postmetry

C

What's inside the newsletter from

Cotton Traders

Sender	cottontraders@email.cottontraders.com
Sending platform	SAP Emarsys
Sector	Fashion & retail
Emails read	10 campaigns, 1 transactional
Period	August – October 2026

Our address was subscribed in August 2026, after the CNIL recommendation was published (April 14, 2026).

Overall score

A B C **D** 65/100 E F

The main finding

An open-tracking pixel is present on the last 3 campaigns.

It is the first of 8 points to fix. The highest score is deliverability (100/100), the lowest compliance (30/100), better than 7% of the 503 brands measured.

Marketing
10 campaigns

August – October 2026 · calculated on 24 October

Compliance

30 /100

better than 7% of the 503 brands measured

Deliverability

100 /100

better than 45% of the 503 brands measured

Technical

76 /100

better than 48% of the 503 brands measured

Experience

65 /100

better than 56% of the 503 brands measured

8 points to fix

Each line leads to the criterion in its family, with the excerpt that establishes it and how to fix it.

Priority	**An open-tracking pixel is present** Criterion “No open-tracking pixel” · Compliance · on the last 3 campaigns `<img src="https://link.email.cottontraders.com/mo/***.gif" height="2" width="2"…` Open tracking is turned off in the tracking settings, at the campaign or account level.	−30 pts out of 30 in Compliance
Priority	**The recipient has no control over tracking** Criterion “The recipient keeps control over tracking” · Compliance · measured on 9 campaigns A path separate from the unsubscribe link leads to a preference centre where the recipient can refuse tracking (opens, clicks) without unsubscribing.	−20 pts out of 20 in Compliance
Priority	**Layout tables nested beyond the threshold** Criterion “A shallow template” · Technical · measured on 9 campaigns Flatten the template: one content block per table, placed directly in the main column, with no wrapper table around each section.	−20 pts out of 20 in Technical
Priority	**The recipient's address is written into the message** Criterion “No recipient identifier in the message” · Compliance · on all 9 campaigns	−10 pts out of 10 in Compliance
To review	**The message puts obstacles in the way of assistive technology** Criterion “The message stays readable with assistive technology” · Experience · measured on 9 campaigns	−15 pts out of 20 in Experience
To review	**Some links become invisible when images are blocked** Criterion “All links stay visible with images blocked” · Experience · on 8 of the 9 campaigns	−13.3 pts out of 15 in Experience
To review	**No untracked path leads to the site** Criterion “An untracked path leads to the site” · Compliance · on all 9 campaigns	−10 pts out of 10 in Compliance
Secondary	**The message reads poorly without its images or does not announce itself in the inbox** Criterion “The message makes sense without its images, from the inbox on” · Experience · measured on 9 campaigns	−6.9 pts out of 25 in Experience

16 criteria met, including « Unsubscribing is possible and announced » and « DKIM signature validated ». They are listed in their family, below.

Every send, at the time it arrived

One dot per message received by our subscription since August. Tap a dot to open it; the arrows move from one send to the next.

