

Textile Exchange Certification Fee Structure 2023

Textile Exchange licenses *certification bodies* to perform *certifications* in accordance with Textile Exchange *standards*. The certification body is charged the following fees, based on the requirements in this document:

- a. A one-time application fee.
- b. An annual licensing fee per standard scope.
- c. A fee for each certified *site*. And
- d. A fee per day spent auditing *group* certifications.

Textile Exchange does not charge fees for transaction certificates or for logo use and claims by certified organizations, certification bodies, or accreditation bodies at this time. There are no fees for accreditation bodies.

The certification body sets and charges its own fees, which may or may not include fees charged by Textile Exchange as a separate line item. It is up to the certification body whether they directly pass on any fees to their clients or build it into their fee structure.

This **fee schedule is effective January 1, 2023**. All scope certificates issued or sites which are added to a scope certificate on or after this date are subject to the new fees. For RAF farm scope certificates which do not expire in 2023, the revised fees shall take effect for the 2023 anniversary date.

NOTE: The certification fee structure may be revised within 2023 to include new fees related only to the Trackit™ system once it is fully operational, which may result in changes to the requirements of this policy. See section B4.

See [TE-101 Terms and Definitions for Textile Exchange Standards and Related Documents](#) for relevant terms and definitions. Defined terms are identified in italics in the first use in this document.

Questions about the costs of certification for companies? Read more about the total costs of certification on our FAQ page: <https://textileexchange.org/faq/how-much-does-certification-cost/>

Section A - Certification Body Fees

A1. Certification Body Application Fees

A1.1 When a certification body applies to Textile Exchange to be licensed to certify against one or more Textile Exchange standards, they shall complete a one-time application and pay a fee in accordance with the following schedule:

A1.1.1 A fee of \$6,000 USD for an application from a new certification body.

A1.1.2 A fee of \$5,000 USD if the certification body names an accreditation body who is not previously authorized for at least one Textile Exchange standard (charged once per accreditation body). And

A1.1.3 No fee for an application from a certification body with an existing Licensing Contract with Textile Exchange.

A1.2 Any fees charged to Textile Exchange by an accreditation body shall be invoiced to the applicable certification body in addition to the fees in this document.

A1.3 Textile Exchange may reduce or waive application fees for specific geographic or standard scopes if there is a need for additional certification body capacity for that scope.

A1.4 Textile Exchange shall not accept an application from an accreditation body who is not previously authorized for at least one Textile Exchange standard without nomination from a certification body.

A1.5 Application fees are non-refundable regardless of whether the application is subsequently accepted or rejected by Textile Exchange.

A2. Certification Body Annual Licensing Fees and Textile Exchange Membership

A2.1 Each certification body that is accredited to a Textile Exchange standard or covered under a grace period agreement (see [ASR-101-V2.1 Accreditation and Certification Procedures](#), Appendix D) shall pay an annual fee in accordance with the following schedule:

A2.1.1 \$2,000 USD for the first accreditation scope (see [ASR-101-V2.1 Accreditation and Certification Procedures](#) B2.1.1). And

A2.1.2 \$500 USD for each additional Textile Exchange accreditation scope.

A2.2 The following exemptions to A2.1 apply:

A2.2.1 CCS is only charged if it is the only accreditation scope.

A2.2.2 RCS is only charged if GRS is not also included. And

A2.2.3 Responsible Animal Fiber farm standards (RWS, RMS, and RAS) are considered to be one standard scope.

EXAMPLES:

- A certification body is accredited for CCS, OCS, RCS, GRS, RWS Farm, and RMS Farm. The annual fee is \$2,000 (OCS as first scope) + \$500 (GRS) + \$0 (RCS) + \$500 (RWS/RMS) + \$0 (CCS) = \$3,000 USD.
- A certification body is accredited for CCS only. The annual fee is \$2,000 USD.

A2.3 When a standard is added during the calendar year, fees are prorated monthly beginning the month after the contract date.

A2.4 Licensing fees are charged for a certification body whose accreditation is suspended as of the beginning of each calendar year.

A2.5 No refunds of licensing fees are offered for a certification body whose accreditation is withdrawn (including voluntary withdrawal) during a calendar year.

A2.6 Textile Exchange will waive licensing fees for a certification body who is in the process of withdrawing from accreditation voluntarily as of the beginning of the calendar year if the certification body has stopped issuing scope certificates (including renewals) but is maintaining accreditation in order to issue transaction certificates and provide service to current certified organizations.

