



# Infinite Textiles

## The Case For Infinite Textiles Recycling Scheme

FEBRUARY 2024





# INTRODUCTION

The Infinite Textiles™ scheme has been developed by the TSA to assess and accredit end-to-end solutions that help deliver the following objectives for laundries and their value chain:

1. To make well-informed sustainable choices for textiles products and related services
2. To extend the life of the textiles used in rental and industrial laundering
3. To enable the laundries and their value chain to effectively manage the end of primary use of textile products.

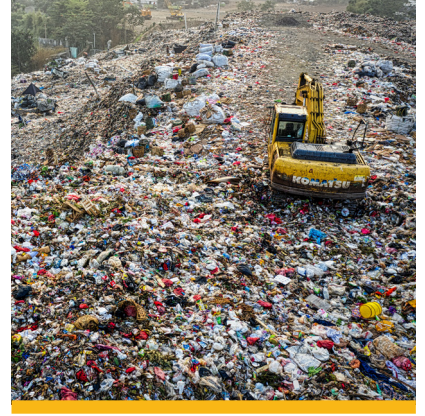
The scheme is designed to accredit laundries for their responsible and innovative practices in sustainable handling of textiles products throughout its life cycle. As much as it is geared for the current challenges in the industry, it is equally a forward looking solution for the way things are developing in this sector.

Through its several stages of development and iterations, this scheme is now equipped to handle such a complex topic with a high-level of flexibility and simplicity. In its latest form, it allows provisions for flat linen operators and workwear operators to participate in the accreditation process.



**A CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY  
A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE.**

# THE REASONS



## WHY DO IT?

There is growing pressures to manage all waste streams much more responsibly than is current practice. These are likely to be driven by both legislation and customer sustainability objectives which get pushed down the supply chain as a relatively simple option. With this accreditations scheme, we can stay in front of the curve and position the industry and its members with the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of commercial laundry and its circular credentials.

- **Waste Framework Directive (with UK amendments)**
- **Showcase the circular credentials of the industry**
- **Ethics: It's the right thing to do!**
- **Deliverable: We have the volumes to make it viable for all members**
- **'On Message' for our staff, our customers and their customers**

The evidence is well documented, dozens of studies have demonstrated the benefits of re-use/re-cycle. With the potential of over 6,000 tonnes a year of recycled textiles the savings in water, chemicals and carbon are enormous. If the industry can come together on this key project, we really will be making a difference to the environment. This will be the largest laundry industry textile recycling project in the world.

## THE OPTIONS...

**1 Do Nothing.** When we initiated this project in 2020, this might have been an option. However, this is no longer an option as it would be irresponsible and will leave the industry far behind where the rest of our value chain is headed. Not really an option.

**2 Fragmented approach to recycling.** There is a plethora of sustainable claims which exert significant of pressure on organisations to employ the most suitable routes. This will leave the industry at an uneven platform to drive our sustainability roadmap.

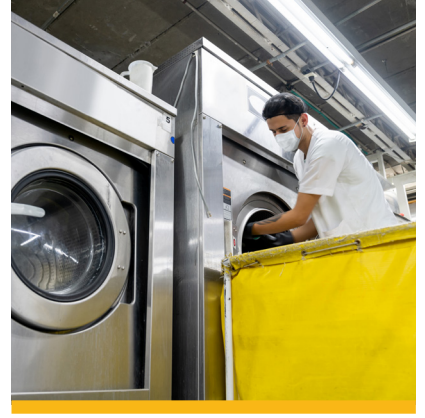
**3 Infinite Textiles™ Scheme** - The scheme lays out clear expectations not only for the end of primary use, but also across the life cycle of textile products. Unified approach to an industry-level opportunity.





# PROCESS FLOW

## PRIMARY REUSE



The scheme does not only cover end-of-life, in fact that's just the last stage. The certification process starts with sourcing the fibres and includes the specification and manufacturing, the washing, inspection and even engages the customer base in how they can play their part in extending the life of the linen.

### LAUNDRY PROCESS



Get all this right and we will have already saved thousands of tonnes a year.

