



**Textile
Exchange**

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MATERIALS MATTER
STANDARD PILOT V1.0



SUMMARY PAPER
VOLUNTARY PROCESSING MODULES

Approach to Voluntary Processing Modules for Tiers 1-3 in the Materials Matter Standard

Introduction and background

The Materials Matter Standard scope covers raw material production and early feedstock processing, known as Tier 4 and often referred to as the pre-spinning stages. This means that the standard’s criteria focus on the impact areas specific to these early stages of the supply chain.

Once certified under the Materials Matter Standard—or accepted through recognized standards—materials move into the broader supply system (Tiers 1-3) via the Content Claim Standard (CCS). These stages cover processing raw materials into yarn and intermediate products, like fabric and trim, as well as final product assembly. The CCS provides chain of custody requirements for tracking, handling, volume reconciliation, and connections to traceability systems.

In Tiers 1-3, the Materials Matter Standard does not directly address impact areas like chemical and waste management, water and energy use, emissions, or human rights and livelihoods. This aligns with Textile Exchange’s strategy to focus on impacts in Tier 4. However, we recognize that for recycled materials, this scope change creates a gap for Global Recycled Standard users who rely on verification across processing stages, including criteria for chemical use, environmental management, and social impacts.

Textile Exchange is exploring the possibility of partnering with verification systems focused on impact-related criteria in Tiers 1-3 to better capture information on certified material processing and handling. We aim to offer these as optional modules for supply chain sites certified under the CCS within the Materials Matter Standard framework.

This approach would allow our traceability system to record eligible verifications used by sites in Tiers 1-3, creating a single source of truth for product certification information. The goal is to improve efficiency, enhance interoperability between standards, and ultimately provide greater value to users by reducing duplicative audits and verifications.

Table 1: Current standards versus Materials Matter Standard mapping

The table below maps how criteria in our current standards and CCS apply to Tiers 1-3, how the Materials Matter Standard will change this, and what we aim to achieve with verification partnerships for voluntary modules that can be combined with the Materials Matter Standard.

Textile Exchange standards	CCS certification Tiers 1-3 (Tracking and handling of claimed material)	Environmental and social criteria verified Tiers 1-3
Responsible Wool Standard, Responsible Alpaca Standard, Responsible Mohair Standard, Responsible Down Standard, and Recycled Claim Standard + Content Claim Standard	Yes	No
Global Recycled Standard + CCS	Yes	Yes

Textile Exchange standards	CCS certification Tiers 1-3 (Tracking and handling of claimed material)	Environmental and social criteria verified Tiers 1-3
Materials Matter Standard + CCS	Yes	No
Materials Matter Standard + CCS + Voluntary modules for social and environmental verification systems	Yes	Yes

Key considerations and next steps

Establishing interoperability between verification systems requires considerable effort and resources to implement and sustain over time. The next steps involve identifying organizations that manage eligible verification systems, exploring partnership opportunities, and pilot-testing the compatibility of our systems.

Key assessment and eligibility criteria for partnerships with verification systems will include:

- An established governance and assurance model
- Inclusion of processing criteria that align with the impact areas outlined in the Materials Matter Standard
- Willingness and capability to connect data systems, enabling visibility of verifications across Tiers 1-3 at the transaction certificate level