A2.7 Upon payment of licensing fees, the certification body shall be eligible for membership in Textile Exchange (Supporter level) at no additional charge. If the certification body was a member of Textile Exchange prior to signing the licensing agreement Textile Exchange will offer a partial credit for fees already paid.

We would love to welcome all licensed certification bodies into Textile Exchange's membership community at the Supporter level. Supporter-level dues are generally \$3,000 USD, but our licensed certification bodies are eligible to receive complimentary membership upon paying the certification body licensing fees.



Benefits include one in-person and two virtual complimentary passes to our Textile Exchange Conference (value \$2,450 USD). Members also receive access to The Hub, our online community portal that enhances engagement with fellow Textile Exchange members and team. It includes searchable directories and clear, simple access to our fiber-specific libraries, publications, and webinar recordings as well as community forums.

The total value of Support-level benefits is >\$9,600, and full benefits can be found at <https://textileexchange.org/membership/>

The membership application is available [at this link](#) and takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Once you apply, the membership team will reach out to welcome you and package your benefits. Membership renews on a rolling basis.

Section B - Certified Site and Audit Day Fees

B1. Fee Schedule

B1.1 Certified site and audit day (registration) fees are charged per site on a *scope certificate* as follows (see also B1.6):

- B1.1.1** Main site fee – charged for the main site of the certified organization (the site listed on the cover page of the scope certificate), including for the central management (ICS) of a group or farm area.
- B1.1.2** Subsequent site fee – charged for each additional site included in the scope certificate. No subsequent site fee applies for the following:
 - a. Sites which do not physically handle certified products. A main site fee applies for a site which does not physically handle products if it is named on the cover page of the scope certificate.

- b. Subcontractors.
- c. Farm group members. And
- d. Farm areas.

B1.1.3 Audit day fee (see also B1.6) – for farm groups and farm areas as follows:

- a. For RDS, charged per *audit day* spent auditing farms instead of the subsequent site fee for farm group or farm area scope certificates. Time spent auditing the *internal control system* (ICS) directly does not count towards this total. And
- b. For RAF, charged per farm for the square root of the number of farms, rounded up, included in a farm group or communal farmer group at the time of the initial scope certificate issuance date, or at the anniversary date for renewals as applicable. There is no fee for farms added to the farm group following the scope certificate issuance date until the time of the next anniversary date. The subsequent site fee does not apply to farm groups.

NOTE: The audit day fee does not apply for individual farm certification.

B1.2 Fees are charged based on the named standard under which claims are made. For example, a final processor for RDS would pay the fees listed for RDS, even though the audit is according to the CCS criteria.

B1.3 If a site is included in more than one scope certificate to the same standard (see the applicable Certification Procedures for eligibility), the full fee is charged per scope certificate.

B1.4 Fees for RCS are not charged if the same site also holds GRS certification. If an organization becomes GRS and RCS certified at different times, site fees shall apply in accordance with the following schedule:

B1.4.1 If an organization is GRS certified and subsequently becomes RCS certified at any later point while the GRS certification is valid, no site fee applies for RCS.

B1.4.2 If an organization becomes RCS certified (initial or renewal scope certificate) and becomes GRS certified no later than the tenth day of the next calendar month, no site fee applies for RCS. The certification body shall ensure that this is reflected on the same month's site data submission. Or

B1.4.3 If an organization becomes RCS certified (initial or renewal scope certificate) and becomes GRS certified after the tenth day of the next calendar month, an RCS site fee applies for that year.

B1.5 If a certification body reports more sites than are certified (e.g. through including subcontractors in site counts, see B3.1), more certification fees than are applicable (e.g. mis-reporting of a site with both RCS and GRS certification as per B1.4, or of an organization who has transferred from another certification body as per [ASR-112 Procedure for the Withdrawal of Certification Body Licensing](#)), and/or more audit days than were performed, the certification body shall pay fees based on the higher (reported) total if the related invoice(s) has already been issued.

B1.6 Below is a table of fees per standard in United States dollars (USD):

Logo	Standard	Main Site Fee	Subsequent Site Fee	Audit Day Fee	Non-certified Subcontractor Fee
	Content Claim Standard (CCS)	\$175	\$125	N/A	\$0
	Global Recycled Standard (GRS)	\$350	\$275	N/A	\$0
	Organic Content Standard (OCS)	\$225	\$200	N/A	\$0
	Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)	\$250	\$225	N/A	\$0
	Responsible Down Standard (RDS)	\$325	\$275	\$150	\$0

  	Responsible Animal Fiber (RAF) Standards:	Individual Farm \$200			
	Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)	All Others \$325	\$275	\$200	\$0

B2. Standard-Specific Fee Criteria and Clarifications

Content Claim Standard

B2.1 When the CCS is referenced in non-Textile Exchange standards as the requirements for chain of custody, the fee per site is defined above. Individual licensing arrangements will be made by Textile Exchange with the other standard owner. To read more about how the CCS may be embedded into another standard, please see *CCS-103 Using the CCS Outside of Textile Exchange Standards*.