Technical reading of the send of Oct. 12, 2026 →

10

campaigns in 10 weeks

about one a week, from August to October

Monday

favourite sending day

6 of the 10 campaigns

4 h

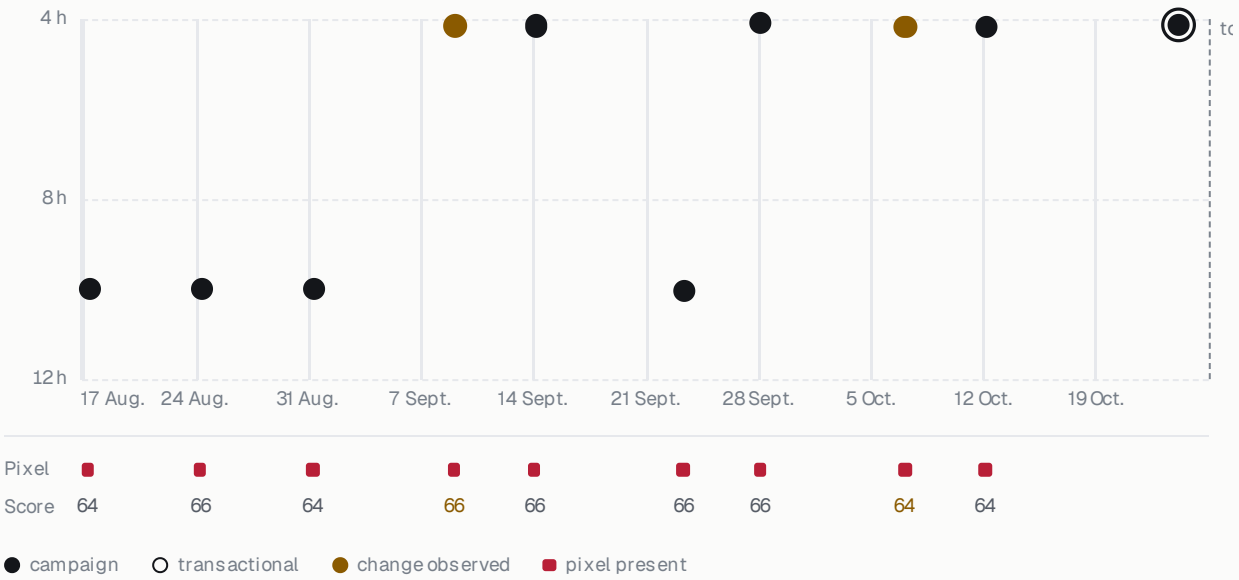
favourite sending hour

60% of campaigns arrive between 4:00 and 5:00

24 Oct.

last send received

« 6 of the best, now HALF PRICE »



Campaign 10 of 10

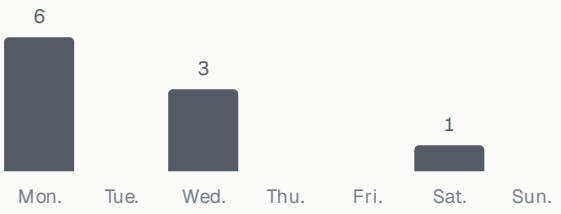
Saturday 24 Oct., 4:06

6 of the best, now HALF PRICE

Type	Marketing campaign
Score	analysis in progress
Pixel	—

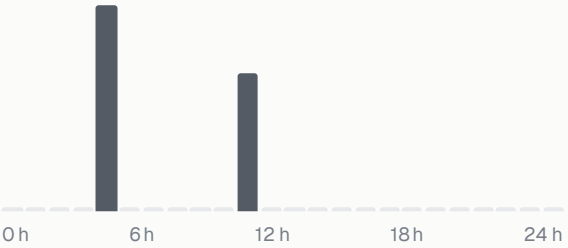
Sending day

Tap a bar to find its sends on the timeline.



Arrival time

Hour by hour, on the 10 campaigns.



2 changes observed since August — Each campaign is compared with the previous one, criterion by criterion.

9 Sept.	The detail of this change, criterion by criterion, is reserved for the Pro version. confirmed by the next 3 campaigns · the per-send score goes from 64 to 66
7 Oct.	The detail of this change, criterion by criterion, is reserved for the Pro version. confirmed by the next campaign · the per-send score goes from 66 to 64

Criteria in detail

The 24 criteria + 1 bonus

16 met · **3** partly met · **5** not met · **0** not observable

30
out of 100

Compliance

These checks cover what the send imposes on the recipient and what it leaves them: measurement of their behaviour, ways to leave, tracking of their objection.

Tracking pixels: the CNIL rule · Method, Compliance family

better than 7% of the 503 brands measured

The calculation · 30 pts out of 100 — 2 met · 4 not met

30	15	20	15	10	10

Weight of each criterion in the score.

No open-tracking pixel — Not met

0/30 pts

Open-tracking pixel detected on the last 3 campaigns

0 points out of 30 — met on 0 of the last 3 campaigns.

An invisible image tells the sending platform that the message was opened, when, and from which device: this is individual tracking of reading behavior, and the recipient sees none of it. The message does not say whether they consented or objected — that choice lives in the sending platform, not in the email.

Served from `cottontraders.com`.

The excerpt that establishes it

```
<img src="https://link.email.cottontraders.com/mo/***.gif" he
ight="2" width="2" border="0" alt="" aria-hidden="true">
```

How to fix it

Open tracking is turned off in the tracking settings, at the campaign or account level. Look for “open tracking”.

Turning it off loses the open rate — a measure already largely distorted by mailbox privacy protections, which preload images — and changes nothing about the click rate.

Met when no tracking pixel is present. A single pixel is enough for the criterion not to be met on an email.

CNIL 14/04/2026·LIL art.82 · PM-PRIV-001 · The detection rule

Unsubscribing is possible and announced

Met

15 pts

Unsubscribing is announced, in the header and in the body on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

Met when the message announces unsubscribing in its headers, through a page rather than an email to write, and in its body. The detail says which of the two is missing. Not applicable to a transactional email.

