

# Better Cotton Initiative's Measuring Cotton Consumption Independent Assessment

Measuring  
**Cotton**  
Consumption:  
Independent  
Assessment

Certified by Valpak



## An introduction

**The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) is a global nonprofit organisation dedicated to promoting sustainable cotton production. The initiative aims to make cotton farming better for the environment, the farmers, and the communities where it's grown. It focuses on reducing the negative environmental impacts of cotton production, improving livelihoods and economic development in cotton-producing areas, and promoting fair working conditions.**

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BCI works with farmers to adopt more sustainable practices, such as minimising the use of pesticides, optimising water usage, and promoting soil health. By meeting the standards set out by BCI, farmers produce "Better Cotton," which is then purchased by brands and retailers that are committed to sustainability. Today, BCI is the largest cotton sustainability programme in the world, representing a significant portion of the global cotton supply.

To become a BCI member, visit the official BCI website and navigate to the "Membership" section where you will find detailed information about the different membership categories and the application process.

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## Purpose of a BCI Measuring Cotton Consumption Independent Assessment.

The purpose of a Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) Independent Assessment is to verify the accuracy and reliability of your business's cotton consumption data and ensure that it complies with the requirements set out by BCI. The independent assessment is only applicable to BCI's Retailer and Brand Members (RB Members).



### The process.

Valpak will conduct an independent assessment, which includes:

- Reviewing your, cotton fibre consumption submission form which needs to be submitted to BCI by the 15 of January each year.
- Reviewing all records related to your business's cotton fibre consumption measurement in an electronic format.
- Reviewing the 'documented protocol' of how the records are used to create the cotton fibre consumption measurement.

The audits are conducted online, and the requirement and frequency will be based on your business's size category. Once the independent assessment has been completed Valpak will provide the you with a signed Outcome Declaration and Conformity Assessment which must then be submitted to BCI before the annual deadline.

## How are member size categories and assessment frequencies defined?

Membership size categories are based on the annual volume of cotton a RB Member consumes or processes. These categories determine the frequency and requirements for BCI independent assessment :

B Member Membership Size Category	Very small (0 – 5,000 MT)	Small (5,000 – 20,000 MT)	Medium (20,000 – 50,000 MT)	Large (50,000 – 125,000 MT)	Very Large (≥ 125,000MT)
Frequency of requirement for <b>Better Cotton Membership</b>	None	Every other year	Every year	Every year	Every year
Frequency of requirement for <b>access to Advanced Claims &amp; On-Product Mark</b>	Before claim launch and then <b>Every other year</b>	Before claim launch and then <b>Every other year</b>	Before claim launch and then <b>Every year</b>	Before claim launch and then <b>Every year</b>	Before claim launch and then <b>Every year</b>

## The requirements.

From January 2024, RB Members are required to, alongside submitting cotton fibre consumption data annually, commission a Third Party to assess the accuracy and reliability of these measurements. The requirement and frequency of the Independent Assessment is based on your membership size category outlined earlier and therefore, your total amount of cotton fibre consumption.

To conduct the independent assessment, we would require the following documents:

- Completed Better Cotton's Annual Cotton Consumption Submission Form (covering the most recent consecutive 12-month period only) which needs to be submitted to BCI by the 15 January each year.
- All records related to your cotton fibre consumption measurement in an electronic format suitable to Valpak. Typical records include:
  - Raw data (spreadsheets, database extracts, associated database filters)
  - Calculation models (spreadsheets, or programming code)
  - Methodology records detailing, for example, the calculation logic (how raw data is transformed into results) and explanations for how they ensure BCI's requirements 3a – 3h are met
  - Records of assumptions, e.g., approaches taken for filling gaps that may be present in the raw data
- Documented protocol which should consist of a written explanation of how the records have been used to arrive at the final measurement

Once the independent assessment has been successfully completed and any non-conformities rectified Valpak will provide the you with a signed Outcome Declaration and Conformity Assessment which can be submitted to BCI before the annual deadline.

For more information on the requirements and frequency visit the official BCI website and navigate to the "Resources" section where you will find the Measuring Cotton Consumption: Cotton Consumption Requirements and Guidance document.



## Why choose Valpak?

We are an independent third party with auditors who are experienced in conducting various assessments, including [Zero Waste to Landfill certification](#) and [waste prevention and diversion reviews](#). Typically, we complete more than 400 audits per year!

We are committed to data protection, which is demonstrated by our ISO 27001 certification, Cyber Essentials Plus accreditation, and full compliance with GDPR, ensuring the highest standards of data security and confidentiality.

All auditors undergo robust training



Well versed in the BCI's standards



Have experience in the textiles industry and sustainability practices



## What our customers have to say.



**JD Sports Fashion Plc**

“As a member of the Better Cotton Initiative, we are now required to commission an independent assessment of our cotton fibre consumption measurement. We trust Valpak’s auditing expertise and impartiality – having worked with them on other projects; therefore, sought their assistance. We were delighted with the support we received from Valpak. They have become a trusted sustainability partner.

**Kentaur A/S**



“We have been very happy with Valpak’s service on our independent assessment of our Better Cotton consumption. They were well aware of their obligations with respect to the assessment and it was easy to understand which documents they needed in order to make the assessment. The assessment was done very fast after we delivered our documentation, and the pricing was competitive. We have been very happy to work with Valpak.

For more  
information  
please  
contact us.



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