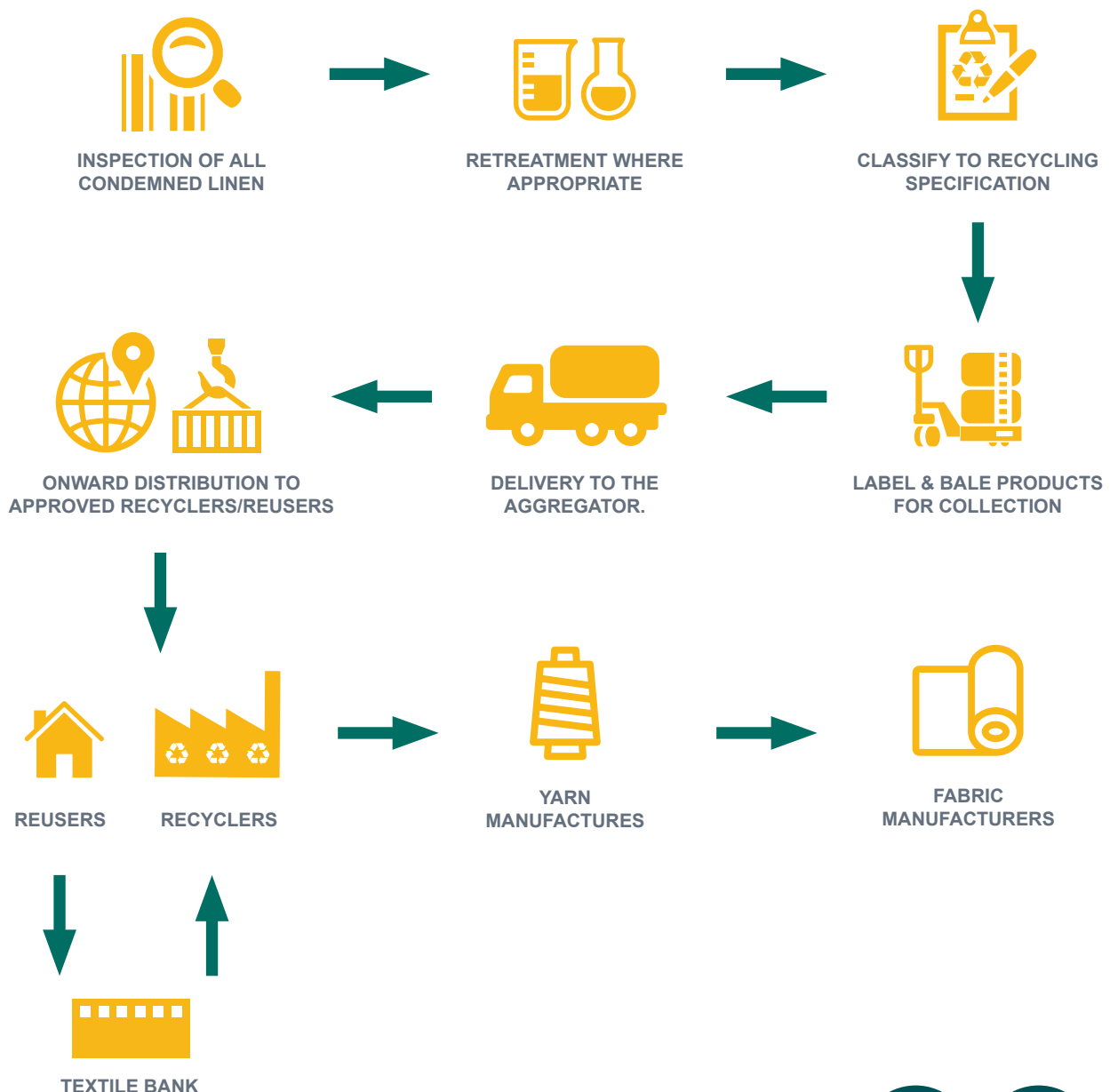


# PROCESS FLOW SECONDARY RE-USE AND RECYCLE



The laundry industry has made huge strides in optimisation and resource efficiencies. However, they were all down to individual laundries doing their best. However, for a sector-level progress in our circular economy credentials, we need a consistent and industry-wide approach. Infinite Textiles™ scheme provides that recognised and well-managed platform to partner with our customers and suppliers. .

## END-OF-LIFE PROCESS



# THE NUMBERS



## THE SCHEME IN NUMBERS

As an industry we have mastered the art of reusing textile articles. It's what we are good at and now it's time for us take the opportunity to close the loop and make our industry, a leader in circular use of products.

In the United Kingdom, around 3.3 million tonnes/year of textiles are recovered in which around two million tons are exported to other developing countries and 1.2 million tonnes of textiles are recycled.

It has been reported that the energy required for the reuse or recycling process of polyester is only 1.8% of the total energy consumed by the virgin fibre. Also, reuse of one tonne of cotton fibre needs only 2.6% of the energy required for the virgin material. Therefore, recycling and reuse are important processes to reduce carbon footprint of textiles.

