

Textile Exchange Accepted Equivalent Standards

Textile Exchange believes that industry standards have a strong role in ensuring the changes along the supply chain as the industry moves towards sustainable practices. Our goal in recognizing equivalent standards is to reduce the cost of certification for facilities along the supply chain, to reduce audit fatigue, and to acknowledge standards with shared principles. Equivalent standards must be stronger or equal to the requirements of our standards. The requirements are not required to be the same, but must match in their desired outcomes.

For each standard, the methodology for recognizing equivalence is described below along with a list of currently recognized equivalent standards. Separate requirements are given for recognizing equivalent audits as part of an annual inspection to the Global Recycled Standard, v3. The methodology for recognizing equivalence is written and maintained by Textile Exchange.

I. Process for accepting equivalent standards

A. Application

To be considered as equivalent to one of the TE standards or audits, standards-setting bodies or scheme owners should submit an application to TE, by filling out the Standard Equivalent Acceptance Form, and sending to Textile Exchange at Integrity@TextileExchange.org.

B. Initial Review

Textile Exchange will review the application and make an initial determination on whether or not the standard meets the requirements, as outlined below. Once a standard has been initially accepted by TE, it will then be released to open review for a period of at least 60 days. After 60 days, if there is no objection, the standard will be officially accepted as equivalent and included in this document.

C. Definitions

Third-party: A Certification Body or other organization that conducts certification outside of a direct business relationship with the facility being certified. Third-party certification bodies use an audit team that includes an inspector and a separate person responsible for the certification decision. Third-party certification bodies do not offer advice or training on compliance during or after the inspection, only a report listing issues of non-conformities.

II. Recognized Equivalent Standards

Content Claim Standard

A. CCS Equivalency Requirements

Equivalent standards must:

- Establish chain of custody for the flow of goods using a system of transaction certificates and scope certificates, certified annually by a third-party.

B. Recognized Equivalent Standards

None recognized at this point

Organic Content Standard

A. OCS Equivalency Requirements

Equivalent standards must:

- Establish chain of custody for the flow of goods using a system of transaction certificates and scope certificates, certified annually by a third-party.
- Require third-party, annual verification that the raw material meets the requirements listed in A2 of the OCS.

B. Recognized OCS Equivalent Standards

- Global Organic Textile Standard

TE Recycled Claim Standard

A. RCS Equivalency Requirements

Equivalent standards must:

- Require that raw material meets the requirements listed in A2 of the RCS.
- Require that Material Recycling facilities and each production facility meets the requirements listed in A3 of the RCS.
- Establish chain of custody for the flow of goods using a system of transaction certificates and scope certificates, certified annually by a third-party.
- Recognized equivalent standards must be third-party owned.

B. Recognized RCS Equivalent Standards

- SCS Recycled Content Standard, only products from Material Collection, Material Concentration, and Material Recycling facilities
- Taiwan Green Mark, only products from Material Collection, Concentration facilities
- Global Recycled Standard, v3

Global Recycled Standard, v3

A. GRS v3 Equivalency Requirements

Equivalent standards must:

- Establish chain of custody for the flow of goods using a system of transaction certificates and scope certificates, certified annually by a third-party.
- Require that raw material meets the requirements listed in A2 of the GRS.
- Require that Material Recycling facilities and each production facility meets the requirements listed in A3 of the GRS.

B. Recognized GRS v3 Equivalent Standards

- TE Recycled Claim Standard, only products from Material Collection, Material Concentration facilities
- SCS Recycled Content Standard, only products from Material Collection, Material Concentration facilities
- Taiwan Green Mark, only for products from Material Collection, Material Concentration facilities

II. Recognized Equivalent Audits

Audits to standards or schemes listed below may be evaluated by the certification body and accepted as part of the inspection for the standard. All audits must meet the requirements listed in the corresponding section of the standard. For example, for acceptance into GRS v3, all social audits must meet the requirements listed in B3.2, Accepted Equivalent Audits in the Social Principles section of the standard.

Global Recycled Standard, v3

A. Social Audit Equivalency Requirements

Equivalent Social Audits must:

- Include all requirements listed in B1 and B2 of the GRS
- Meet the requirements of B3.2 of the GRS

B. Accepted Social Audits

- Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) Code of Conduct
- SA 8000
- Worldwide Responsible Accredited Program (WRAP)
- Any standard approved against the GSCP Social Reference Code
- Oeko-Tex STeP Social Responsibility Requirements (Section 4.4 of the STeP standard)
- Global Organic Textile Standard

C. Environmental Audit Equivalency Requirements

Equivalent Environmental Audits must:

- Include all requirements listed in C1 and C2 of the GRS
- Meet the requirements of C3.2 of the GRS

D. Accepted Environmental Audits

- Oeko-Tex STeP Environmental Performance Requirement (Section 4.2 of the STeP standard)
- Any standard approved against the GSCP Environmental Reference Requirements