

Textile Exchange Standard Setting System Report 2020

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Part 1. Textile Exchange Standards

Textile Exchange follows the [ISEAL Codes of Good Practice](#) for standard-setting bodies to ensure we have a robust and transparent processes for our standards. This includes set policies for [Standard Setting and Revisions](#), [Accreditation and Certification](#). Learn more about each of our standards below. Each has its own Standard document, Implementation Manual, and a corresponding Logo Use and Claims Guide.

Scope

Standard	Scope	Sector	Users
Content Claim Standard 2.0 (CCS)	Chain of custody Global	To any product, from any industry, that contains 5-100% “Claimed Material” content.	Manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting specific raw material initiatives.
Organic Content Standard 3.0 (OCS)	Chain of custody Organically grown materials Global	Any non-food product, from any industry, that contains 5-100% organic content.	Processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, traders, certification bodies, and organizations supporting organic producers
Recycled Claim Standard 2.0 (RCS)	Chain of custody Recycled materials Minimum 5% Global	Any related to the material	Recyclers, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting recycled material initiatives.
Global Recycled Standard 4.0 (GRS)	Chain of custody Recycled materials Minimum 20% Additional social, environmental, and chemical requirements on each production stage. Global	Any related to the material	Recyclers, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting recycled material initiatives.
Responsible Down Standard 3.0 (RDS)	Chain of custody Animal welfare Global	Any related to the material	Farms, slaughterhouses, processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting responsible down production.



Responsible Mohair Standard 1.0 (RMS)	Chain of custody Animal welfare Land management Social Welfare Global	Any related to the material	Farmers, processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies and organizations supporting responsible mohair initiatives.
Responsible Wool Standard 2.0 (RWS)	Chain of custody Animal welfare Land management Social Welfare Global	Any related to the material	Farmers, processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies and organizations supporting responsible wool initiatives.

Sustainability outcomes

The standards are built on a foundation of verified chain of custody from the source to the final product. We have standards that verify organically grown content, recycled content, or verified animal welfare and land management practices on the farm. Our end goal is to increase consumers trust in sustainable content claims, leading to increased demand and production. The social, environmental, and animal welfare criteria of Textile Exchange standards are in place to ensure a minimum level of worker conditions, hazardous chemical usage, and/or negative effects to the surrounding environment at certified production sites. Details of individual standards goals are provided below.

Standard	Goal
Content Claim Standard	The goal of the CCS is to ensure the accuracy of content claims.
Organic Content Standard	The goal of the OCS is to increase organic agriculture production.
Recycled Claim Standard	The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials.
Global Recycled Standard	The goal of the GRS is to increase use of recycled materials in products and reduce/eliminate the harm caused by its production.
Responsible Down Standard	<p>The goals of the Responsible Down Standard are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that down and feathers do not come from supply chains where animals have been subjected to any unnecessary harm. • Reward and influence the down and feather industry to incentivize practices that respect the humane treatment of ducks and geese. • Education and development of the supply chain in order to drive continuous improvement of best practices. • Provide companies with a tool to know what is in their products, and to make accurate claims.

- Ensure strong chain of custody for certified materials as they move through the supply chain.

Responsible Mohair Standard

The goals of the Responsible Mohair Standard are to:

- Recognize the best practices of farmers;
- Ensure that mohair comes from farms with a progressive approach to managing their land, and from angora goats that have been treated responsibly;
- Create an industry benchmark that will drive improvements in animal care and land management and social welfare where needed; and
- Provide a robust chain of custody system from farm to final product so that consumers are confident that the mohair in the products they choose is truly RMS.

Responsible Wool Standard

The goals of the Responsible Wool Standard are to provide the industry with the best possible tool to:

- Recognize the best practices of farmers;
- Ensure that wool comes from farms with a progressive approach to managing their land, and from sheep that have been treated responsibly;
- Create an industry benchmark that will drive improvements in animal care and land management and social welfare where needed; and
- Provide a robust chain of custody system from farm to final product so that consumers are confident that the wool in the products they choose is truly RWS.

Why are the standards needed?

Content Claim Standard

1. Proof of what companies are purchasing is often difficult, and sometimes impossible, to obtain. The CCS provides third party verification of the content of products without revealing suppliers, which is often a huge roadblock in complex supply chains (e.g. textiles).
2. Companies need to incorporate “Claimed Material” at a low percentage blend, to slowly increase usage, and need a means to verify that content.
3. There is no other stand-alone, chain of custody standard using a transaction certificate-based system. This system creates a strong, batch-level verification of available inputs compared to the outputs.

