



**Materials
Matter™**

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MATERIALS MATTER
STANDARD



**MATERIALS MATTER
TRANSITION POLICY**

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A. About the document

This policy outlines the transitional measures that certified organizations (COs), accreditation bodies (ABs), and certification bodies (CBs) are required to take to move from select existing standards, assurance policies, and other normative documents to the *Materials Matter system*.

The existing standards transitioning to *TE-MM-STN-101 Materials Matter Standard* are:

- *Global Recycled Standard (GRS)*;
- *Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)*;
- *Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)*;
- *Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)*; and
- *Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)*.

Collectively, the RAS, RMS, and the RWS, are part of the Responsible Animal Fiber (RAF) framework used by Textile Exchange to cover standards which address animal fibers.

Certified organizations audited to the above standards shall transition to the *Materials Matter Standard* according to the timelines in Section B below. Non-Tier 4 certified organizations currently certified to the GRS and the *Content Claim Standard (CCS)* shall transition to the CCS only within this same timeline.

The *Materials Matter Standard* and the CCS, along with the assurance system, certified supply chain tracking platform, and the *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*, will form what is referred to as the Materials Matter system. This includes all related policies, procedures, guidelines, and specifications.

Two Textile Exchange standards, the *Organic Content Standard (OCS)* and the Responsible Down Standard (RDS), will remain outside the scope of the *Materials Matter Standard* and will continue to operate in parallel under their existing frameworks. Therefore, the OCS and RDS are not covered by this policy.

A1. Implementation

The following implementation timelines apply:

A1.1.1	<i>TE-MM-POL-102-V1.0 Materials Matter Transition Policy</i> is effective and mandatory December 31, 2026 .
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A2. Document references

Textile Exchange provides additional policies, guidance documents, and templates to support the implementation of this document. All documents relevant to the standards system are available at the [Textile Exchange Knowledge Center](#). The latest version (or code) of referenced documents, including any amendments (for example, calibrations), applies.

The following documents are integral to understanding and implementing this document. This list is for reference only and is a non-exhaustive list:

A2.1.1	<i>TE-MM-STN-101 Materials Matter Standard</i>
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A2.1.2	<i>TE-MM-GUI-102 Mapping Current Standards to the Materials Matter Standard (TE-MM-GUI-102)</i>
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A2.1.3	<i>TE-MM-POL-101 Materials Matter Scope and Eligibility Policy</i> (TE-MM-POL-101)
A2.1.4	<i>TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy</i> (TE-MM-POL-301)
A2.1.5	<i>CCS-101 Content Claim Standard</i> (CCS)
A2.1.6	<i>GRS-101 Global Recycled Standard</i> (GRS)
A2.1.7	<i>RAF-101a Responsible Wool Standard</i> (RWS)
A2.1.8	<i>RAF-101b Responsible Mohair Standard</i> (RMS)
A2.1.9	<i>RAF-101c Responsible Alpaca Standard</i> (RAS)
A2.1.10	<i>RCS-101 Recycled Claim Standard</i> (RCS)
A2.1.11	<i>TE-TXL-POL-201 General Criteria for Certification Bodies</i> (TE-TXL-POL-201)
A2.1.12	<i>TE-TXL-POL-202 General Criteria for Accreditation Bodies</i> (TE-TXL-POL-202)

A3. Document definitions

Refer to the [Textile Exchange Glossary](#) for definitions of terms used in this document.

NOTE: [TE-101 Terms and Definitions for Textile Exchange Standards and Related Documents](#) will not be updated going forward and will become obsolete (i.e., retired) alongside the mandatory implementation date of the *Materials Matter Standard* (TE-MM-STN-101). The Textile Exchange glossary takes precedence in case of any contradiction or omission.

A4. Document interpretation and feedback

Points of clarification may be incorporated into supplementary and guidance documents prior to the next revision of this document where applicable. More substantive feedback or suggested changes will be collected and assessed as part of the next review (and if applicable, revision) of this document.

Any uncertainty regarding the correct interpretation of a criterion should be resolved by the “**Notes**” and “**Examples**” sections, where possible. You may submit feedback to Textile Exchange’s standards system at any time via [this form](#) or by sending an email to standards@textileexchange.org.

B. Transition timeline

In 2021, Textile Exchange began a comprehensive revision of its existing standards to develop a more harmonized system. After review and approval of the public project plan by an International Working Group (IWG), the first draft of the *Materials Matter Standard* was made available for public consultation from May to July 2023, with the second draft open for public consultation from October to November 2023. Following invaluable feedback from stakeholders, the pilot version of the *Materials Matter Standard* was released publicly on June 4, 2024. After conducting the field testing in 2024 that produced pilot and workshop feedback, the *Materials Matter Standard* criteria were finalized and approved for publication via an IWG vote on June 2, 2025. Transitioning toward the *Materials Matter Standard* will happen in stages. Each arrow represents a 12-month period:



B1.1.1 *TE-MM-STN-101-V1.0 Materials Matter Standard* was published on **December 12, 2025**.

