

Accepted Equivalent Standards, V2.1

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 stronger or 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:
1. Equivalent standards, which allow material certified to the equivalent standard to be accepted as an input to a specified Textile Exchange Standard; and
 2. Equivalent audits, which may be accepted in place of evaluation of particular elements of a Standard.
- A1.2 Recognition requests will be evaluated based on both the requirements of the standard or audit and the associated assurance systems. Approval will be at the discretion of Textile Exchange on a case by case basis.
- A1.3 Recognized standards and audits will be listed in this document.
- A1.4 Requests for recognition may be submitted to Assurance@TextileExchange.org.

A2. Reliance on Other Audits

- A2.1 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.

Section B - Recognized Standards and Audits

B1. Content Claim Standard (CCS)

- B1.1 No equivalent standards or audits are currently recognized for the CCS.

B2. Organic Content Standard (OCS)

B2.1 The following equivalent standard is recognized as an input for OCS products:

1. [Global Organic Textile Standard \(GOTS\)](#) V6.0, for all materials other than wool.
2. GOTS V6.0 for wool which is verified as non-mulesed or from a farm with ceased mulesing status using one of the following:
 - a. 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;
 - b. The organic standard used to certify the farm does not permit mulesing, and the organic standard is listed on the transaction certificate; or
 - c. The wool is certified to the Responsible Wool Standard.
3. GOTS V5.0, for material purchased from scope certificates issued prior to February 28th, 2021 only.

B2.2 No equivalent audits are currently recognized for the OCS.

B2.3 Organic standards accepted as inputs to the first processing stage are not considered to be equivalent standards for OCS. See [OCS-101 Organic Content Standard](#) for further details.

B3. Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)

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

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) and Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)

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