4. Uniform requirements for proper chain of custody are needed across the many different standards in the marketplace. The CCS is already the chain of custody baseline requirements for TE owned standards (e.g. OCS, RCS, GRS, RDS). The CCS is designed to be incorporated into or in combination with other standards or management systems to establish chain of custody.
5. It is difficult for companies to ensure legal and contractual quality compliance of their products. The CCS could be used to reduce these risks by using certifications bodies to verify legal compliance and trading partner specification at all points in the supply chain with which the brand has no communication.

Organic Content Standard

1. The Organic Content Standard is applicable to all organic non-food products, but it is predominantly used for organic fiber. Organic agriculture sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people by using natural processes rather than artificial inputs. Importantly, organic farming does not allow the use of toxic chemicals or GMOs (genetically modified organisms). Instead, it combines tradition, innovation, and science to benefit the shared environment and promote a good quality of life for all involved.
2. While there are several established national organic farming standards, these were written for the food industry. The handling requirements of these standards are difficult to apply to the textile supply chain. The Organic Content Standard allows a way for organically certified material to be tracked from the farm to the final product.
3. Although the Global Organic Textile Standard exists to give textile manufacturers a robust set of requirements for organic textile production, not all manufacturers are able to meet its requirements. This includes social, environmental, technical requirements, restricted substances, blending below 70% organic content, etc. The OCS allows companies to begin to use organic fiber at a low percentage blends to slowly increase usage, thus giving needed flexibility in order to grow the organic textile market. Moreover, certain products in Textile & Fashion industry need blending and mixing with below 70% organic content for technical reasons (example e.g. – Cotton: Polyester 65:35 – quality & price) and such product can be certified under OCS.
4. The OCS is designed to work in any industry with any product containing organically-grown materials.

Recycled Claim Standard & Global Recycled Standards

1. There is no other globally applicable, third-party independent standard that validates recycled material content claims.
2. The RCS is the only standard that aligns verification among all the interested stakeholders.
3. Some companies are not able to meet all of the strict requirements of the GRS, but still need support in their use of recycled materials.
4. There is no other globally applicable, third-party independent standard that combines recycled material verification with social, environmental, and chemical processing requirements.
5. There are multiple processing standards that make it difficult for suppliers to communicate their sustainability attributes in a concise way.
6. There are unique issues with chemicals in products that contain recycled material.

Responsible Down Standard

1. There are animals used for the production of feathers and down that are being force-fed, live-plucked, and/or are not being treated with respect to the Five Freedoms.
2. There is an industry need for a chain of custody tool that verifies whether purchased down and feather materials have come from farms or collectors that operate with respect to the Five Freedoms.
3. Down and feather are sourced from various regions in the world, with a range of practices and socio-economic levels. One common tool is needed to verify practices across this range.

Responsible Wool Standard & Responsible Mohair Standard

1. There are animals used for the production of wool and mohair that are not being treated with respect to the Five Freedoms.
2. A significant proportion of apparel wool comes from sheep that have been subjected to mulesing.
3. Brands are feeling pressure from animal welfare and animal rights groups to address the issues.
4. The environmental aspects of land use for fiber production is increasingly under scrutiny.
5. Grazing land for wool and mohair production accounts for significant land use. Recent research offers evidence that properly managed grazing lands can have positive land use impacts through improved soil health and drainage and may actually mitigate GHG emissions through carbon sequestration.
6. There is an industry need for a chain of custody tool that verifies whether wool and mohair have come from animals that have been treated responsibly and raised on land that is managed sustainably.
7. Wool and mohair are sourced from various regions in the world, with a range of practices. One common tool is needed to verify practices across this range.
8. A global standard aligning the needs of many stakeholders can create a common language and establish a common set of expectations.
9. Prior to the development of the RWS and RMS there had not been any global third-party standards, applicable for the textile industry that fully address animal welfare issues and chain of custody.

Performance level

All Textile Exchange standards set out a combination of process, management, and performance criteria. The Global Recycled Standard includes some requirements for continuous improvement directly. The Responsible Down Standard, Responsible Wool Standard, and Responsible Mohair Standard also contain recommendations as a mechanism to encourage improvement and identify areas that may be required in future versions of the standard.

