



# Textile Exchange Global Recycled Standard, version 3.0

TextileExchange **2014**  
Creating Material Change

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## Global Recycled Standard, v3 August 5, 2014

The *Global Recycled Standard (GRS)* is a product standard for tracking and verifying the content of recycled materials in a final product, while ensuring strict production requirements.

English is the official language of the Global Recycled Standard. In any case of inconsistency between versions, reference shall be made to the English version.

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## Foreword

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The Global Recycle Standard (GRS) was originally developed by Control Union Certifications (CU) in 2008 and ownership was passed to Textile Exchange January 1, 2011. Textile Exchange initiated a revision of the standard in early 2012 with the goal to make the standard more robust and to include new chemical requirements. An International Working Group (IWG) of Certification Bodies was developed to revise the standard. The IWG members are Control Union Certifications, ICEA, IMO, Intertek, and SCS Global Services. A broader stakeholder group including retailers, brands, suppliers, and other industry members reviewed the standard to ensure it is a relevant and useful industry tool.

Textile Exchange also owns and administrates the Content Claim Standard (CCS), the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS), the Organic Content Standard (OCS), and the Responsible Down Standard (RDS). These standards are designed to ensure chain of custody for preferred materials, and to provide labeling tools for final product claims.

## Introduction

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The Global Recycled Standard is an international, voluntary, full product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices, and chemical restrictions.

The GRS is intended to meet the need of companies looking to verify the recycled content of their products (both finished and intermediate products) and to verify responsible social, environmental, and chemical practices in the production of these products.

The objectives of the GRS are to define requirements to ensure accurate content claims, good working conditions, and that harmful environmental and chemical impacts are minimized.

This standard applies to all companies that manufacture or trade GRS products. The standard covers processing, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, trading and distribution of all products made with a minimum of 20% recycled material. The Material Collection and Material Concentration processes are not required to be certified to the GRS, but will have to declare that they have met a set of requirements

consistent with the goals of this standard and agree to be inspected by the Certification Body on a random basis. The range of products to be certified is inspired by, but not limited to textile products. In case the party is outsourcing the production of the end product partially or completely, the units involved then have to comply with GRS as well.

This is a voluntary standard that is not intended to replace the legal or regulatory requirements of any country. It is the responsibility of each operation to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to marketing, labor, and business practices.

## Section A - General Information

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### A1 - Scope

#### A1.1 Global Recycled Standard

- A1.1a The Standard establishes that specific input materials are accounted for and quantified for the purposes of making a percentage-based claim.
- A1.1b The Standard applies to products that contain 20% or more recycled content.
- A1.1c The Standard can be used with any recycled input material, and can apply to any supply chain.
- A1.1d The Standard gives guidelines for practices that protect the integrity and identity of recycled material.
- A1.1e The Standard gives guidelines for social and environmental requirements during the production stages of GRS certified products.
- A1.1f The Standard addresses the chemicals used in the processing of GRS products; it does not address the chemicals present in the input materials or the final products.

#### A1.2 Application

The GRS addresses the flow of products within and between companies, and covers manufacturing, storage, handling, and shipping. The GRS applies to the supply chain, including all owners up to the final seller in the last B2B transaction.

#### A1.3 Effectiveness

The standard is effective as of August 5, 2014. The GRS v3 replaces all earlier versions of the Global Recycle Standard. Details of the transition and major updates from version 2.1 are found in the TE GRS Version 3 Transition document. Certification to the GRS is valid for one year and subject to annual renewals.

## A2 - References

#### A2.1 Accompanying Documents

The following additional documents are considered part of the Global Recycled Standard, and are fully binding:

- Content Claim Standard
- Global Recycled Standard Implementation Manual
- GRS Prohibited Substance List
- GRS Logo Use and Labeling Guide

All documents can be found at <http://globalrecycled.org>.

#### A2.2 Referenced Documents

The following referenced documents were used in the development of this standard:

- TE Recycled Claim Standard

- Global Recycle Standard v2.1
- ZDHC MRSL
- GSCP Environmental Reference Requirements
- GSCP Social Reference Code
- ISO 14021:1999: Environmental labels and declarations
- ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards
- ISO/IEC Guide 59: Code of Good Practice for Standardization
- Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims (“Green Guides”); Federal Trade Commission
- International Labor Organization Conventions
- European Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)
- European Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures
- Directive 67/548/EEC with adjustment to REACH according to Directive 2006/121/EC and Directive 1999/45/EC as amended
- Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), Fourth revised edition

## A3 - Definitions

The following are specific to the GRS, and are important in defining the verification requirements for the input materials for recycling:

**Material Collection:** Material collection refers to the point in the recycling lifecycle when a reclaimed material is collected after its original use has ended (i.e.: it would have otherwise gone into the waste stream).

Entities involved in material collection could include, but are not limited to:

- Individuals who collect post-consumer materials for sale to brokers
- Government organizations (e.g.: municipalities) that offer curbside recycling or operate transfer stations
- Brokers that purchase pre/post-consumer material from individuals, municipalities, or commercial operations for re-sale
- Commercial operations that collect their own pre-consumer material from manufacturing operations
- Commercial operations that collect post-consumer material (e.g.: retail stores)

**Material Concentration:** Material concentration refers to the point in the recycling lifecycle when a waste material receives primary handling. This may include, but is not limited to, sorting, screening, basic contaminant removal, or baling. Material is still unprocessed at this stage, meaning it has not been physically or chemically altered beyond basic handling (e.g.: screening, crushing, or washing).