B1.1.2 *TE-MM-STN-101-V1.0 Materials Matter Standard* is effective on **December 31, 2026**. From this date onward, audits may be conducted to the standard, provided that the certification body is licensed to do so.

B1.1.3 *TE-MM-STN-101-V1.0 Materials Matter Standard* is mandatory on **December 31, 2027**. From this date onward, all audits are required to be conducted to the standard. It supersedes the following standards, which are not to be used for audits conducted after this mandatory date:

- a. *GRS-101-V4.0 Global Recycled Standard*;
- b. *RCS-101-V2.0 Recycled Claim Standard*;
- c. *RAF-101a-V2.2 Responsible Wool Standard*;
- d. *RAF-101b-V1.2 Responsible Mohair Standard*; and
- e. *RAF-101c-V1.0 Responsible Alpaca Standard*.

Section 1: Transitory criteria for certified organizations

1.1. General transitory criteria

The following transitory criteria apply to all materials and supply chain tiers and are therefore noted as “general:”

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- 1.1.1** All scope certificates issued for the *Materials Matter Standard* will have the following validity timelines:
- a. Tier 4 organizations shall have a validity of three years. And
 - b. Tier 0–3 organizations shall have a validity of one year.

NOTE:

- 1) Scope certificates issued to all previously existing material-specific standards have a validity time period as follows:
 - GRS and RCS: one year. And
 - RAS, RMS, and RWS: three years.

-
- 1.1.2** Certification applicants shall follow the same transitory criteria as existing certified organizations. This means that all Tier 4 certification audits that occur after the effective date should be to the *Materials Matter Standard*, and all audits as of the mandatory date shall be to the *Materials Matter Standard*.

-
- 1.1.3** Recertification audits do not impact the timelines for transition, meaning that recertification audits that occur after the effective date should be to the *Materials Matter Standard*, and all audits as of the mandatory date shall be to the *Materials Matter Standard*.

1.2. Transitory criteria for Tier 4 certified organizations

The following transitory criteria apply to all raw material producers and primary processors (Tier 4 organizations) that are GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS certified:

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- 1.2.1** Tier 4 certified organizations shall hold a valid scope certificate for the *Materials Matter Standard* to make Materials Matter claims.

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- 1.2.2** Tier 4 organizations that are vertically integrated and perform processing steps beyond primary processing shall follow the criteria of the *TE-MM-POL-101 Materials Matter Scope and Eligibility Policy*.

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- 1.2.3** Tier 4 organizations that are currently audited to the CCS only (for example, animal fiber primary processors) shall transition to the *Materials Matter Standard* according to the timelines in Section B.

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- 1.2.4** Tier 4 organizations shall not hold scope certificates for the GRS and/or RAF standards at the same time as the MMS. See criterion 1.6.7 for options to sell inventoried certified materials with existing standard claims after being issued a scope certificate for the *Materials Matter Standard*.

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- 1.2.5** Tier 4 organizations may hold scope certificates for RCS and the *Materials Matter Standard* at the same time, for the purpose of selling inventoried RCS certified materials only. See section 1.2.15 regarding timelines for sale of RCS certified materials in inventory.
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GRS and recyclers

- 1.2.6** Recyclers should use the *TE-MM-TEM-105 Reclaimed Material Declaration Form* (RMDF) as of the effective date on July 1, 2025, and shall use the RMDF as of the mandatory date of December 31, 2026.
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- 1.2.7** The latest version of ZDHC Manmade Cellulosic Fibers (MMCF) Guidelines and ZDHC Recycled Polyester Guidelines are required for implementation in the *Materials Matter Standard* (Theme 5.2 Chemical management and restrictions).
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- 1.2.8** Other ZDHC fiber guidelines that are in the process of development or revision shall be mandatory on the effective date of the guidelines once published (Theme 5.2 Chemical management and restrictions).
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- 1.2.9** All criteria regarding GRS certified materials being eligible for Materials Matter product claims and criteria for inventoried materials are found in Section 1.6.
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RCS and recyclers

