



News Release

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Brand and supplier commitment to Responsible Wool Standard grows as the first certified products become available.

LUBBOCK, Texas, USA –Textile Exchange announces that the first Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) certified products are now available in stores with more products making their way to shelves very soon as the commitment to the RWS from across the textile industry continues to grow.

The Responsible Wool Standard is a voluntary global standard that addresses the welfare of sheep and of the land on which they graze. Since its release in June 2016, adoption of the standard has been steadily increasing across key wool growing and processing countries. There are now RWS certified farms in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United States, Argentina and Uruguay, as well as certified manufacturers across the world.

The RWS certified garments that are now available reflect the global reach of the RWS:

ARKET: H&M Group has made a commitment to only using RWS or recycled wool in all of its products by the end of 2022. Its first RWS certified products launched in September 2018 in ARKET stores featuring wool from Uruguay and Australia.

“Wool is central to our assortment as it is both beautiful and durable. We are therefore very excited to introduce the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) in our A/W 2018 collections with garments and accessories made with certified merino and raw wool. This is a way for ARKET to contribute to a more traceable and responsible supply chain both for the animals and their environment.” Karin Brinck, Sustainability Manager, ARKET

EILEEN FISHER recently released its first RWS certified garments made of wool from New Zealand and Argentina.

Founder Eileen Fisher shares, *“I believe that the only way we’ll have a more responsible industry is if we help lead the change. That means engaging with partners who share our values—other brands, our suppliers and our customers. And that’s how we approached responsible wool: by partnering with Textile Exchange and the right farms.”*

Marks & Spencer (M&S) has this week launched its first products made from RWS certified wool in menswear. The wool is traceable back to a network of Wools of New Zealand farms where it was grown, including Palliser Ridge.

“Palliser Ridge is totally committed to best practice. We are receptive to adopting any new initiative that is market driven to lift standards of animal welfare, farm management and the environment. RWS simply

recognises the efforts that we put into our land and by farming our animals in the most ethical way.” Kurt Portas, Palliser Ridge

Phil Townsend, Raw Materials Specialist at Marks & Spencer, said: *“We’re proud to be one of the first retailers to launch an RWS certified items and to have played a significant role in its development with Textile Exchange and other committed partners. This is an important milestone as part of our ongoing Plan A commitment to be more transparent about our suppliers and ensure our raw materials come from more sustainable sources, which respect people, communities, the planet and animal welfare.”*

About the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)

The RWS is an initiative of Textile Exchange and addresses animal welfare practices and land management in wool farming across the world. Through the processing stages, certification ensures that wool from certified farms is properly identified and tracked. The Standard was released in June 2016 after two years of development with a large International Working Group comprised of producer groups, animal welfare groups, suppliers, brands and other stakeholders. For more information, visit <http://responsiblewool.org/>.

About Textile Exchange

Founded in 2002, Textile Exchange is a global nonprofit that works to create leaders in the sustainable fiber and materials industry by providing learning opportunities, tools, insight, standards, data, measurement and benchmarking – and by building a community that can collectively accomplish what no individual or company can do alone. Textile Exchange also manages and promotes a suite of six leading industry standards, including organic, recycled, responsible down and responsible wool, as well as, collects and publishes critical industry data and insights that enable brands and retailers to measure, manage and track their use of preferred fiber and materials. With more than 260 members who represent leading brands, retailers and suppliers, Textile Exchange has meaningfully accelerated the use of preferred fibers and increased the adoption of standards and certifications across the global textile industry. To learn more about Textile Exchange, visit: TextileExchange.org. Follow Textile Exchange on Twitter at @TextileExchange.

RWS Products:

ARKET: https://www.arket.com/en_gbp/c/RWS.html

EILEEN FISHER: <https://www.eileenfisher.com/responsible-wool/>

Marks & Spencer: <https://www.marksandspencer.com/l/men/blazers-and-smart-jackets>

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