For example:

- Government organization (e.g.: municipality)
- Non-profit organization
- Business entity (e.g.: brokers)

**Material Recycling:** Material recycling refers to the point in the recycling lifecycle when a reclaimed



material is processed into a recycled material.

**Post-Consumer Material:** Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of materials from the distribution chain.<sup>1</sup>

**Pre-Consumer Material:** Material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Excluded is the reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.<sup>2 3</sup>

By-products may be considered pre-consumer material when the following criteria are met:

- the manufacturer has not deliberately chosen to produce it;
- the material cannot be used again without any further processing;
- the material is not made ready for a further use as an integral part of the continuing process of production.

**Reclaimed material:** Material that would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery, but has instead been collected and reclaimed as a material input, in lieu of new primary material, for a recycling process.<sup>4</sup>

**Recycled content:** Proportion, by mass, of recycled material in products or packaging. Only pre-consumer and post-consumer materials shall be considered as recycled content.

**Recycled material:** Material that has been reprocessed from reclaimed material by means of a manufacturing process and made into a final product or into a component for incorporation into a product.<sup>5</sup>

**Safety Data Sheet (SDS):** A document accompanying a chemical product that contains information on potential hazards (e.g.: health, environmental) and how to work safely with the product.

## A4 - Recycled Material Requirements

Entities involved in Material Collection, Material Concentration, and Material Recycling of GRS inputs must submit declarations for the materials they are supplying. Entities may handle one or multiple of these stages. Certification to the GRS is required for entities involved in Material Recycling.

To summarize:

- Material Collection: random inspections; self-declaration
- Material Concentration: random inspections; self-declaration
- Material Recycling: full RCS certification; transaction certificates

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1 This excerpt is taken from ISO 14021:1999, section 7.8.1.1, subsection a.2 on page 14, with the permission of ANSI on behalf of ISO. © ISO 2013 – All rights reserved.

2 This excerpt is taken from ISO 14021:1999, section 7.8.1.1, subsection a.1 on page 14, with the permission of ANSI on behalf of ISO. © ISO 2013 – All rights reserved.

3 For a detailed interpretation of pre-consumer recycled content, please refer to the Content Claim Standard Implementation Manual, page 18 and 19.

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5 This excerpt is taken from ISO 14021:1999, section 7.8.1.1, subsection b on page 14, with the permission of ANSI on behalf of ISO. © ISO 2013 – All rights reserved.



- Production and Trading: full RCS certification, with exceptions for subcontractors and low volume traders; transaction certificates

The requirements for each stage up to and including recycling are as follows:

#### A4.1 Material Collection

- A4.1a Entities involved in Material Collection are not subject to GRS certification and materials from the collection stage may not claim to be certified to the GRS.
- A4.1b Entities involved in Material Collection (as defined in A3), with the exception of individuals, are required to submit the Reclaimed Material Declaration Form (see Appendix 1). The Reclaimed Material Declaration Form must be submitted to consignees on an annual basis for all reclaimed materials being supplied for use in GRS products. The Reclaimed Material Declaration Form declares that the facility will allow inspections with a minimum of a 3 day notice by Certification Bodies accredited to the GRS.
- A4.1c Entities involved in Material Collection, with the exception of individuals, must have legal authorization to operate.

#### A4.2 Material Concentration

- A4.2a Entities involved in Material Concentration are not subject to GRS certification and materials from the concentration stage may not claim to be certified to the GRS.
- A4.2b Entities involved in Material Concentration (as defined in A3) are required to submit the Reclaimed Material Declaration Form (see Appendix 1). The Reclaimed Material Declaration Form must be submitted to consignees on an annual basis for all reclaimed materials being supplied for use in GRS products. The Reclaimed Material Declaration Form declares that the facility will allow inspections with a minimum of a 3 day notice by Certification Bodies accredited to the GRS.
- A4.2c Entities involved in Material Concentration must have legal authorization to operate.

#### A4.3 Material Recycling

- A4.3a Entities involved in Material Recycling (as defined in A3) must be certified to the GRS.
- A4.3b In addition, entities involved in Material Recycling must:
- Hold valid Reclaimed Material Declaration Forms for all GRS input materials, or proof of verification to an accepted standard, see *TE Accepted Equivalent Standards*, available online (<http://globalrecycled.org>).
  - Verify that all sources of reclaimed material have legal authorization to operate for the relevant function, and hold copies of the relevant documents.
  - Inspect all incoming shipments of reclaimed material to confirm that they are not virgin material. In the case that virgin material is identified, the supplier of the material and the Certification Body shall be notified, and shall<sup>1</sup> implement increased control measures over incoming products from the supplier involved.
  - Supply Transaction Certificates for all outgoing GRS certified products.

<sup>1</sup> Throughout the standard, “shall” and “must” will be considered synonymous.