What was measured — 2 met out of 2

- Unsubscribe announced in the header, through a page on 9 campaigns Met
- Unsubscribe link in the body on 9 campaigns Met

RFC 2369 · PM-PRIV-002

RFC 2369 — The Use of URLs as Meta-Syntax for Core Mail List Commands (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2369)

The recipient keeps control over tracking

Not met

0/20 pts

The recipient has no control over tracking — none of the 2 measures is met

0 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

How to fix it

A path separate from the unsubscribe link leads to a preference centre where the recipient can refuse tracking (opens, clicks) without unsubscribing. Most email platforms offer this page; otherwise it goes in the template footer, with its own link, named for what it does ("manage my preferences", "refuse tracking").

The page takes an afternoon to set up and then serves every send. It is what the CNIL recommendation expects from an email that measures how its readers behave.

Two measures: does the unsubscribe link go through a tracker, and does a separate path lead to a preference center or to refusing tracking? Neither establishes that a refusal succeeds — checking would require following the link, which would record a click on the sending platform's side. They describe the control left to the recipient, not the result they would get.

What was measured — 0 met out of 2

- Tracked unsubscribe link on the 9 campaigns concerned Not met
- No separate path to refuse tracking on the 9 campaigns concerned Not met

CNIL 14/04/2026·Postmetry · PM-PRIV-003

The message says who is writing and under which rules

Met

15 pts

The message says who is writing and under which rules on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

A commercial email must make it possible to identify the advertiser (CPCE, article L. 34-5), and the recipient must be able to know who processes their data. This indicator groups what a message can show of it.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- The message names its sender on 9 campaigns Met
- A reply to the message is possible on 9 campaigns Met
- A link leads to the privacy policy on 9 campaigns Met

CPCE L. 34-5 · directive 2000/31 art. 6 · CAN-SPAM · PM-PRIV-004

An untracked path leads to the site

Not met

0/10 pts

Every link to the site goes through a tracker on the 9 campaigns concerned

0 points out of 10 — met on 0 of 9 campaigns concerned.

A recipient who simply wants to visit the site has no option but to go through the click counter.

How to fix it

At least one link in the message points directly to the brand's domain, without going through the platform's redirect domain: the logo, the legal notice or the privacy policy will do. In the editor this is set link by link ("do not track this link", "disable click tracking") or through an exclusion list in the account settings.

An untracked link does not count in measured clicks; choosing the logo or the footer takes nothing away from the clicks that matter.

Met when at least one link in the message leads to the brand's site without going through a click counter.

Postmetry · PM-PRIV-005

No recipient identifier in the message

Not met

0/10 pts

The recipient's address is written into the message on the 9 campaigns concerned

0 points out of 10 — met on 0 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Base64-encoded or hashed, it is still the address: a hash is recovered by hashing a list of known addresses. Placed in a URL or a header, it travels wherever the message goes — redirect server logs, analytics tools, browser history.

The excerpt that establishes it

```
src adresse:sha256
```

How to fix it

Links carry no email address, contact identifier or automatic login token in their parameters. In the email platform, these come from merge variables inserted into URLs (`?email={{contact.email}}`, `?uid=…`): remove them from the template's links, and turn off login-by-link if it is offered.

The platform still identifies the recipient for tracked clicks; what changes is that the address no longer travels in clear to the website, its analytics and its partners.

Met when the recipient's address appears — neither in clear, nor encoded, nor hashed — in no URL and no proprietary header. Addressing headers do not count: they carry it by design.

Postmetry · RGPD art.4 en repère · PM-PRIV-020

Deliverability

100
out of 100

These checks read the authentication verdict set by our server when the message arrived. This verdict is dated by construction: we never recalculate it, which would query today's DNS rather than the DNS of the day the email was sent.

Gmail sender requirements ↗ (https://support.google.com/a/answer/81126)
Yahoo requirements ↗ (https://senders.yahooinc.com/best-practices/) Method, Deliverability family

better than 45% of the 503 brands measured

The calculation · 85 pts out of 85, scaled to 100 — 6 met

20	20	15	10	15	5

Weight of each criterion in the score.

DKIM signature validated — Met — 20 pts

Valid DKIM signature on 9 campaigns

20 points out of 20 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when our receiving server validated the DKIM signature of the email.