B2.2 No fee applies for a distribution site (including brand-owned and outsourced locations) unless it is included on the scope certificate as a site (i.e. the site is certified and therefore, fees apply). See [CCS-101-V3.1 Content Claim Standard](#), section B1.4.

Responsible Down Standard

B2.3 For RDS Farm Group Certification and Farm Area Certification, the certification body shall pay site fees as applicable for each supply chain or slaughter site included in the scope certificate (minimum one main site fee), plus an audit day fee per audit day for the group or area members.

EXAMPLE: A certification body spends three days auditing a sample of six farms within a *farm group* and one additional day auditing the ICS/slaughter site.

- Main site fee: \$325 USD

- Audit day fee: 3 x \$150 = \$450 USD
- Total fee: \$325 + \$450 = \$775 USD

B2.4 When individual farms are audited as part of a slaughterhouse or down processor's certification where there is no internal control system (ICS), fees may be calculated as for a farm group.

EXAMPLE: There are 50 farms included in the scope certificate of a down processor. The certification body performs on-site audits of all 50 farms, over a period of five days. The certification body would be charged \$1,075 USD (5 x \$150 + \$325), instead of \$16,575 USD ((50+1) x \$325).

B2.5 Each audit day is considered to occur within one calendar day. Partial days are not allowed (e.g. A four-hour day of auditing or a 12-hour day of auditing is to be reported as one day).

Responsible Animal Fiber Standards

B2.6 A *farm* may include multiple geographically distinct plots of land, but is considered to be a single site provided that the definition of farm is met (see [TE-101 Terms and Definitions for Textile Exchange Standards and Related Documents](#)).

B2.7 Although RAF farm scope certificates have a three-year validity period (see *RAF-102-V2.1 D4.1.1*), fees are charged annually at the anniversary date.

B2.8 Audit day fees for RAF farm groups are calculated assuming one farm is audited per day at the minimum sample size for a low-risk farm group, even when the actual sample size is larger and/or multiple farms are audited in one day.

B2.9 If a farm or farm group is certified to multiple RAF standards, only one fee applies.

B3. Other General Standard Fee Criteria

B3.1 No fees are charged for non-certified *subcontractors*. Normal fees apply for a site which is part of a scope certificate, even if that site acts as a subcontractor for other sites which are part of other scope certificates.

B3.2 Each legal owner of certified product shall be included as a site in a scope certificate.

NOTE: When a *certified organization* does not pay for its own certification, the paying company that has the certification contract with the certification body may make business arrangements with the certified organization to limit the use of the certification. Fees are calculated and charged to the certification body per scope certificate as usual.

B3.3 An organization with multiple scope certificates for different standards or sites is charged separately for each scope certificate except as described in this policy.

NOTE: The same fee(s) apply whether the organization holds a multi-standard or single standard scope certificate.

B3.4 If a scope certificate is downgraded from GRS to RCS, or if an organization is banned from certification by Textile Exchange, no refund is provided for site fees paid.

B3.5 From September 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, OCS fees shall not be charged to the certification body for an initial OCS scope certificate issued to a GOTS certified site in accordance with [ASR-106-V2.2 Accepted Equivalent Standards](#), section B2.3. Effective July 1, 2023, fees shall apply to all OCS certified sites in accordance with *ASR-107 Certification Fee Structure*.

NOTE: The fees waived in B3.5 shall only be waived once upon initial OCS certification of a site that held valid GOTS certification on September 1, 2022 (and remained continuously certified) and OCS fees shall apply thereafter (i.e. upon renewal). These fees shall not be waived for sites that held valid OCS certification on September 1, 2022.

B4. Textile Exchange Database System (Trackit™)

Fees related to Textile Exchange's database system (Trackit) will be included in a future version of this document.

NOTE: The certification fee structure may be revised within 2023 to include new fees related only to the Trackit™ system once it is fully operational, which may result in changes to the requirements of this policy.

Section C - Invoicing and Payment Terms

C1. Invoicing Schedule

C1.1 Textile Exchange invoices each current certification body for annual licensing fees in January of each year.

C1.2 Textile Exchange invoices the applicant certification body for application fees upon receipt of the certification body's application form, and for annual licensing fees upon signing a licensing agreement.