## A5 Supply Chain Requirements

### A5.1 Application of Production Requirements

Organizations involved in production and trade of GRS products are subject to GRS certification. The Global Recycled Standard requires compliance with the requirements (sections A, B, C and D) of the Content Claim Standard, whereby the 'Claimed Material' is replaced with 'GRS Material'.

### A5.2 Production and Trade

In addition to the requirements of the CCS, all organizations involved in the production or trade of GRS products must meet the following requirements:

- A5.2a All recycled materials entering the supply chain must have a valid Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by an approved CB.
- A5.2b The amounts of pre-consumer and post-consumer material must be recorded separately for each batch at all steps of production and recorded on the transaction certificate.
- A5.2c Traders with an annual turnover of less than \$10,000 of GRS products, and retailers selling to end consumers only, are exempt from the certification obligation; provided that they do not (re-) pack or (re-) label GRS products. Exempted traders with less than \$10,000 annual turnover of GRS products must register with an approved Certification Body and must inform the Certification Body immediately once their annual turnover exceeds \$10,000, or once they plan to (re-) pack or (re-) label GRS products.
- A5.2d In cases where there is the possibility of differential rates of production loss between recycled and virgin inputs, organizations must address this through their mass balance formula for each material to show that calculations were done to account for the differences.
- A5.2e Buyers of the GRS product will be responsible to set any further requirements on the specific standards or requirements to which the input material must be certified. These additional requirements are separate from the GRS and its certification process.

## Section B - Social Requirements

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The social requirements of the GRS apply to all operations within the Certified Organization. The GRS Social Requirements are based on the principles of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. The ILO conventions and recommendations that the GRS specifically addresses are listed in Appendix 2. In all instances, the international labor standard, national and/or local legislation or GRS requirement that is the most stringent, shall apply.

### B1 - Social Policy

#### B1.1 Certified Organizations must have a clear set of policies to ensure compliance with the social requirements of the GRS.

These policies must include:

B1.1a One or more persons within the Certified Organization responsible for ensuring social compliance. It is not required that an entire position must be dedicated to managing the social principles at the facility, but instead that someone has been assigned the role as part of their job responsibilities.

B1.1b Worker awareness of policies regarding the social principles listed in Section B2.

### B1 - Social Requirements

#### B2.1 Forced, bonded, indentured and prison labor

B2.1a All work must be conducted on a voluntary basis, and not under threat of any penalty or sanctions.

B2.1b The use of forced or compulsory labor in all its forms, including prison labor when not in accordance with ILO Convention 29, is prohibited.

B2.1c Certified Organizations shall not require workers to make deposits/financial guarantees and shall not retain identity documents (e.g.: passports, identity cards, etc.), nor withhold wages outside a legal contractual agreement.

B2.1d Bonded labor is prohibited. Certified Organizations shall not use any form of bonded labor nor permit or encourage workers to incur debt through recruitment fees, fines, or other means.

B2.1e Indentured labor is prohibited. Certified Organizations shall respect the right of workers to terminate their employment after reasonable notice. Certified Organizations shall respect the right of workers to leave the workplace after their shift.

#### B2.2 Child Labor

B2.2a Certified Organizations shall comply with:

- i. the national minimum age for employment;
- ii. or the age of completion of compulsory education;
- iii. or any otherwise specified exceptions;
- iv. and shall not employ any person under the age of 15, whichever of these is higher. If, however, local minimum age law is set at 14 years of age in accordance with developing country exceptions under ILO Convention 138, this lower age may apply.

- B2.2b Certified Organizations shall not recruit child labor nor exploit children in any way. If children are found to be working directly or indirectly for the Certified Organizations, the latter shall seek a sensitive and satisfactory solution that puts the best interests of the child first.
- B2.2c Certified Organizations shall not employ young workers under 18 years of age at night, or in conditions which compromise their health, their safety or their moral integrity, and/or which harm their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.

### **B2.3 Freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining**

- B2.3a Workers have the right to join or form trade unions or workers' associations of their own choosing and to bargain collectively, without prior authorization from organizations' management. Organizations shall not interfere with, obstruct or prevent such legitimate activities.

*Workers shall also have the right to join workers' associations of their own choosing. Organizations shall not interfere with, obstruct or prevent such legitimate activities nor create an atmosphere that is hostile to the formation of unions and workers' association.*

- B2.3b Where the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining is restricted or prohibited under law, organizations shall not hinder alternative forms of independent and free workers representation and negotiation, in accordance with international labor standards.
- B2.3c Organizations shall not discriminate against or otherwise penalize worker representatives or trade union members because of their membership in or affiliation with a trade union, or their legitimate trade union activity, in accordance with international labor standards.
- B2.3d Organizations shall give worker representatives access to the workplace in order to carry out their representative functions, in accordance with international labor standards.

