# Quick Guide to the
## Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) +
## Global Recycled Standard (GRS)

The Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) is an international, voluntary standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled input and chain of custody. The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials.

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) 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 goal of the GRS is to increase use of recycled materials in products and reduce the harmful social, environmental, and chemical impacts of production.

## Objectives of both the RCS and GRS
- Alignment of recycled definitions across multiple applications.
- Track and trace recycled input materials.
- Provide consumers (both brands and end consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions.
- Provide assurance that materials are actually recycled and in a final product.

## Objectives specific to the GRS only
- Reduce harmful impact of production to people and the environment.
- Provide assurance that materials in the final product are actually recycled and processed more sustainably.
- Drive innovation in addressing quality issues in the use of recycled materials.



## Key Points in the RCS & GRS

### Verifying Recycled Material
Materials are verified to meet the ISO definition of recycled. Both pre-consumer and post-consumer material is accepted.

### Responsible Production
GRS sites are required to meet strict social and environmental requirements. Chemicals with potential for harm are not permitted to be used on GRS products.

### Chain of Custody
Certification ensures that the identity of the recycled material is maintained: from the recycler to the final product.

### Credible Certification
A professional, third party certification body audits each stage in the supply chain.

### Confident Communication
Products that meet all requirements may be labeled with the RCS or GRS logo.

### Stakeholder Engagement
The RCS and GRS are managed with the input of recyclers, suppliers, and brands and retailers from all parts of the globe.
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## Adoption of the RCS + GRS

- In 2017, more than 180 companies were certified to the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS).
- In 2017, more than 400 companies were certified to the Global Recycled Standard (GRS).
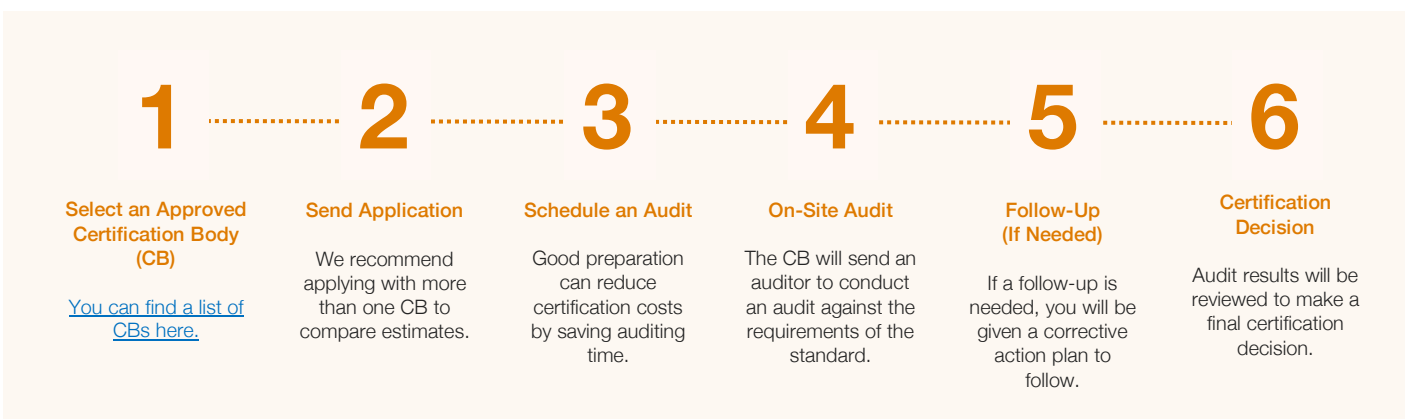
## Getting Started

- If you would like to begin sourcing certified recycled content, begin asking your suppliers if they are certified. They should be able to provide you with a scope certificate (SC) of their certification. This is the first step, but does not verify that any particular product is certified.
- Request transaction certificates from your certified suppliers to verify you are getting certified products. The transaction certificate (TC) will list the shipment details and include whether the material is pre-consumer or post-consumer.

## Communicating Claims

- Before labeling products, make sure to follow all requirements in the RCS and GRS Logo Use and Claims Guide.
- Products must be certified to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.

## How to Get Certified

| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** |
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| **Select an Approved Certification Body (CB)** | **Send Application** | **Schedule an Audit** | **On-Site Audit** | **Follow-Up (If Needed)** | **Certification Decision** |
| You can find a list of CBs here. | We recommend applying with more than one CB to compare estimates. | Good preparation can reduce certification costs by saving auditing time. | The CB will send an auditor to conduct an audit against the requirements of the standard. | If a follow-up is needed, you will be given a corrective action plan to follow. | Audit results will be reviewed to make a final certification decision. |

## Background of the RCS + GRS

The Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and Global Recycled Standard (GRS) were developed through an open and transparent process led by Textile Exchange and a multi-stakeholder group which included representatives from across the industry and different sectors, including industry organizations, supply chain members, brands, and area experts. All policies and procedures are based on the ISEAL Best Practices, which can be found on our website TextileExchange.org/Integrity.

Textile Exchange has been in existence since 2002, and plays a powerful role within the textile industry to support the understanding and use of sustainable materials and proper verification strategies. While Textile Exchange has extensive experience in standards development and ownership, we do not engage in any certification activities: all of our focus is on supporting the quality and adoption of its standards.

The staff at Textile Exchange are very accessible, and always ready to provide support to brands or companies interested in the RCS or GRS.

## Learn More or Get Involved

Contact Integrity@TextileExchange.org | Visit TextileExchange.org/Integrity/