RFC 6376 · RFC 8601 · PM-DELIV-001
RFC 6376 — DomainKeys Identified Mail (DKIM) Signatures (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc6376)
RFC 8601 — Message Header Field for Indicating Message Authentication Status (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8601)

DMARC alignment validated — Met — 20 pts

DMARC alignment verified on 9 campaigns

20 points out of 20 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when the domain shown in the sender matches the one that authenticated the message.

RFC 9989 · PM-DELIV-002
RFC 9989 — Domain-Based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance (DMARC) (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9989)

DMARC policy that helps keep out some impersonation — Met — 15 pts

Active DMARC policy on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when the published policy is “reject” or “quarantine”. A “none” policy asks nothing of mail providers: it is published with no effect on messages that impersonate the domain.

RFC 9989 §4.7 · PM-DELIV-003 · RFC 9989 — section 4.7, “p” tag (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9989#section-4.7)

No SPF failure — Met

10 pts

No SPF failure on 9 campaigns

10 points out of 10 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when SPF does not fail. An SPF "none" alongside a valid DKIM and DMARC is a common and legitimate configuration: it is not penalized.

RFC 7208 · PM-DELIV-004

RFC 7208 — Sender Policy Framework (SPF) for Authorizing Use of Domains in Email (https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc7208)

One-click unsubscribe, as defined by RFC 8058 — Met

15 pts

One-click unsubscribe as defined by RFC 8058 on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

Met when the "List-Unsubscribe" header carries an https address and "List-Unsubscribe-Post" is exactly "List-Unsubscribe=One-Click". This is what Gmail and Yahoo require of bulk senders: the mailbox's button then acts without opening a page. Not applicable to a transactional email.

What was measured — 2 met out of 2

- The unsubscribe header carries an https address on 9 campaigns — Met
- One-click unsubscribe announced on 9 campaigns — Met

RFC 8058 · Gmail et Yahoo · PM-DELIV-005

A DKIM signature that covers what matters — Met

5 pts

The DKIM signature covers what matters in the message on 9 campaigns

5 points out of 5 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

What the signature covers, not only that it passes: an algorithm accepted by RFC 8301, the whole body signed, the From, Subject, Date and List-Unsubscribe headers signed, a signature not expired on receipt. Not applicable without a DKIM signature.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- Accepted signing algorithm on 9 campaigns — Met
- Whole body signed on 9 campaigns — Met
- Essential headers signed on 9 campaigns — Met
- Signature valid on receipt — Not applicable

RFC 6376 · RFC 8301 · PM-DELIV-006

Technical

76
out of 100

These checks cover what email clients actually do with the message: truncation, style blocks removed, resources never loaded. Each threshold states where it comes from: the documented behaviour of an email client, a specification, or our own method.

Support by email client (caniemail) ↗ (https://www.caniemail.com/) Method, Technical family

better than 48% of the 503 brands measured

The calculation · 65 pts out of 85, scaled to 100

5 met · 1 not met

25	20	15	10	10	5

Weight of each criterion in the score.

HTML under Gmail's clipping threshold — Met — 25 pts

HTML under Gmail's clipping threshold on 9 campaigns

25 points out of 25 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when the HTML part stays under 102 KB. Beyond that, Gmail cuts off the end of the message — and the end is where the unsubscribe link and the notices are.

Gmail · PM-TECH-001

A shallow template — Not met — 0/20 pts

Layout tables nested beyond the threshold on the 9 campaigns concerned (0 of 1 measures met)

0 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

How to fix it

Flatten the template: one content block per table, placed directly in the main column, with no wrapper table around each section.

In a block-based editor, nesting usually comes from a section placed inside another, or a column inside a column. It is fixed once, in the template, not campaign by campaign.

The technical reading of the email gives the measured nesting and its threshold: it tells you when the fix has taken effect.

Met when layout tables are nested no more than 6 levels deep. Beyond that, the Word engine shared by desktop Outlook and the diverging clients each render the template their own way.

What was measured — 0 met out of 1

- Layout tables nested beyond the threshold on the 9 campaigns concerned — Not met

Postmetry · PM-TECH-002

Well-formed HTML — Met — 15 pts

Well-formed HTML on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

A doctype, a character set declared in the document, balanced tags and unique identifiers. Each client repairs incomplete markup its own way, which is what makes rendering unpredictable. End tags that HTML makes optional do not count.