### **B2.4 Discrimination, harassment and abuse**

- B2.4a Certified Organizations shall respect equal opportunities in terms of recruitment, compensation, access to training, promotion, termination or retirement.
- B2.4b Certified Organizations shall not engage in, support or tolerate discrimination in employment including recruitment, hiring, training, working conditions, job assignments, pay, benefits, promotions, discipline, termination or retirement on the basis of gender, age, religion, marital status, race, caste, social background, diseases, disability, pregnancy, ethnic and national origin, nationality, membership in worker organizations including unions, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or any other personal characteristics.
- B2.4c Certified Organizations shall treat all workers with respect and dignity.
- B2.4d Certified Organizations shall base all terms and conditions of employment on an individual's ability to do the job, not on the basis of personal characteristics or beliefs.
- B2.4e Certified Organizations shall not engage in or tolerate bullying, harassment or abuse of any kind. This shall include the prohibition of physical and psychological discipline.
- B2.4f Certified Organizations shall establish written disciplinary procedures and shall explain them in clear and understandable terms to their workers. All disciplinary actions shall be recorded.

## B2.5 Health and safety

Provisions under Health and Safety shall be further defined to cater for specific conditions and related hazards pertaining to different industries, in accordance with the relevant applicable Health & Safety principles:

- B2.5a Certified Organizations shall provide safe and clean conditions in all work and residential facilities and shall establish and follow a clear set of procedures regulating occupational health and safety.

*Emergency procedures must be clearly displayed and understandable to all workers, and hazards must be clearly marked.*

- B2.5b Certified Organizations must take adequate steps to prevent accidents and injury to health arising out of, associated with, or occurring in the course of work, by minimizing, so far as is reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards inherent in the working environment. Appropriate and effective personal protective equipment shall be provided as needed.

- B2.5c Certified Organizations shall provide access to adequate medical assistance and facilities.

*This shall include appropriate first aid (trained staff, adequate equipment and supplies) provided on-site. Management shall have procedures in place to give workers access to medical assistance in case of emergency. Management shall respect national law on medical assistance and first aid.*

*In case of a work-related accident the employer should be responsible to ensure that the worker gets medical assistance; this may mean insurance to cover potential costs.*

- B2.5d Certified Organizations shall provide all workers with access to clean toilet facilities and to drinkable water and, if applicable, sanitary facilities for food preparation and storage.

- B2.5e Certified Organizations shall ensure that residential facilities for workers, where provided, are clean and safe.

- B2.5f Certified Organizations shall assign the responsibility for health and safety to a senior management representative.

- B2.5g Certified Organizations shall provide regular and recorded health and safety training to workers and management, and such training shall be repeated for all new or reassigned workers and management. *Relevant training will depend on the operations and level of risk to health and safety.*

- B2.5h Certified Organizations shall provide adequate safeguards against fire, and shall ensure the strength, stability and safety of buildings and equipment, including residential facilities where provided.

- B2.5i Certified Organizations shall undertake sufficient training of workers and management in waste management, handling and disposal of chemicals and other dangerous materials.

## B2.6 Wages, benefits and terms of employment

- B2.6a Work performed must be on the basis of a recognized employment relationship established in compliance with national legislation and practice and international labor standards; whichever affords the greater protection.

- B2.6b Labor-only contracting, sub-contracting or home-working arrangements, apprenticeship schemes where there is no real intent to impart skills or provide regular employment, excessive use of

fixed-term contracts of employment, or any comparable arrangements shall not be used to avoid obligations to workers under labor or social security laws and regulations arising from the regular employment relationship

- B2.6c Certified Organizations must compensate their workers by providing wages, overtime pay, benefits and paid leave which respectively meet or exceed legal minimum and/or industry benchmark standards and/or collective agreements, whichever is higher. Wages and compensation for regular working hours shall meet basic needs and provide some discretionary income for workers and their families.
- B2.6d Certified Organizations shall provide all workers with written and understandable information about their employment conditions, including wages, before they enter into employment; and about details of their wages for the pay period concerned each time that they are paid.
- B2.6e Certified Organizations shall not make any deductions from wages that are unauthorized or not provided for by national law. Certified Organizations shall not make any deduction from wages as a disciplinary measure.
- B2.6f The Certified Organizations shall provide all legally required benefits, including paid leave, to all workers.
- B2.6g Certified Organizations shall always compensate all workers for all overtime at a premium rate, as required by law and, where applicable, by contractual agreement.

### **B2.7 Working Hours**

- B2.7a Certified Organizations shall set working hours that comply with national laws or benchmark industry standards or relevant international standards, whichever affords greater protection to ensure the health, safety and welfare of workers.
- B2.7b Certified Organizations shall respect that the standard allowable working hours in a week are 48, excluding overtime. Workers shall not on a regular basis be required to work in excess of 48 hours per week.
- B2.7c Overtime shall be voluntary, shall not exceed 12 hours per week and shall not be requested on a regular basis.
- B2.7d Certified Organizations shall respect all workers right to breaks during work shifts and to at least one free day following six consecutive days worked, as well as public and annual holidays.

## **B3 - Verification of Social Compliance**

### **B3.1 Required documents**

- B3.1a Certified Organization must submit a signed document that confirms their commitment to comply with the GRS Social Principles outlined in Section B2.
- B3.1b Certified Organization must submit all relevant policy documents and training records referencing the procedures in place to protect the rights and safety of workers.

### **B3.2 Accepted Equivalent Audits**

Certified Organizations must demonstrate that their working conditions are in line with the social principles in Section B2 during an annual audit that meets the GRS Social Auditing Methodology in Appendix 3.