- 1.2.10** Primary processors that are currently audited to the RCS shall transition to the *Materials Matter Standard* according to the timelines in Section B.
-
- 1.2.11** RCS certified organizations transitioning to the *Materials Matter Standard* will have a significant increase in criteria, specifically regarding environmental and social criteria. Please refer to *TE-MM-GUI-102 Mapping Current Standards to the Materials Matter Standard* to better understand these changes.
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- 1.2.12** RCS certified organizations who do not plan to transition to the *Materials Matter Standard* shall not be eligible for an RCS audit after the mandatory date of the *Materials Matter Standard*, and shall cease being certified upon expiry of the scope certificate issued from their last audit. Any remaining RCS scope certificates shall be withdrawn on March 31, 2029.
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- 1.2.13** Recyclers should use the *TE-MM-TEM-105 Reclaimed Material Declaration Form* (RMDF) as of the effective date on July 1, 2025, and shall use the RMDF as of the mandatory date of December 31, 2026.
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- 1.2.14** RCS certified materials are not eligible as inputs into Materials Matter Certified products.
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- 1.2.15** RCS certified material in inventory shall be sold and shipped prior to the withdrawal of the scope certificate for RCS, or the material shall lose its certified status.
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RAF (RAS, RMS, and RWS) farms and primary processors

- 1.2.16** Certified organizations shall hold a valid scope certificate for the *Materials Matter Standard* by March 31, 2029, to avoid a lapse in certification. All remaining scope certificates issued to RAS, RMS, and RWS standards shall be updated to remove the RAS, RMS, and RWS (as applicable) or withdrawn on March 31, 2029.
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- 1.2.17** Scope certificates issued to Tier 4 farms for Materials Matter for the first time as a result of a recertification audit shall be issued with a new three-year validity period. When Materials Matter is
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added for the first time as a result of a surveillance audit, the existing scope certificate shall be updated to add Materials Matter, remove the applicable RAF standards, and shall maintain its existing expiry date.

- 1.2.18** Tier 4 primary processors of animal fibers that are currently audited to the CCS only shall transition to the *Materials Matter Standard* according to the timelines in Section B.
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- 1.2.19** Tier 4 primary processors of animal fibers transitioning to the *Materials Matter Standard* will have a significant increase in criteria, specifically regarding environmental and social criteria. Please refer to *TE-MM-GUI-102 Mapping Current Standards to the Materials Matter Standard* to better understand these changes.
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- 1.2.20** All criteria regarding RAS, RMS, and RWS certified materials being eligible for Materials Matter product claims and criteria for inventoried materials are found in Section 1.6.
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1.3. Transitory criteria for group certification

- 1.3.1** Farm groups previously referred to as “communal farmer group” are now referred to as “small-scale farmer group.” This terminology change was made to adequately reflect all farm group types covered by the definition.
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- 1.3.2** Between the effective date and the mandatory date, farm groups have a choice of whether to have external audits to RAF standards or the *Materials Matter Standard*. However, the following conditions apply to be eligible for Materials Matter certification:
- a. Where farm groups conduct internal inspections every year: Farm groups shall conduct internal inspections to the *Materials Matter Standard* prior to having their external audit to the *Materials Matter Standard*. By the time the external audit is conducted, at least 60% of internal inspections shall have been conducted to the *Materials Matter Standard*. Or
 - b. Where farm groups do not conduct internal inspections every year: 100% of the group members shall receive orientation to the *Materials Matter Standard* and 40% of farms in the group shall have an external audit to the *Materials Matter Standard*.
 - c. During the transition period, individual farm group members may be audited to the Materials Matter Standard at different times. The scope certificate shall be updated to add the *Materials Matter Standard* and remove the applicable RAF standard(s) after the group manager has been audited to the *Materials Matter Standard* and the farm external audits and internal inspections are completed as required by 1.3.2.a and b.
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1.4. Transitory criteria for Tiers 0–3

- 1.4.1** Tiers 0–3 certified organizations shall hold a valid scope certificate for the *Materials Matter Standard* to make Materials Matter certification claims.
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- 1.4.2** Tiers 0–3 certified organizations that request to update their scope certificates for the Materials Matter Standard shall not require an additional audit to do so.
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- 1.4.3** Tiers 0–3 certified organizations may have scope certificates for the *Materials Matter Standard* and GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and/or RWS at the same time, including following a recertification after the mandatory date of the *Materials Matter Standard*.
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1.4.4 All remaining scope certificates for GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and/or RWS shall be withdrawn or have the scope reduced to exclude these standards no later than March 31, 2029. No recertification which includes these standards is possible after March 31, 2029.

1.4.5 Tiers 1–3 certified organizations that were previously certified to the GRS and CCS shall transition to the CCS only by March 31, 2029, at which time all valid GRS scope certificates shall be withdrawn.

