



Textile Exchange Standard-Setting System Report

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Textile Exchange 2018 Standard Setting System Report

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Part 1. Textile Exchange Standards

Textile Exchange follows the [ISEAL Codes of Good Practice](#) for standard-setting bodies to ensure we have a robust and transparent processes for our standards. This includes set policies for [Standard Revision](#), [Accreditation and Certification](#). Learn more about each of our standards below. Each has its own Standard document, Implementation Manual, and a corresponding Logo Use and Claims Guide.

Scope

Standard	Scope	Sector	Users
Content Claim Standard	Chain of custody Global	To any product, from any industry, that contains 5-100% "Claimed Material" content.	Manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting specific raw material initiatives.
Organic Content Standard	Chain of custody Organic materials Global	Any non-food product, from any industry, that contains 5-100% organic content.	Processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, traders, certification bodies, and organizations supporting organic raw material initiatives
Recycled Claim Standard	Chain of custody Recycled materials Minimum 5% Global	Any related to the material	Recyclers, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting recycled material initiatives.
Global Recycled Standard	Chain of custody Recycled materials Minimum 20% Additional social, environmental, and chemical requirements on each production stage. Global	Any related to the material	Recyclers, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting recycled material initiatives.
Responsible Down Standard	Chain of custody Animal welfare Global	Any related to the material	Farms, slaughterhouses, processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies, and organizations supporting responsible down production.
Responsible Wool Standard	Chain of custody Animal welfare Land management Global	Any related to the material	Farmers, processors, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies and organizations supporting responsible wool initiatives.



Sustainability outcomes

The standards are built on a foundation of verified chain of custody from the source to the final product. We have standards that verify organically grown content, recycled content, or verified animal welfare and land management practices on the farm. Our end goal is to increase consumers trust in sustainable content claims, leading to increased demand and production. The social, environmental, and animal welfare criteria in TE standards are in place to ensure a minimum level of worker conditions, hazardous chemical usage, and/or negative effects to the surrounding environment at certified production sites. Details of individual standards goals and objectives are provided below.

Standard	Goal	Objective
Content Claim Standard	The Goal of the CCS is to ensure the accuracy of content claims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry has a tool to build trust among consumers about claims being made on products. • Companies have a tool to verify business to business content claims. • There is a strong chain of custody for claimed materials as they move through the supply chain. • Businesses using like materials are assessed by the same criteria, creating an even playing field across the industry.
Organic Content Standard	The Goal of the OCS is to ensure trust in organic content claims.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companies have a tool to verify the organic content of their products. • Industry has a tool to make accurate business to business and consumer-facing claims about the organic content of their products. • There is a strong chain of custody for certified organic input materials as they move through the supply chain.
Recycled Claim Standard	The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Global Recycled Standard	The goal of the GRS is to increase use of recycled materials in products and reduce/eliminate the harm caused by its production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of definitions across multiple applications. • Track and trace recycled input materials. • Provide customers (both brands and consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions. • 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.
Responsible Down Standard	The goals of the RDS are to provide the industry with the best possible tool to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure to the highest possible extent that down and feathers do not come from animals in a supply chain that have been subjected to any unnecessary harm.



	<p>ensure that down does not come from animals that have been subjected to any unnecessary harm, and to provide a robust chain of custody system to validate the source of the material for all product claims.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reward and influence the down and feather industry for practices that respect the humane treatment of ducks and geese. • Provide companies with a tool to know what is in their products, and to make accurate claims. • Ensure strong chain of custody for certified materials as they move through the supply chain
<p>Responsible Wool Standard</p>	<p>The goals of the Responsible Wool Standard are to provide the industry with a tool to recognize the best practices of farmers; ensuring that wool comes from farms with a progressive approach to managing their land, and from sheep that have been treated responsibly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that wool comes from farmers that are practicing the highest level of animal welfare protection and are managing the environmental impacts of their farming. • Reward and encourage the wool industry for practices that respect the humane treatment of animals. • Provide companies with a tool to know what is in their products, and to make accurate claims. • Ensure strong chain of custody for certified materials as they move through the supply chain.

Why is it needed?

Content Claim Standard

1. Proof of what companies are purchasing is often difficult, and sometimes impossible, to obtain. The CCS provides third party verification of the content of products without revealing suppliers, which is often a huge roadblock in complex supply chains (e.g. textiles).
2. Companies need to incorporate “Claimed Material” at a low percentage blend, to slowly increase usage, and need a means to verify that content.
3. There is no other stand-alone, chain of custody standard using a transaction certificate-based system. This system creates a strong, batch-level verification of available inputs compared to the outputs.
4. Uniform requirements for proper chain of custody are needed across the many different standards in the marketplace. The CCS is already the chain of custody baseline requirements for TE owned standards (e.g. OCS, RCS, GRS, RDS). The CCS is designed to be incorporated into or in combination with other standards or management systems to establish chain of custody.
5. It is difficult for companies to ensure legal and contractual quality compliance of their products. The CCS could be used to reduce these risks by using certifications bodies to verify legal compliance and trading partner specification at all points in the supply chain with which the brand has no communication.

Organic Content Standard

1. Although the Global Organic Textile Standard exists to give textile manufacturers a robust set of requirements for organic textile production, not all manufacturers are able to meet its

requirements. This includes social, environmental, technical requirements, restricted substances, blending below 70% organic content, etc. The OCS allows companies to begin to use organic fiber at a low percentage blends to slowly increase usage, thus giving needed flexibility in order to grow the organic textile market.