B3.2a Certified Organizations may submit an equivalent third-party audit report that meets the following requirements:

- i. The audit must have been conducted against GRS recognized social principles, see *TE Accepted Equivalent Standards* (available online: <http://globalrecycled.org>).
- ii. The full audit report must be made available to the GRS inspector.
- iii. The audit must have been conducted by a qualified auditor.
- iv. The audit must not be older than 12 months at the time of the GRS audit.
- v. The audit report must be accompanied by proof that any identified corrective actions have been implemented as indicated in the corrective action plan.

Implementation of identified corrective actions will be confirmed during the GRS audit, and random checks will be made on the information in the audit reports.



## Section C - Environmental Requirements

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The environmental requirements of the GRS apply to all operations within the Certified Organization. In all instances, the national and/or local legislation or GRS requirement that is the most stringent, shall apply.

### C1 - Environmental Management System

**C1.1 Certified Organizations must have an environmental management system (EMS) in place. The environmental management system must include the following:**

- C1.1a EMS Manual
- C1.1b A designated EMS staff person (from the management level) responsible for its implementation; it is not required that an entire position must be dedicated to managing the environmental management system at the facility, but instead that someone has been assigned the role as part of their job responsibilities.
- C1.1c A mechanism to remain up-to-date with applicable local legal requirements.
- C1.1d Basic management controls in place: a system to document, measure, and track the relevant environmental indicators (Sections C2.1, C2.2, C2.3, C2.4, and C2.5).
- C1.1e Annual plan to reduce environmental impacts where indicated below (Sections C2.1, C2.2, C2.5).
- C1.1f Procedures and records for training of relevant staff in environmental issues mentioned in Sections C2.1, C2.2, C2.3, C2.4, and C2.5.

### C2 - Environmental Requirements

**C2.1 Energy use**

- C2.1a The Certified Organization must monitor and meet all relevant legal requirements related to energy use.
- C2.1b Relevant, up-to-date permits must be held and compliance maintained.
- C2.1c There must be tracking and record keeping of energy consumption, and on a monthly basis.
- C2.1d The Certified Organization must set and meet targets for meaningful improvements in energy use and review progress annually.

**C2.2 Water use**

- C2.2a The Certified Organization must monitor and meet all relevant legal requirements related to water use.
- C2.2b Relevant, up-to-date permits must be held and compliance maintained.
- C2.2c Measurement and record keeping of water usage must be undertaken on a monthly basis.
- C2.2d The Certified Organization must set and meet targets for meaningful improvements in water use and review progress annually.

### **C2.3 Wastewater / Effluent**

- C2.3a The Certified Organization must monitor and meet all relevant legal requirements related to wastewater / effluent, with corresponding record keeping.
- C2.3b Relevant, up-to-date permits must be held and compliance maintained.
- C2.3c There shall be a drainage plan in place with a general understanding of wastewater flow direction and discharge points.
- C2.3d There must be identification of the contaminants and wastewater quality parameters (listed in Appendix 4) and their flow direction.
- C2.3e There must be a system in place to ensure that wastewater receives proper treatment, either on or off-site, to meet minimum requirements before entering the water stream, see Appendix 4. Where national and local requirements are more stringent, these limit values supersede the requirements listed in Appendix 4. This system shall also ensure that sludge receives proper treatment and disposal. Test reports must be made available for the certification body and meet the requirements below.
  - i. The report must cover no more than 6 months.
  - ii. Must be conducted by trained personnel using equipment as directed by the test guidelines.
  - iii. The reports must cover all legal requirements and those set out in Appendix 4.
- C2.3f If a company elects to treat wastewater in an off-site facility, the facility must meet the following requirements:
  - i. Water leaving the off-site facility must meet minimum requirements before entering the water stream, see Appendix 4. Where national and local requirements are more stringent, these limit values supersede the requirements listed in Appendix 4.
  - ii. The facility must have capacity adequate for the volume of wastewater sent from the Certified Organization.

### **C2.4 Emissions to Air**

- C2.4a The Certified Organization must meet all relevant legal requirements (including monitoring) related to air emissions, with corresponding record keeping.
- C2.4b Relevant, up-to-date permits must be held and compliance maintained.
- C2.4c An inventory of main point source emissions to air must be maintained and potential for fugitive emissions must be addressed.
- C2.4d There must be regular maintenance of any equipment containing Ozone Depleting Substances or any other potential air pollutants.

### **C2.5 Waste management**

- C2.5a The facility must meet all relevant legal requirements related to waste management.
- C2.5b Relevant, up-to-date permits must be held and compliance maintained.
- C2.5c Waste contractors must have appropriate permits.

- C2.5d Hazardous and non-hazardous waste must be segregated and employee awareness and training provided on handling and segregation of wastes.
- C2.5e Inventory, management, storage and transportation procedures for all waste streams must be in place, including minimizing safety concerns to the environment and health.
- C2.5f No on-site waste burning or uncontrolled waste landfilling may be undertaken.
- C2.5g The Certified Organization shall look for and implement ways to minimize waste production, and increase re-use or recycling.
- C2.5h The Certified Organization must measure the amount of waste produced and keep corresponding records.