- C1.3** Textile Exchange invoices each certification body for certified site and audit day fees on a quarterly basis, as soon as data collection allows, after the end of the quarter. See also C2.6.
- C1.4** Textile Exchange may charge a financial penalty if data is submitted by the certification body 30 calendar days or more after the stated mandatory reporting date.
- C1.5** If a certification body's total fees owing for certified site and audit day fees exceeds \$50,000 USD per quarter, Textile Exchange may invoice monthly or may require that a flat deposit be paid monthly with fees reconciled quarterly.
- C1.6** Textile Exchange may choose to delay any of the above invoicing times in order to consolidate small invoices. Invoices for certified site and audit day fees will typically be held until the total reaches \$1,000 USD or until the end of the calendar year.

C2. Payment Terms

- C2.1** Payment for all invoices is due upon receipt.
- C2.2** If payment is not received, Textile Exchange may take the following actions (see also [ASR-101-V2.1 Accreditation and Certification Procedures](#) D1.3.3.):
 - C2.2.1** 30 or more calendar days past due: Email follow-up to certification body;
 - C2.2.2** 60 or more calendar days past due: Email follow-up to certification body, including top certification body management;
 - C2.2.3** 90 or more calendar days past due: Email follow-up to certification body, including top certification body management and providing notice for withdrawal of licensing agreement with Textile Exchange; and
 - C2.2.4** 120 or more calendar days past due: Withdraw licensing agreement with Textile Exchange based on previous notice.

If a certification body consistently does not pay in a timely manner, Textile Exchange may take any of the actions identified in C2.2 beginning 30 calendar days after an invoice is due.

NOTE: The timelines outlined in C2.2 begin on the date the invoice is first issued in all cases (e.g. awaiting a purchase order number from a certification body, or reissuing an invoice upon certification body's request does not change the issuance date, extend the timelines above, nor extend the invoice due date).

- C2.3** In the event that a certification body's accreditation is suspended or withdrawn, the certification body shall remain responsible to pay all fees as required per this policy, including those that the certification body may have not yet reported to Textile Exchange.
- C2.4** Any dispute related to an issued invoice shall be submitted within 14 calendar days of the invoice issuance date. The following details, and any others requested by Textile Exchange, shall be submitted to Accounting@TextileExchange.org in order for the dispute to be considered (as applicable):
- C2.4.1** A list of the related certification fees in dispute, the relevant data points (i.e. those required as per Trackit), and the reason(s) for the dispute (i.e. the related document code and criteria). And/or
 - C2.4.2** Any reporting details outlined in *ASR-112 Procedure for the Withdrawal of Certification Body Licensing* (e.g. organization name, certificate number, anniversary dates from the preceding scope certificate and the new scope certificate, the type of audit conducted).
- C2.5** All invoices shall be issued to the certification body address as follows:
- C2.5.1** For an applicant certification body, the address as submitted in the *ASR-206 Certification Body Application Form*. Or
 - C2.5.2** For a licensed certification body, the address for which Textile Exchange has a contractual agreement, which is typically the office which holds accreditation and/or an approved grace period (i.e. as referenced in the *ASR-208 Textile Exchange Licensing Contract for Certification Bodies*).
- C2.6** The certification body shall submit any request for alternative billing arrangements to Accounting@TextileExchange.org for consideration.
- NOTE: Textile Exchange may consider alternative billing arrangements (e.g. issuing invoices to alternate offices, monthly invoicing) provided that such arrangements are not temporary in nature, and would not result in additional administrative work for Textile Exchange. Approval of such arrangements are at the sole discretion of Textile Exchange.
- C2.7** All fees are non-refundable.

C3. Other Taxes and Fees

C3.1 In the event that a certification body is required to or chooses to withhold a portion of payment from invoices, the fees described above shall be pro-rated such that the amount paid to Textile Exchange is consistent with the amounts above. If this is the case, the certification body shall inform Textile Exchange prior to invoicing.

NOTE: All taxes applied in the certification body's home country on invoices issued by Textile Exchange are the responsibility of the certification body and may not be deducted from the invoice total.

C3.2 The fees described above are exclusive of any sales taxes which Textile Exchange is required to charge.

C3.3 All invoice payments should be submitted electronically (wire or ACH) as per the routing details provided by Textile Exchange. If there are governmental restrictions on electronic payments (wire or ACH) in the certification body's home country, Textile Exchange may accept payment via credit card for an additional fee (see C3.4).

C3.4 All credit card payments are subject to a 3% fee (based on the invoice total).