What was measured — 4 met out of 4

- Doctype declared on 9 campaigns — Met
- Character set declared in the HTML on 9 campaigns — Met
- Balanced tags on 9 campaigns — Met
- Unique identifiers on 9 campaigns — Met

WHATWG · PM-TECH-030

Every link leads somewhere — Met — 10 pts

Every link leads somewhere on 9 campaigns

10 points out of 10 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when no link is empty, reduced to "#" or written as "javascript:". Such a link leads nowhere, and most clients neutralise it. Not applicable if the message contains no link.

Postmetry · PM-TECH-031

No remote stylesheet Met

10 pts

No remote stylesheet on 9 campaigns

10 points out of 10 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when the message calls no external stylesheet, through "link" or "@import". Several clients never load them. A font stylesheet does not count: without it, the text falls back to another font.

caniemail · PM-TECH-020 · <link> in an email — support by client (https://www.caniemail.com/features/html-link/)

The message follows the shape of an email Met

5 pts

The message follows the shape of an email on 9 campaigns

5 points out of 5 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

Lines of 998 bytes at most, readable Message-ID and Date, a character set announced on every text part, a transfer encoding consistent with the content (RFC 5322, RFC 2045). Most servers tolerate these deviations, each in its own way.

What was measured — 5 met out of 5

- Lines of 998 bytes at most on 9 campaigns Met
- Well-formed Message-ID on 9 campaigns Met
- Readable date on 9 campaigns Met
- Character set announced on every text part on 9 campaigns Met
- Consistent transfer encoding on 9 campaigns Met

RFC 5322 · RFC 2045 · PM-TECH-010

65
out of 100

Experience

Four questions about what becomes of the message once received: does it stay understandable, can the recipient still act, can a client render it, can a screen display it. Automatic detection only covers what is declared in the message.

WCAG 2.2 ↗ (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/) Method, Experience family

better than 56% of the 503 brands measured

The calculation · 65 pts out of 100

3 met · 3 partly met · 1 bonus

25	15	15	10	20	15

Weight of each criterion in the score.

The message makes sense without its images, from the inbox on Partly met

18.1/25 pts

Preheader missing, too short or too long (5 of 9 campaigns concerned) (1 of 2 measures met)

18.1 points out of 25 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

How to fix it

A preheader of 40 to 130 characters, in real text, follows the subject in the inbox; every meaningful image has an `alt` attribute that says what it shows; the main message is in text, not inside an image. In the editor, the preheader is a dedicated field, and the `alt` is filled in image by image.

Half of readers see the message without images when it first opens. An `alt` and a preheader take a minute per campaign.

Met when the message keeps at least 200 readable characters with images blocked, and a preheader of 40 to 130 characters announces it in the message list. Without a preheader, the inbox shows the first text of the body instead — often "View in browser".

What was measured — 1 met out of 2

- At least 200 characters remain readable with images blocked on 9 campaigns Met
- Preheader missing, too short or too long (5 of 9 campaigns concerned) Partly met

Postmetry · PM-EXP-001

The message can be rendered outside HTML Met

15 pts

A text version renders the message on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

Met when a text version comes with the email and carries the essentials: at least 60% of its text and 80% of its links. A client that does not display HTML falls back on it; reduced to "view the web version", it renders nothing.

What was measured — 3 met out of 3

- A plain-text version accompanies the message on 9 campaigns Met
- The text version carries at least 60% of the text on 9 campaigns Met
- The text version carries at least 80% of the links on 9 campaigns Met

Postmetry · PM-EXP-002

All links stay visible with images blocked Partly met

1.7 / 15 pts

Some links become invisible with images blocked (8 of 9 campaigns concerned)

1.7 points out of 15 — met on 1 of 9 campaigns concerned.

How to fix it

Every important action (main button, unsubscribe) exists as text or as an HTML button, not only as a clickable image. For an image button, an `alt` that names the action and a background colour on the cell keep the area visible even without the image.

With images blocked, an image button becomes an empty rectangle: the reader does not know where to click.

Met when no link is carried by a single image without alternative text: such a link leaves nothing on screen. Not applicable if the message contains no links.

Postmetry · PM-EXP-003

Tap targets large enough Met

10 pts

Tap targets of sufficient size on 9 campaigns

10 points out of 10 — met on 9 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Met when no sized tap target falls below 24 px a side (WCAG 2.2, criterion 2.5.8). Only targets with a declared dimension are measured; the criterion's exceptions — a target within a line of text, sufficient spacing — are not. Not applicable if the message declares no dimensions.