### **C3 - Verification of Environmental Compliance**

#### **C3.1 Required Documents**

- C3.1a Certified Organization must submit a signed document that confirms their commitment to comply with the GRS Environmental Principles outlined in Section C2.
- C3.1b Certified Organization must submit all relevant policy documents and training records referencing the procedures in place to ensure environmental management.

#### **C3.2 Accepted Equivalent Audits**

Certified Organizations must demonstrate that their facility is in line with the environmental principles in Section C2 during an annual audit.

- C3.2a Certified Organizations may submit an equivalent third-party audit report that meets the following requirements:
  - i. The audit must have been conducted against GRS recognized environmental principles, see *TE Accepted Equivalent Standards* (available online: <http://globalrecycled.org>).
  - ii. The full audit report must be made available to the GRS inspector.
  - iii. The audit must have been conducted by a qualified auditor.
  - iv. The audit must not be older than 12 months at the time of the GRS audit.
  - v. The audit report must be accompanied by proof that any identified corrective actions have been implemented as indicated in the corrective action plan.

Implementation of identified corrective actions will be confirmed during the GRS audit, and random checks will be made on the information in the audit reports.

## Section D - Chemical Requirements

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The GRS addresses only the use and management of chemicals in the manufacturing of GRS products. The standard does not apply to the facility as a whole, but only to the production of GRS products. The GRS does not address the chemicals that are present in the final product, as it does not control for any chemicals that may be present in the reclaimed products that are used as initial inputs in the GRS production chain. The *GRS Prohibited Substance List* (see D2.3) was developed with the textile industry in mind. As such, it does not apply to the production of non-textile products. Future versions of the standard will include similar lists for other classes of products.

It is the responsibility of the final sellers of GRS products to ensure that the products meet their own or nominated Restricted Substances Lists (RSL's) or any legal requirements in the country of sale.

### D1 - Chemical Management System

**D1.1 The Certified Organization must have a Chemical Management System (CMS) in place which includes the following:**

- D1.1a Mechanism to monitor and meet all relevant legal requirements related to chemical management.
- D1.1b A dedicated and competent staff person responsible for managing the Certified Organization's use of chemicals; it is not required that an entire position must be dedicated to managing the chemical use at the facility, but instead that someone has been assigned the role as part of their job responsibilities.
- D1.1c Procedures and records for training of relevant staff in chemical management, and where necessary, training to properly manage the CMS.
- D1.1d Complete information on all input suppliers, including address and key contacts.
- D1.1e Accurate lists of all chemical inputs used in GRS products; each input must have a complete Safety Data Sheet (SDS) available in the language(s) used by workers in the facility and in English. Information must be available for a minimum of 5 years. The SDS must meet the guidelines found in D3.1c. The chemical supplier shall be responsible for the English translations of the SDS.
- D1.1f A process to assess all chemicals used in GRS products against hazard criteria in Section D2.

### D2 - Chemicals used in GRS products

GRS criteria for the use of chemicals that may be used in the production of GRS products are based on the following main requirements:

1. Exclusion of inherently problematic substances that are classified as dangerous to human health and/or to the environment by REACH.
2. Exclusion of groups of substances with established concern to health and the environment.
3. Exclusion of substances and mixtures classified with particular hazard codes or risk phrases.

#### D2.1 Inherently problematic substances

Any chemicals used in processing of GRS Products shall not contain Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) as referred to in Article 57 of European Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation,

Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) , and included in Annex XIV of the Regulation.

## D2.2 Exclusion of substances and mixtures classified with particular hazard codes or risk phrases

No use is allowed of substances and mixture that are assigned (or may be assigned by the time of the application) any of the hazard statement codes and/or risk phrases (or a combination of them) listed in Table A.

- i. Chemicals or substances allowed by D2.1, but prohibited by D2.2, and that have no substitution product available, may be used in the production of GRS products, provided that a chemical management system is in place to ensure the SDS guidelines are followed and that minimal exposure of workers and environment occurs.

Hazard Codes		Risk Phrases	
H300	Acute toxicity (oral), Hazard Category 1, 2	Fatal if swallowed.	R28
H304	Aspiration hazard, Hazard Category 1	May be fatal if swallowed and enters airways	R65
H310	Acute toxicity (dermal), Hazard Category 1, 2	Fatal in contact with skin.	R27
H330	Acute toxicity (inhalation), Hazard Category 1, 2	Fatal if inhaled.	R23/26
H340	Germ cell mutagenicity, Hazard Category 1A, 1B	May cause genetic defects	R46
H341	Germ cell mutagenicity , Hazard Category 2	Suspected of causing genetic defects	R68
H350	Carcinogenicity, Hazard Category 1A, 1B	May cause cancer	R45
H350i		May cause cancer if inhaled	R49
H351	Carcinogenicity, Hazard Category 2	Suspected of causing cancer	R40
H360f	Reproductive toxicity, Hazard Category 1A, 1B	May damage fertility.	R60
H360Df		May damage the unborn child. Suspected of damaging fertility.	R61/62
H360FD		May damage fertility. May damage the unborn child.	R60/61/60-61
H360Fd		May damage fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child	R60/63
H360D		May damage the unborn child.	R61
H361f	Reproductive toxicity, Hazard Category 2	Suspected of damaging fertility	R62
H361d	Reproductive toxicity, Hazard Category 2	Suspected of damaging the unborn child	R63