1.4.6 Tiers 1–3 certified organizations that wish to continue to include social and environmental criteria within the certification scope will have the option to include criteria modules as additional scopes.

NOTE:

- 1) Textile Exchange will publish social and environmental criteria modules available for use by Tiers 1-3 organizations in calendar year 2027.
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1.4.7 RCS certified materials shall **not** be used as inputs in Materials Matter Certified products. RCS certified materials must remain separate and segregated from Materials Matter Certified materials.

NOTE:

- 1) See Section 1.6 below for these eligibility criteria.
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1.5. Transitory criteria for transaction certificates

1.5.1 Certified organizations shall submit a complete and valid application for all GRS, RCS, and RAF standards transaction certificates no later than March 31, 2029, even when a longer timeline is permitted by TE-TXL-POL-203.

NOTE:

- 1) Certified organizations should allow additional time for transaction certificate applications in case the initial application is deemed to be incomplete.
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1.6. Transitory criteria for claims and labeling

The following section outlines the transitory criteria for making Materials Matter claims permitted by *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*.

General criteria

1.6.1 Materials Matter claims may be made by certified organizations as of the effective date of *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy* provided the organization holds a valid scope certificate for the *Materials Matter Standard* and has signed a trademark license agreement, per 1.1.1 in the *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*.

1.6.2 GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS claims may continue to be submitted for approval by certified organizations until the relevant scope is withdrawn.

Product claims

- 1.6.3** As of the effective date, GRS, RAS, RMS, and RWS certified materials and products may be accepted as eligible inputs to Materials Matter Certified products and any subsequent product claims shall use a transition claim option, as outlined in the *TE-MM-GUI-305-V1.0 Materials Matter Claims Transition Guide*.
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NOTE:

- 1) RCS certified materials are not eligible as inputs into Materials Matter Certified products.
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- 1.6.4** When Materials Matter Certified inputs that indicate a transition claim option on transaction certificates are used as inputs to Materials Matter Certified products, subsequent product claims shall also use a transition claim.
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- 1.6.5** Where inputs are a mix of Materials Matter Certified inputs and other eligible inputs noted in 1.6.3 above, subsequent product claims shall use a transition claim option.
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- 1.6.6** Materials Matter Certified materials and products may be accepted as eligible inputs into RAS, RMS, or RWS certified products until the certified organization's non-Materials Matter scopes are withdrawn or the mandatory date of *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*, whichever occurs first.
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- 1.6.7** If, after receiving their *Materials Matter Standard* scope certificate, a certified organization still has GRS, RAS, RMS, or RWS certified materials or products in stock, the remaining materials and products may be claimed and labeled as Materials Matter Certified and shall use a transition claim option.
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NOTE:

- 1) RCS certified materials and products in stock shall not be claimed as Materials Matter Certified regardless of the transition claim.
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- 1.6.8** After the mandatory date of *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*, or when the certified organization's GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS scopes are withdrawn (whichever comes first):
- a. All new product claims shall be Materials Matter claims. Only claims and related artwork for the *Materials Matter Standard* shall be submitted for approval. Claims and artwork using the GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS will not be accepted.
 - i. A Materials Matter transition claim option shall be used if the product contains material that was not sold with a Materials Matter Certified claim at Tier 4.
 - b. All GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS online/e-commerce and other non-printed claims shall be updated to *Materials Matter Standard*.
 - i. The organization shall submit the new Materials Matter claims and artwork for approval prior to June 30, 2029.
 - c. All previously approved GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS claims (in the form of templates or single use) shall be invalidated and shall not be used to print new materials. And
 - d. All previously approved GRS, RCS, RAS, RMS, and RWS claims that have already been printed and/or attached to product may be used until inventory is exhausted, beyond the mandatory date as needed, to avoid waste or having to remove labeled products from shelves.
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Section 2: Transitory criteria for assurance providers

2.1. Authorization of accreditation bodies

- 2.1.1** Accreditation bodies that are authorized for Textile Exchange standards shall reapply for authorization no later than June 1, 2026 by submitting an application form TE-TXL-TEM-202 as instructed on the form.
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NOTE:

