

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Donna Worley  
Director of Marketing Communications and Public Relations  
+1.806.577.0652 (U.S. Central)  
[Donna@TextileExchange.org](mailto:Donna@TextileExchange.org)

## Launch of the Responsible Down Standard (RDS), Version 3.0

LUBBOCK, Texas, USA – Textile Exchange announces the release of the Responsible Down Standard (RDS), version 3.0. This signifies the first substantial revision since the 2014 launch of the standard, that presently covers more than 500 million birds.



Textile Exchange releases Responsible Down Standard (RDS), version 3.0 with significant updates that strengthen the standard that already covers more than 500 million birds. Find out more: <http://responsibledown.org/for-business/tools-and-support/>.

The revision period was launched in 2017 and covered every element of the standard. Key changes to the Responsible Down Standard, include:

- Euthanasia of sick or injured birds, in order to prevent suffering, is now mandatory on the farm.
- Stunning before slaughter is now mandatory at the slaughter site.
- Stronger criteria related to handling, record keeping, and training of workers.
- Observation of parent farms in industrial goose supply chains are now required, where the highest risk of live-plucking occurs.
- All minor requirements are now mandatory (previously only 50% were required).
- Restructuring of the document to provide clearer guidance for farms, suppliers, brands, and certification bodies.

La Rhea Pepper, Managing Director for Textile Exchange, said “We are extremely proud of the work conducted by the RDS International Working Group for the revision of the Responsible Down Standard. These are significant changes that will create a much stronger standard and will require equally strong commitment and training from farms and suppliers. We know these changes will be worth it as they continue to safeguard the welfare of geese and ducks that provide down and feathers for the products we all love.”

The standard aligns with Textile Exchange’s Animal Welfare Framework, that has also guided our work on other animal welfare standards, including the Responsible Wool Standard (undergoing revision this year) and the development of the Responsible Mohair Standard (in progress).

Around 60 brands and retailers have publicly committed to the Responsible Down Standard, and are visible on our website: <http://responsibledown.org/find-responsible-down-standard/>. In addition to the committed brands, there are over 450 companies certified to the RDS currently and in 2017, over 500 million birds were raised on RDS certified farms.

Members of the International Working Group include:

- Adidas
- Allied Feather and Down
- Coyuchi
- European Outdoor Group
- ICEA
- IDFL
- Multiglory Home Textiles
- NSF International
- Patagonia
- Rohdex
- Shanghai Donglong Feather Manufacturer Co
- Sustainable Down Source
- The North Face
- Trendsetter UK

The North Face co-developed the standard in 2014 and has been a strong supporter ever since. Carol Shu, Sustainability Manager for The North Face said, “As a proud partner of Textile Exchange and supporter of the Responsible Down Standard (RDS), we are excited that the RDS is continuing to evolve and is being strengthened further with its 3.0 release. 100 percent of The North Face’s virgin down for all product lines is already certified and responsibly sourced, and with this new release we will now also be able to support additional important animal welfare advancements.”

The compliance date of the RDS 3.0 is July 1, 2020. After this date, sites will no longer be audited and certified to RDS 2.0. Your certification body may be able to provide RDS 3.0 earlier, contact your Certification Body to inquire. As of the date of this release, Responsible Down Standard approved Certification Bodies include Control Union, ICEA, IDFL, and NSF International.

### Industry Impact from the Responsible Down Standard:



500 Million+  
birds protected



60  
brands committed  
to the Responsible  
Down Standard



450+  
companies certified  
to the Responsible  
Down Standard

To learn about the Responsible Down Standard 3.0, join us for a webinar on **Wednesday, July 31, 2019 at 7a.m. US Pacific/9a.m. US Central/3p.m. GMT** where the newly revised standard will be introduced and where your questions will be answered. [Register here.](#)

## About the Responsible Down Standard

The Responsible Down Standard (RDS) is an international, voluntary standard that addresses animal welfare in the duck and geese supply chain and chain of custody of down and feather material from certified farms to the final product.

Individual sites are certified by independent third-party certification bodies using annual audits. Material is tracked from the farm to the final product using transaction certificates, following the requirements of the Content Claim Standard. For more information or to apply for certification, visit: [ResponsibleDown.org](https://ResponsibleDown.org).

## About Textile Exchange

The Responsible Down Standard is owned and managed by Textile Exchange. Textile Exchange is a global nonprofit that creates leaders in the sustainable fiber and materials industry. The organization manages and promotes a suite of six leading industry standards, 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 350 \*members who represent leading brands, retailers and suppliers, Textile Exchange meaningfully accelerates the use of preferred fibers and increases the adoption of standards and certifications across the global textile industry. To learn more about Textile Exchange, visit: [TextileExchange.org](https://TextileExchange.org). Follow us on Twitter at @TextileExchange.

*\*A Membership in Textile Exchange is not required for and does not authorize the use of Textile Exchange's standards. Certification to standards can only be achieved through an approved Certification Body.*