H361fd	Reproductive toxicity, Hazard Category 2	Suspected of damaging fertility. Suspected of damaging the unborn child	R62/63
H362	Reproductive toxicity, Additional Category	May cause harm to breast-fed babies	R64
H370	Specific target organ toxicity — single exposure, Hazard Category 1	Causes damage to organs	R39/23/24/25/26/27/28
H371	Specific target organ toxicity — single exposure, Hazard Category 1	May cause damage to organs	R68/20; R68/21; R68/22
H372	Specific target organ toxicity — Repeated exposure, Hazard Category 1	Causes damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure	R48/25/24/23
H373	Specific target organ toxicity — Repeated exposure, Hazard Category 2	May cause damage to organs	R48/20/21/22
H400	Hazardous to the aquatic environment — Acute Hazard, Category 1	Very toxic to aquatic life.	R50
H410	Hazardous to the aquatic environment — Chronic Hazard, Category 1	Very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects	R50/53
H411	Hazardous to the aquatic environment — Chronic Hazard, Category 2	Toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects	R51/53
EUH059; H420	Harms public health and the environment by destroying ozone in the upper atmosphere	Hazardous to the ozone layer	R59

Table A - Prohibited Hazard Codes<sup>1</sup> and Risk Phrases<sup>2</sup>

### D2.3 Exclusion of groups of substances of concern to health and the environment (*GRS Prohibited Substance List*)

D2.3a Chemical groups identified in the *GRS Prohibited Substance List* (available online: <http://globalrecycled.org>) must not be used and must not be part of any preparations or formulations used in manufacturing GRS certified textile products.

D2.3b The *GRS Prohibited Substance List* shall only apply to the production of textile products.

## D3 Verification of Chemicals

### D3.1 Required Documents

D3.1a Certified Organizations must submit a declaration form stating that the chemicals used in GRS manufacturing processes meet the criteria in D2. A template declaration form has been provided, see Appendix 6.

D3.1b Certified Organizations must submit all relevant policy documents and training records referencing the procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Chemicals Requirements in

1 Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

2 Directive 67/548/EEC with adjustment to REACH according to Directive 2006/121/EC and Directive 1999/45/EC as amended. <http://www.reach-compliance.eu/english/legislation/docs/launchers/launch-annex-1-67-548-EEC.html>

Section D2.

- D3.1c Certified Organizations must submit the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each substance (or mixture) used in the production of GRS Products. The SDS shall be less than three years old and shall meet at least one of the following criteria:
- i. ANSI Z400.1-2004, which identifies information that must be included to comply with the U.S. OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
  - ii. Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH), as adapted to take into account the rules for safety data sheets of the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the implementation of other elements of the GHS into EU legislation that were introduced by Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP)<sup>1</sup>
  - iii. Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).<sup>2</sup>
- D3.1d Additional information and testing may be required by the Certification Body to further verify that chemicals or substances used in GRS products are not prohibited by Section D2.

**D3.2 Allowed Substances (Positive List)**

- D3.2a Chemicals or additives which have met the criteria set out in Section D2 may be added to the GRS Allowed Substance List, to be maintained by Textile Exchange and available online (<http://globalrecycled.org>). Any chemicals on this list may be used in the processing of GRS certified products. This is not a comprehensive list and only represents chemicals which have been screened.

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1 Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:353:0001:1355:en:PDF>

2 The Fourth revised edition of GHS is available at: [http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_rev04/04files\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev04/04files_e.html)



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## Section E - Tools and Resources

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### ***E1 - Textile Exchange Certification Toolkit - Essential Series***

The *Certification Toolkit* has been developed to provide increased clarity for brands and retailers trying to understand how to most accurately certify their products. This tool helps to address issues around why certification is important, the essential steps, understanding certificates, pricing and labeling.

The guide is free to members of Textile Exchange, or can be purchased on its own by non-members. For more information please visit <http://www.textileexchange.org/content/certification-toolkit>.

### **E2 - Questions and Additional Information**

For questions or additional information about the GRS please contact: [Integrity@TextileExchange.org](mailto:Integrity@TextileExchange.org).

## Appendix 1 - Reclaimed Material Declaration Form

### Reclaimed Material Declaration Form

This document acts as a guarantee that all of the materials listed below and being sold to \_\_\_\_\_ are reclaimed materials that would have otherwise gone into the waste stream. It is valid for one year, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

Product*	Material	Source	Post-Consumer	Pre-Consumer

*\* see following page for definitions*

This document also confirms that our organization will allow for our facilities to be inspected with a minimum of 3 days notice by Certification Bodies accredited to the Global Recycled Standard.

Signed by:

Title:

On behalf of:

*(Company name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## Guidance for Terms

**Product:** Name of the items that have been diverted from the waste stream. Examples include: plastic bottles, fishing nets, yarns, wool carpet, paper.

**Material:** The material that will be recycled (e.g.: polyester, nylon, wool etc.).

**Source:** Where the material originated. Examples include: cutting room waste, household recycling collection, rejected yarn stock, office paper waste. If it is not clear that the products would have otherwise gone into the waste stream, please provide more detail.