WCAG 2.2 — 2.5.8 · PM-EXP-004

WCAG 2.2 — Target Size (Minimum), success criterion 2.5.8, level AA (https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22/#target-size-minimum)

The message stays readable with assistive technology

Partly met

5/20 pts

The message puts obstacles in the way of assistive technology — 1 of 4 measures met

5 points out of 20 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

How to fix it

Four fixes, all in the template: declare the message language on the `<html>` tag (`lang="en"` for an email in English), describe each content image in its `alt` attribute, mark layout tables with `role="presentation"`, and write links that say where they lead rather than “click here”.

The criterion detail shows which ones are missing from your emails; the others are already met.

A decorative image — divider, spacer — keeps an empty `alt=""`: that is what keeps it silent, not an oversight.

Declared language, described content images, layout tables marked as such, link texts that say where they lead: what a screen reader needs to render the message. The detail says which of these measures is missing.

What was measured — 1 met out of 4

- Message language not declared on the 9 campaigns concerned — Not met
- Some content images are not described on the 9 campaigns concerned — Not met
- Layout tables announced as data tables on the 9 campaigns concerned — Not met
- Every link says where it leads on 9 campaigns — Met

WCAG 2.2 · RGAA · PM-EXP-005

HTML Standard — The lang and xml:lang attributes (https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/dom.html#the-lang-and-xml:lang-attributes)

HTML Standard — Requirements for providing text to act as an alternative for images (https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/images.html#alt)

The message declares its adaptation to screens

Met

15 pts

The message declares its adaptation to screens on 9 campaigns

15 points out of 15 — share of observations met across 9 campaigns.

Met when the message declares its viewport and its adaptation to screen width. Without them, it displays on a phone at its original width, and is read by zooming and scrolling sideways.

What was measured — 2 met out of 2

- Viewport declared on 9 campaigns — Met
- Adaptation to screen width declared on 9 campaigns — Met

W3C · PM-EXP-026 · CSS Device Adaptation — the viewport tag (https://www.w3.org/TR/css-device-adapt-1/)

Media Queries Level 4 (https://www.w3.org/TR/mediaqueries-4/)

Dark mode declared

Bonus point not earned

+0 pts

The message does not declare its support for dark mode on the 9 campaigns concerned

0 points out of 5 — met on 0 of 9 campaigns concerned.

Earned when the message declares `color-scheme` or a `prefers-color-scheme` rule. No standard requires it — clients that force dark mode invert the colors themselves — but declaring it leaves control to the template rather than to the mail client.

caniemail · PM-EXP-027

FINDINGS OUTSIDE SCORING

Observed, not scored

These findings are not part of any score: their threshold has no citable source. They are still shown in full.

Every link in the message goes through a tracker

recognized by a tracking subdomain under the brand's name

Each click is recorded and tied to the recipient before being redirected. No link leads directly to the site: there is no way to visit the brand from this message without being measured.

▼ The evidence — excerpt from your email

```
https://link.email.cottontraders.com/u/gm.php?prm=***&_esuh=***
```

```
https://link.email.cottontraders.com/u/gm.php?prm=***&_esuh=***
```

```
https://link.email.cottontraders.com/u/gm.php?prm=***&_esuh=***
```

Sector comparison

Fashion & retail — 119 brands with at least one campaign analyzed. The shares below are counted on them, never on the catalog.

119 brands analyzed in this sector

Reserved for the Pro version

Reading notes

How to read this page

01 **A criterion that is not observable or not applicable leaves the calculation.** It stays listed, never counted as zero: its weight leaves the denominator rather than weighing as a failure.

02 Each line describes an **observable finding**, with the excerpt that establishes it. No legal qualification is ever attached to it.

03 The measurements come from **deterministic analyzers**: the same message always gives the same result, and a disputed finding can be redone identically from the archive.

04 Every share is published **on an observed basis**, and names it: “26 of 30 brands analyzed.” A brand with no email received enters no denominator.

05 The **deliverability score is borrowed**: its verdict comes from the server that received the message. All the other families come from our own analyzers.

Does this analysis speak to you?

Let's go through it together, in 20 minutes.

We go over the 8 points with you, the evidence for each and the order in which to fix them. By video call, no commitment.

Pick a time slot : https://cal.com/noam-ouaknine-ecibnn/20min (https://cal.com/noam-oua

Get Cotton Traders's changes

One email when a criterion changes state, nothing else.

Do you work at Cotton Traders?

Claim the brand: transactional emails, alerts, dated evidence.

The Pro version

Full history, before and after, alerts.

knine-ecibnn/20min)

This report can also be read online, with a preview of each email:

https://postmetry.com/en/marque/cotton-traders/