2. No other standard provides chain of custody beyond textiles for organically grown content. The OCS is designed to work in any industry with any product.

Recycled Claim Standard & Global Recycled Standards

1. There are no other globally applicable, third-party independent standard that validates recycled material content claims.
2. These standards align verification methods among all the interested stakeholders.
3. The GRS is the only globally applicable, third-party independent standard that combines recycled material verification with social, environmental, and chemical processing requirements. The RCS is available for companies that only wish to verify recycled content.

Responsible Down Standard

1. There are animals used for the production of feathers and down that are being force-fed, live-plucked, and/or are not being treated with respect to the Five Freedoms.
2. Brands are feeling pressure from Animal Welfare and Rights group, as well as consumers and retail partners to address these issues.
3. The RDS provided the apparel and home goods sectors with a truly multi-stakeholder developed, global, and robust standard to address animal welfare on the farm and chain of custody to the final product.

Responsible Wool Standard

1. There are animals used for the production of wool that are not being treated with respect to the Five Freedoms.
2. Brands are feeling pressure from Animal Welfare and Animal Rights groups to address the issues.
3. The RWS provided the apparel and home goods sectors with a truly multi-stakeholder developed, global, and robust standard to address animal welfare and land management practices on the farm and chain of custody to the final product.

Performance level

All Textile Exchange standards set out a combination of process, management, and performance criteria. The Global Recycled Standard and the Responsible Wool Standard also contain requirements for continual improvement.

Adaptations

All Textile Exchange standards are intended to be globally applicable. A procedure is in place for recognizing equivalent standards as well as recognizing equivalent audits. [TE Accepted Equivalent Standards](#)

Part 2. Standard-Setting and Revision Process

Standard	Written by	Release date	Last Version Release date	Next Revision Begins
Content Claim Standard	Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association	September 11, 2012	2.0 - January 1, 2016	Tentatively scheduled for 2020.
Organic Content Standard	Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association	March, 2013 Preceded by the OE 100 (2004) and the OE Blended (2007)	2.0 - January 1, 2016	Tentatively scheduled for 2020.
Recycled Claim Standard	Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association	October, 2013	2.0 - July 1, 2017	2021
Global Recycled Standard	Control Union Ownership was passed to Textile Exchange January 1, 2011	2008	2.1 – March 2012 3.0 – August 2014 4.0 – July 2017	2021
Responsible Down Standard	Textile Exchange, Control Union and The North Face	January 21, 2014	2.0 – March 30, 2015 3.0 – 2018 (expected)	2022
Responsible Wool Standard	Textile Exchange & IWG	June, 2016		2019

Stakeholder categorization and geography

Key stakeholder groups across all standards are producers and processors of the certified material, manufacturers, brands and retailers, certification bodies and interested organizations as applicable per material.

Summary of the Revision Process

Revisions of Textile Exchange standards involve three opportunities for participation from stakeholders: 1) Initial Feedback, 2) Participation in the Working Group, and 3) Public Draft Consultation. The Initial Feedback period is announced to all existing standard users, stakeholders and the Textile Exchange network. The International Working Group uses the feedback, and their own expertise and experience to draft proposed changes to the standard. Finally the prepared draft is review via at least one Public Draft Consultation. Feedback and participation is additionally pursued through pilot, interviews, and surveys. During the

development or revision of standards relevant documents such as Terms of Reference, meeting notes and the workplan are publicly available on the website.

Governance

All TE standards are developed, managed, and released by an International Working Group (IWG).

The IWG is composed of:

- a) The Secretariat: managing the administrative work on Standard Development or Revision. This role is filled or appointed by Textile Exchange.
- b) Voting Members: These members make the key decisions during a revision: approving the Terms of Reference and final draft. The voting by this group is balanced across the relevant sectors.
- c) Advisory Group: Non-voting members of the IWG, available for comment and direction into specific elements of the standard.

International Working Group membership is open to any interested party that may be affected by the Standard. All voting and decision-making is done to ensure balanced representation of interested parties, covering the following Sectors:

- a) Material Producers
- b) Supply Chain
- c) Brands and Retailers
- d) Civil Society
- e) Professional Services

Geographic region and market sector are also identified to ensure representation from all affected areas and industries.

Decision-making process

The standard-setting process shall strive for consensus among all IWG members.

In the event that consensus is not possible:

- a) The member(s) who disagree from the majority shall present alternative solutions for consideration.
- b) If a compromise cannot be reached within the group, input from the wider stakeholder group shall be invited; after consideration of this feedback, the Voting Members shall attempt to form a consensus, or move to a weighted vote, giving each sector an equal allocation of votes. A decision is considered to pass with a majority vote. See Table A for an Example.

In all issues of consensus or voting, a quorum is required to be met, with at least 75% representation of all Voting Members within each sector.

Proposal for Revision or Creation of New standards

Proposals to develop a new standard may be submitted by any interested party. The final decision of whether to develop a new standard shall be made by Textile Exchange.

We will consider the following points:

- a) Does the proposal fit into the strategic direction of TE?
- b) Do other existing standards, or standards in development, sufficiently address the identified need?
- c) Can sufficient funding and resources be secured?
- d) How urgent is the project?

Feedback and Complaints

Requests for clarifications, feedback on the standards, and general complaints can be submitted to TE at any time by emailing Integrity@TextileExchange.org. Points of clarification are communicated directly to certification bodies, recorded in the calibration log, and ultimately *may* be added to the standard or standard Implementation Manual. Official complaints are to be filed in accordance with the [TE Standards Complaint Procedures](#).