**Pre/Post-Consumer:** Please check one, based on the following definitions:

### Pre-Consumer Material

Material diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Excluded is the reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

### Post-Consumer Material

Material generated by households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product that can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes returns of materials from the distribution chain.

By-products may be considered pre-consumer material when the following criteria are met:

- the manufacturer has not deliberately chosen to produce it;
- the material cannot be used again without any further processing; and
- the material is not made ready for a further use as an integral part of the continuing process of production.

Each country of sale may have different criteria to qualify pre-consumer and post-consumer materials. It is best to check with the governing body to be sure that their expectations are being met. For further resources see [www.TextileExchange.org/standards](http://www.TextileExchange.org/standards).

## Appendix 2 - Required ILO Regulations

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The GRS Social Requirements are based on the principles of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Certified Organizations are required to comply with:

i) Fundamental ILO Conventions:

- C87, Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948
- C98, Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949- C29, Forced Labor Convention, 1930
- C105, Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957
- C138, Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- C182, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999
- C100, Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
- C111, Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958

ii) ILO Conventions

- C1, Hours of Work (Industry) Convention, 1919
- C14, Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921
- C95, Protection of Wages Convention, 1949
- C131, Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970
- C135, Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971
- C155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981
- C161, Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985

iii) ILO Recommendations

- R85, Protection of Wages Recommendation, 1949
- R116, Reduction of Hours of Work Recommendation, 1962
- R135, Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation, 1970
- R164, Occupational Safety and Health Recommendation, 1981
- R184, Home Work Recommendation, 1996
- R190, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention Recommendation, 1999

## **Appendix 3 - Social Audit Methodology**

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CBs may use their own checklist format, but at a minimum, each of the below points must be covered.

- Section 1. Reference Audit Process
- Section 2. Pre-Audit Employment Site Questionnaire
- Section 3. Self-Assessment Questionnaire
- Section 4. Reference Audit Checks
- Section 5. Alert Notification
- Section 6. Reference Audit Report
- Section 7. Reference Summary of Findings and Corrective Actions
- Section 8. Reference Supplementary Audit Information

See the GSCP website for additional guidance: <http://www.gscpnet.com/working-plan/step-2-audit-process-and-methodology.html>.

## Appendix 4 - Wastewater Parameter Limit Values

These limit values are based on BSR's Sustainable Water Group's Water Quality Guidelines:

[http://www.bsr.org/reports/awqwg/BSR\\_AWQWG\\_Guidelines-Testing-Standards.pdf](http://www.bsr.org/reports/awqwg/BSR_AWQWG_Guidelines-Testing-Standards.pdf).

and on bluesign's Criteria for Textile Manufacturers: <http://www.bluesign.com/industry/infocenter/downloads#UqY7svRDvCs>.

Parameters	Limit	Test Method
Sampling:		
Temperature	≤35°C	DIN 38404-C4
pH	6.0-9.0	DIN 38404-C5
Traditional Parameters:		
Total Suspended Solids (TSS):	≤ 30 ppm	DIN EN 872
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD):	≤ 30 ppm	DIN EN 1899-1
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD):	≤ 160 ppm	DIN 38404-41 or DIN ISO 15705
Antimony	.5 ppm	
Arsenic	.01 ppm	
Cadmium	.01 ppm	
Chromium (total)	.10 ppm	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22
Chromium (VI)	.02 ppm	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22
Cobalt	.02 ppm	
Copper	.25 ppm	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22
Cyanide	.20 ppm	
Lead	.1 ppm	
Mercury	.01 ppm	
Nickel	0.2 ppm	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22
Tin	1 ppm	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22
Zinc	1 ppm	DIN EN ISO 11885-E22
Color	150 ADMI units or 150 CO-PT units	
Coliform	400 bacteria per 100ML	
Foam:	No visible discharge of floating solids or persistent foam.	
Domestic sewage:	Sewage must not be discharged directly into open bodies of water. If there is no public treatment facility available, a treatment system should be installed.	
Nitrogen compounds (ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, Kjeldahl)	10 ppm	DIN EN 12260 (TNb) or DIN EN 25663 (TKN)
P total	0.5 ppm (with exception if flame retardants on P-basis are used)	DIN EN ISO 11885
Sulphite	0.25 ppm	EN-ISO 10304-3
Sulfide	0.25 ppm	DIN 38405-26

## Appendix 5 - GRS Chemical Use Declaration Form

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This document acts as a guarantee that the chemicals used in the production of GRS products have met the requirements of the GRS. It further confirms that the facility has followed the Chemical Management system requirements from Section D1.

The criteria for the use and management of chemicals used in the manufacturing of GRS products are based on the following main requirements:

1. Exclusion of inherently problematic substances which are classified as dangerous to human health and to the environment by REACH (as outlined in Section D2.1).
2. Exclusion of substances and mixtures classified with particular hazard codes or risk phrases (as outlined in Section D2.2).

For textile companies:

3. Groups of substances listed on the *GRS Prohibited Substance List* have not been used in the production of GRS products. (as outlined in Section D2.3 and *GRS Prohibited Substance List*).

This declaration is valid for one year, effective \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed by:

Title:

On behalf of:  
(Company name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)