Adaptations

All Textile Exchange standards are intended to be globally applicable. A procedure ([TE Accepted Equivalent Standards, V2.0](#)) is in place for recognizing equivalent standards as well as recognizing equivalent audits.

Part 2. Standard-Setting and Revision Process

Standard	Originally Written by	Release date	Last Version Release date	Next Revision Begins
Content Claim Standard	Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association	September 2012	4.0 - January 1, 2016	2020
Organic Content Standard	Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association	March 2013 Preceded by the OE 100 (2004) and the OE Blended (2007)	2.0 - January 1, 2016 3.0 – April 6, 2020	2024
Recycled Claim Standard	Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association	October 2013	2.0 - July 1, 2017	2021
Global Recycled Standard	Control Union Ownership was passed to Textile Exchange January 1, 2011	2008	2.1 – March 2012 3.0 – August 2014 4.0 – July 1, 2017	2021
Responsible Down Standard	Textile Exchange, Control Union and The North Face	January 2014	2.0 – March 30, 2015 3.0 – July 1, 2019	2023
Responsible Mohair Standard	Textile Exchange	1.0 – March 2020		2024
Responsible Wool Standard	Textile Exchange & IWG	June 2016	2.0 – March 17, 2020	2024

Stakeholder categorization and geography

Key stakeholder groups across all standards are producers and processors of the certified material, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies and interested organizations as applicable per material.

Summary of the Revision Process

Revisions of Textile Exchange standards involve three opportunities for participation from stakeholders: 1) Initial Feedback, 2) Participation in the Working Group, and 3) Public Draft Consultation. The Initial Feedback period is announced to all existing standard users, stakeholders and the Textile Exchange network. With the compiled feedback, Textile Exchange prepares issue papers to capture available knowledge, risks, opportunities, and proposed next

steps for the International Working Group to consider. The International Working Group uses the feedback, and their own expertise and experience to help Textile Exchange draft proposed changes to the standard. Finally, the prepared draft is reviewed via at least one Public Draft Consultation. Feedback and participation are additionally pursued through pilot, interviews, and surveys. During the development or revision of standards relevant documents such as terms of reference, meeting notes and the workplan are publicly available on the website.

Governance

All Textile Exchange standards are developed, managed, and released by an International Working Group (IWG).

The IWG is composed of:

- a) The Secretariat: managing the administrative work on standard development or revision. This role is filled or appointed by Textile Exchange.
- b) Voting Members: These members make the key decisions during a revision: approving the terms of reference and final draft. The voting by this group is balanced across the relevant sectors.
- c) Advisory Group: Non-voting members of the IWG, available for comment and input into specific elements of the standard.

International Working Group membership is open to any interested party that may be affected by the Standard. All decision-making is done to ensure balanced representation of interested parties, covering the following Sectors:

- a) Material Producers
- b) Supply Chain
- c) Brands and Retailers
- d) Civil Society
- e) Professional Services

Geographic region and market sector are also identified to ensure representation from all affected areas and industries.

Decision-making process

The standard-setting process shall strive for consensus among all IWG members.

In the event that consensus is not possible:

- a) The member(s) who disagree from the majority shall present alternative solutions for consideration.
- b) If a compromise cannot be reached within the group, input from the wider stakeholder group shall be invited; after consideration of this feedback, the Voting Members shall attempt to form a consensus, or move to a weighted vote, giving each sector an equal allocation of votes. A decision is considered to pass with a majority vote. See Table A for an Example.

In all issues of consensus or voting, a quorum is required to be met, with at least 75% representation of all Voting Members within each sector.

Proposal for Revision or Creation of New Standards

Proposals to develop a new standard may be submitted by any interested party. The final decision of whether to develop a new standard shall be made by Textile Exchange.

We will consider the following points:

- a) Does the proposal fit into the strategic direction of Textile Exchange?
- b) Do other existing standards, or standards in development, sufficiently address the identified need?
- c) Can sufficient funding and resources be secured?
- d) How urgent is the project?

Feedback and Complaints

Requests for clarifications, feedback on the standards, and general complaints can be submitted to Textile Exchange at any time by emailing Standards@TextileExchange.org. Points of clarification are communicated directly to certification bodies, recorded in the calibration log, and ultimately *may* be added to the standard or accompanying documents. Official complaints are to be filed in accordance with the [TE Standards Complaint Procedures](#); complaints may be filed directly on our [online form](#).