Accepted Equivalent Standards Policy

Textile Exchange believes that industry standards have a strong role in ensuring the changes along the supply chain as the industry moves towards sustainable practices. Our goal in recognizing equivalent standards is to reduce the cost of certification for facilities along the supply chain, to reduce audit fatigue, and to acknowledge standards with shared principles. Equivalent standards must be at minimum equal to the requirements of our standards. The requirements are not required to be the same, but must match in their credibility and desired outcomes.

Section A - Recognition Process

A1. Recognition of Equivalent Standards and Audits

A1.1 Textile Exchange will consider requests to recognize the following:

> **A1.1.1** Equivalent standards, which allow material certified to the equivalent standard to be accepted as an input to a specified Textile Exchange Standard; and

> **A1.1.2** Equivalent audits, which may be accepted in place of evaluation of particular criteria of a Textile Exchange Standard.

A1.2 Recognition requests will be evaluated based on both the requirements of the standard or audit and the policies and procedures of the standard's assurance system. Approval will be at the discretion of Textile Exchange on a case-by-case basis and may require additional data be submitted to Textile Exchange.

A1.3 Recognized standards and audits shall be listed in this document.

A1.4 Requests for recognition may be submitted to Assurance@TextileExchange.org.

A2. Reliance on Other Audits

A2.1 In the case of external audit processes that are not part of our recognition, the *certification body* may consider audit reports from other audits conducted (e.g. social audits for GRS) in its evaluation. In this case, the certification body remains responsible for ensuring that the auditee shows full conformity with the applicable requirements.

NOTE: Criterion A2.1 cannot be used as justification to reduce the minimum auditing time required within the applicable Textile Exchange standard, policy, and/or the related certification procedures.

Section B - Recognized Standards and Audits

B1. Content Claim Standard (CCS)

B1.1   No equivalent standards or audits are currently recognized for the Content Claim Standard (CCS).

B2. Organic Content Standard (OCS)

B2.1   No equivalent audits are currently recognized for the OCS. The exception to this is referenced in B2.3.2.

B2.2   The following equivalent standard is recognized as an input for OCS products with additional requirements:

> **B2.2.1**   Until December 1, 2022, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) V6.0 for all materials, noting that wool has additional requirements in B2.4.

> **B2.2.2**   As of December 1, 2022, GOTS V6.0 for all materials, noting that wool has additional requirements in B2.4, if the following criteria are met:

>> a.   Textile Exchange shall receive the following from a responsible certification body:

>>> i.   GOTS transaction certificate data for the input(s) and all previous input transaction certificates' data that establishes traceability back to the farm input transaction certificate(s); and

>>> ii.   First processor farm input data that includes the required information in *OCS-504 OCS GMO Policy Data Report*.

>> b.   If the documents and information submitted as per B2.2.2.a does not allow Textile Exchange to identify all of the sites involved in producing and processing the GOTS input, product traceability back to the OCS first processor(s), and their input farm transaction certificate, Textile Exchange may require further information to be submitted by the site or certification body, including but not limited to: farm scope certificates, farm to the first processor transaction certificates, supply chain transaction certificates, shipping documents, invoices, purchase orders, product quality test reports, and financial documents.

B2.2.3 The certification body shall receive confirmation from Textile Exchange (via Assurance@TextileExchange.org) that the data from the relevant *OCS-504 OCS GMO Policy Data Report* has been reviewed prior to issuance of each OCS transaction certificate that contains GOTS certified material inputs or organic farm inputs.

B2.2.4 First processors of organic product shall also be certified to the OCS, in addition to GOTS, and by the same certification body in accordance with *OCS-102-V3.0 OCS Certification Procedures*, section D2.2.1. First processors and their certification body are required to follow all OCS requirements, including the submission of data from *OCS-504 OCS GMO Policy Data Report* for all incoming organic materials, regardless of whether the output transaction certificates are OCS or GOTS.

B2.3 For any GOTS certified sites that wish to add OCS certification from September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the following applies:

B2.3.1 The same certification body that issued the GOTS scope certificate shall issue the OCS scope certificate in accordance with *OCS-102-V3.0 OCS Certification Procedures*, section D2.2.1.

B2.3.2 Audits are not required for GOTS certified sites with active scope certificates;

B2.3.3 The OCS scope certificate issued shall have the same validity date as the GOTS scope certificate and maintain the same anniversary date;

B2.3.4 Full OCS audits shall be completed as required per existing OCS standard criteria throughout the validity of the scope certificate, including at renewal. OCS and GOTS audits should be performed at the same time; and

B2.3.5 Textile Exchange fees will not be charged to the certification body for any such issued scope certificate through June 30, 2023. The certification body shall notify Textile Exchange whenever this is applied to ensure the accuracy of invoicing. After this date, fees shall apply to all OCS certified sites in accordance with *ASR-107 Certification Fee Structure*.

Additional Criteria for Wool

B2.4 GOTS V6.0 certified wool, which is verified as non-mulesed or from a farm with ceased mulesing status, may qualify if it meets one of the following criteria:

B2.4.1 The wool is sourced from a country where mulesing is illegal or not practiced, and the country of origin is indicated on the transaction certificate;

B2.4.2 The organic standard used to certify the farm does not permit mulesing, and the organic standard is listed on the transaction certificate; or

B2.4.3 The wool is certified to the Responsible Wool Standard.

B3. Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)

B3.1 The following equivalent standard is recognized as an input for RCS products:

B3.1.1 *GRS-101-V4.0 Global Recycled Standard*

B3.2 No equivalent audits are currently recognized for the RCS.

B4. Global Recycled Standard (GRS)

B4.1 No equivalent standards or audits are currently recognized for the GRS.

B5. Responsible Down Standard (RDS)

B5.1 No equivalent standards or audits are currently recognized for the RDS.

B6. Responsible Animal Fiber (RAF) Standards – Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS), and Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)

B6.1 No equivalent standards or audits are currently recognized for the RAF standards.