on “CmiA” and the respective implementation system (e.g. “CmiA MB yarns/fabrics”, “produced according to CmiA Mass Balance system” etc.) should be placed on all documents (order, contracts, invoices).

<sup>4</sup> This is done by “converting” the yarn quantities with a “wastage upcharge factor” to an amount of raw cotton. This amount of cotton is then deducted from the previously purchased cotton amount. If the spinning mill's cotton inventory is used up, it has to buy new CmiA cotton.

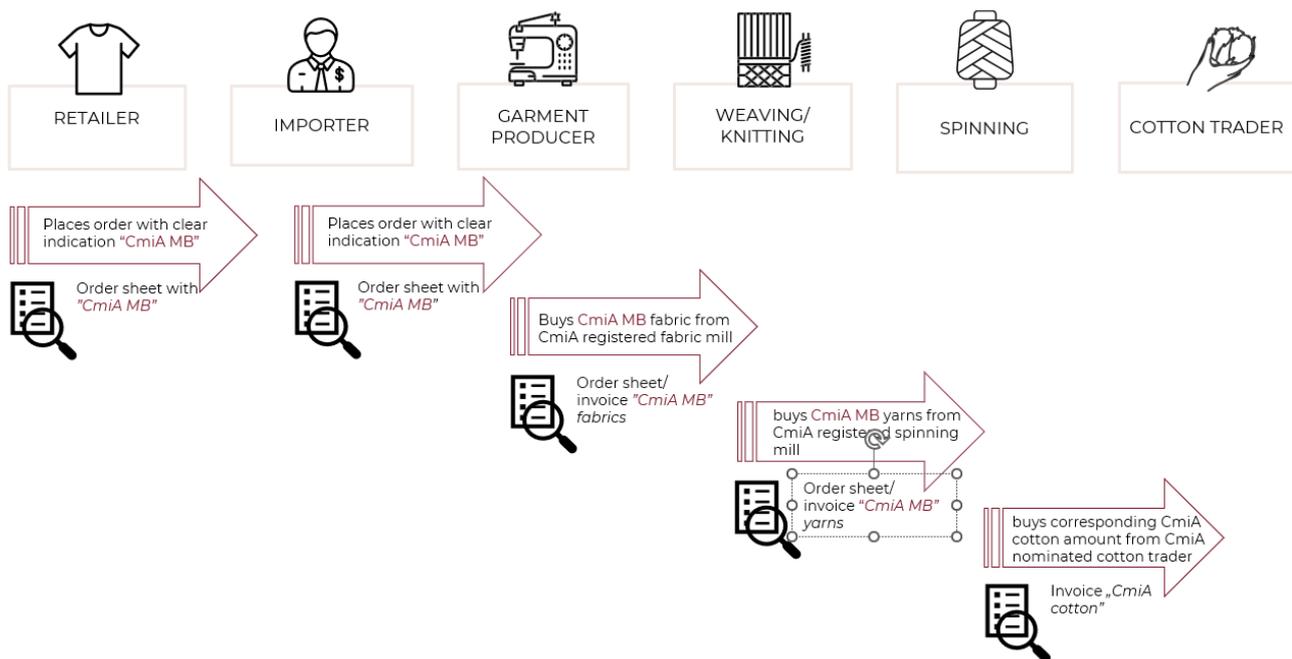


Figure 2: CmiA in the supply chain

## 3 SCOT Tracking System

The Sustainable Cotton Tracker (SCOT) was developed to ensure a better transparency in the supply chain and to make sure that the CmiA cotton is being processed according to the CmiA Mass Balance requirements:

Companies which are registered with CmiA (spinning mills, yarn trader/dye houses, fabric producer, fabric trader/dye house) and companies designated by retailers for CmiA productions (garment importer, garment producer) will receive access to SCOT system. All partners in the supply chain are obliged to regularly provide and acknowledge CmiA purchase and sales data in SCOT.

**The CmiA office does not take over any responsibility for the correctness of data and documents provided in SCOT.** If there are doubts about the reliability of the data which are checked randomly, CmiA office reserves the right to send 3rd party auditors to the supply chain to check.



## 4 Labelling

The final product must be composed of at least 5 % cotton, with the remaining percentage comprising any other, non-cotton fibre. CmiA products produced according to the MB requirements are allowed to be labeled with the “*Supporting the Initiative Cotton made in Africa*” logo.



For further information please contact the CmiA Marketing Department at:

[marketing@abt-foundation.org](mailto:marketing@abt-foundation.org)

## 5 Contact and Documents

If you have any questions regarding CmiA or SCOT, please check:

<https://scot.cottonmadeinafrica.org/faqs/view>

<https://scot.cottonmadeinafrica.org/help-docs/faq>

or contact the **SCOT Helpdesk:**

[mail@scotsupport-dss.atlassian.net](mailto:mail@scotsupport-dss.atlassian.net)

### Related documents:

- CmiA verified cotton companies:  
<https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/CmiA-Cotton-Companies.pdf>
- CmiA cotton trader:  
<https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/Cotton-Trader-CmiA.pdf>
- CmiA registered yarn and fabric supplier:  
<https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/Spinning-Mills-Fabric-Producers-CmiA.xlsx>
- Chain of Custody Guideline:  
<https://cottonmadeinafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/CmiA-Chain-of-Custody-Guidelines.pdf>