- 1) Textile Exchange will issue authorization to the accreditation body prior to accepting any certification bodies for the *Materials Matter Standard* with that accreditation body.
 - 1) Accreditation bodies that are authorized for GRS, RCS, and/or RAF standards scopes will not be automatically accepted for the Materials Matter Standard. Acceptance is not guaranteed.
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- 2.1.2** The accreditation body shall not maintain valid accreditations to the GRS, RCS, and RAF standards scopes beyond March 31, 2029.
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- 2.1.3** Accreditation bodies that do not reapply for authorization or that are not reauthorized shall not maintain accreditations for any Textile Exchange standard beyond December 31, 2027.
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- 2.1.4** The accreditation body may update the scope of existing accreditations to include the *Materials Matter Standard* provided that the following conditions are met:
- a. The accreditation body has received authorization for the *Materials Matter Standard* from Textile Exchange;
 - b. The certification body has an accepted application for the *Materials Matter Standard* for the applicable scope(s) from Textile Exchange;
 - c. The certification body has an existing accreditation for the equivalent past scope(s) (see 2.1.4); and
 - d. The date the *Materials Matter Standard* is added is December 31, 2026 or later.
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- 2.1.5** In place of 2.1.4, accreditation bodies may issue a new accreditation to the *Materials Matter Standard* following a full assessment process and provided that 2.1.4.a, 2.1.4.b, and 2.1.4.d are met.
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2.2. Licensing and accreditation of certification bodies

Certification bodies conduct certification to Textile Exchange standards. This section outlines criteria for certification bodies to become accredited and licensed to issue certifications to the *Materials Matter Standard*.

- 2.2.1** Certification bodies that are licensed for Textile Exchange standards shall reapply for licensing no later than July 1, 2026 by submitting an application form (TE-TXL-TEM-201) as instructed on the form.
-

NOTE:

- 1) Textile Exchange may consider late applications from certification bodies holding current accreditation or may require that these applications use the process for new certification bodies.
 - 2) Certification bodies that are currently licensed for Textile Exchange standards will not be automatically accepted for the *Materials Matter Standard* or to maintain current licensing for CCS, OCS, and/or RDS scopes. Acceptance is not guaranteed.
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- 2.2.2** Upon application acceptance with a *Materials Matter Standard* scope, the certification body will fall under one of the following options, which will be reflected in an updated version of Appendix A – Certification body accredited scope to the current contract between Textile Exchange and the certification body:
- a. Granted a grace period to conduct certification to the *Materials Matter Standard*. The grace period will start on the later of the effective date of the standard and the date of the contract appendix update, and end on the date when accreditation is required by this policy (see 2.2.5). This applies for subsopes of the *Materials Matter Standard* where the certification body holds accreditation for the equivalent past scope (see 2.2.4). Or
 - b. Not granted a grace period for the subscope except in accordance with TE-TXL-POL-201.

NOTE:

- 1) Grace periods granted under this criterion will typically maintain any limitations (for example, geographic restrictions, site counts) that apply to the accreditation for the equivalent past scope.

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- 2.2.3** Upon application acceptance with a CCS, OCS, and/or RDS scope, the certification body will be considered licensed to the approved scope(s) and may continue with their current accreditation. This will be reflected in an updated version of Appendix A – Certification body accredited scope to the current contract or equivalent documentation between Textile Exchange and the certification body. If the certification body is adding OCS and/or RDS to their scope, they may proceed with the accreditation process based on TE-TXL-POL-201.

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- 2.2.4** For the purpose of this policy, equivalent past scopes are defined as follows:
- a. For farm and slaughter subsopes (that is, animal fiber and raw hides), RAF standard accreditation (that is, farm scope);
 - b. For recycling subsopes (including collectors, concentrators, and recyclers), and CCS and GRS accreditation; and
 - c. For all other primary processor subsopes, CCS accreditation, accreditation for either GRS (preferred) or Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), and existing Textile Exchange scope certificates that fall within the subscope.

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- 2.2.5** The certification body shall be accredited to the *Materials Matter Standard* by July 1, 2028.

NOTE:

- 1) This is the date when accreditation is required to be issued by the accreditation body. The certification body should apply to the accreditation body upon acceptance of their application by Textile Exchange.
- 2) If a certification body does not obtain accreditation by the required date, the certification body will enter the withdrawal process.

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- 2.2.6** The certification body shall not maintain valid certifications to the GRS, RCS, and RAF standards scopes beyond March 31, 2029.

NOTE:

- 1) For RAF standards farm scope certificates that do not expire between the effective date of the standard and March 31, 2029, the certification body may add the *Materials Matter Standard* to the scope certificate and remove the applicable RAF standard(s) following an audit. This allows the certified organization to maintain the expiry date of their scope certificate.

2.3. Issuance of transaction certificates

2.3.1 The certification body shall not accept transaction certificate applications for GRS, RCS, or RAF standards unless a complete and valid application is received by March 31, 2029, even when a longer timeline is permitted by *TE-TXL-POL-203 Policy for Scope and Transaction Certificates*.

2.3.2 The certification body shall not issue transaction certificates for GRS, RCS, or RAF standards after April 14, 2029.