The emission of CO<sup>2</sup> in case of natural fibres occurs during preparation, planting, and field operations (weed control, mechanical irrigation, pest control, and fertilizers), harvesting, and yields. During production of natural fibres, normally two types of fertilisers are used such as manure and synthetic chemicals. The use of synthetic fertilisers is a main component of conventional agriculture leading to significant carbon footprint. The production of one tonne of nitrogen fertiliser emits approximately seven tons of CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent Green House Gases.

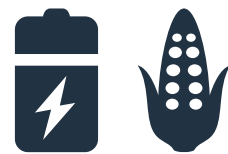
**The carbon and water numbers are definitely on the side of resuse and recycle.**



**TENS OF  
THOUSANDS**  
TONNES OF CARBON  
PER ANNUM



**BILLIONS  
OF LITRES OF  
WATER SAVED**



**SIGNIFICANT  
SAVINGS**  
IN CULTIVATION &  
PRODUCTION REUSE



# ACCREDITED LAUNDRY



## HOW THINGS STACK UP

There will be a commercial price for well-sorted and packaged product delivered to the aggregator.

Infinite Textiles™ standard was developed in line with national standard structure and by experts in the field of standards development and by those who conduct primary standards audits. The standard has been well-received among the hospitality sector and expected to widely recognised as the route to sustainable use of textiles in all sectors.

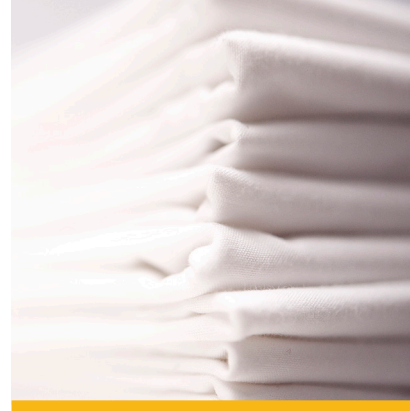
It may sound complicated, but you are just ten steps away from being accredited as Infinite Textiles™ laundry. The scheme is developed to be a constructive process than a stern standards audit. Our team of auditors and experts will do everything to ensure that you understand the requirements of the scheme and how to address the gaps if any identified.

1. Express your interest by filling in the registration form on TSA website
2. Once the TSA receives the registration form, our auditing partner, CFA (Centre for Assessment) will be notified
3. CFA will then have an onboarding call with the main point of contact
4. CFA will send the self-assessment form which will help list the accreditation requirements and the evidence pack
5. CFA receives the self-assessment form and they will then advise the laundry of any gaps and recommendations to address what is needed
6. CFA agrees an auditing date for the laundry
7. Laundry sends the evidence pack and documents needed to CFA for the desktop audit
8. CFA conducts the desktop audit and follows up with questions or referrals
9. Once CFA is satisfied that the requirements are met, they will recommend accreditation
10. TSA will then issue the accreditation along with the marketing pack and the re-audit dates.

But the main value of the scheme is the feel good factor of being part of the solution, not the problem. **No more landfill! DIS to elaborate.....**



# ACCREDITED LAUNDRY



## APPROVING THE RECEIVERS

The Infinite Textiles™ standard reaches beyond the boundaries of typical laundry settings. The scheme is also designed to enable the laundry sector to have confidence in those who are receiving the end of primary-use textiles for reuse or recycle. It is a requirement of the scheme for a laundry to send their stock for reuse, re-purpose or recycle to only those who are in the list of approved receivers.

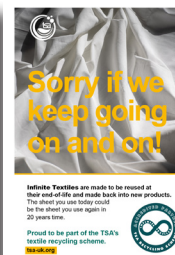
### How to check whether a receiver is approved:

TSA will publish a list of approved receivers and you can check your current or potential supplier(s) whether they are in the list. If they are not in the list, the TSA has set up a process to get them included.

1. Refer the receiver/supplier to the TSA website for registration to the scheme
2. The receiver fills in the registration form
3. TSA schedules an onboarding call with the receiver
4. Audit date scheduled with the receiver
5. TSA audits the receiver for essential requirements of the scheme
6. TSA approves the supplier if the requirements are met and added to the approved list
7. TSA provides recommendations to address any gaps if the receiver is not approved in the first instance.

## OUTPUT

- Scheme start-up pack
- Webinars and training for all scheme participants
- Advice and support on recycling best practices
- National PR campaign
- Evidence of compliance for Waste Framework Directive
- Support certification with ISO 14001, BS8001
- Audited by UKAS accredited certification body
- Marketing literature and support materials
- Supporting charity bedding banks (reuse)



making the use of textiles infinite





WORKING  
TOGETHER,

STRONGER  
PARTNERSHIPS.



David and I discussed if we add the logos  
of those hotel chains that are part of the  
UKH round table...



**Proud Infinite Textiles  
Partner.**



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