



Responsible Down Standard Transition Policy 3.1

The Responsible Down Standard (RDS) 3.0 is in effect as of July 1, 2019. This document is intended to highlight the significant changes made in the updated version of RDS 3.0.

Summary Structure – Listed below are the standard, policies and procedures, and support materials that make up the standard system:

- Responsible Down Standard 3.0 (RDS-101-V3.0)
- RDS 3.0 User Manual (RDS-201-V3.0)
- RDS 3.1 Certification Procedures (RDS-102-V3.1)
- RDS Farmer Guidebook (RDS-203-V3.0)
- Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan Template (RDS-204-V3.0)

Key Updates:

The document has been reorganized to align with other Textile Exchange standards, like the Responsible Wool Standard. A detailed list of all changes is available upon request.

Within the animal welfare criteria, there are a number of changes:

- Euthanasia is mandatory. Training and planning shall be in place by October 1, 2020 and audits conducted after July 1, 2021 shall demonstrate records of euthanasia in practice.
- Stunning before slaughter is mandatory. Training and planning shall be in place by October 1, 2020 and audits conducted after July 1, 2021 shall document stunning before slaughter in place.
- There is more robust guidance on training required of farm workers.
- Provision of water deep enough for birds to dip their heads is mandatory.
- Steps must be taken to ensure that parent farms providing eggs to goose farms are not live-plucking.

A key change in the RDS is the introduction of the Veterinary Health and Welfare Plan. This document provides more guidance to farmers about basic animal welfare principles, best practices in animal welfare, and templates for record keeping.

Transition Period:

As of July 1, 2019, the Responsible Down Standard 3.0 is in effect. Certified companies renewing to the Responsible Down Standard and all new certifications may request certification to the RDS 3.0 from their Certification Body. From October 1, 2020 onwards, certificates may no longer be issued for RDS 2.0. RDS 2.0 certified materials are allowed to be used as inputs into RDS 3.0 certified sites. RDS 3.0 certified materials are allowed to be used as inputs into RDS 2.0 certified sites.

NOTE: The transition period for RDS 3.0 originally required all audits from July 1, 2020 onwards to use RDS 3.0. The period has been extended due to COVID-19. This change may be applied even though *RDS-101-V3.0 Responsible Down Standard* specifies an implementation date of July 1, 2020.