

Public Project Summary: Global Recycled Standard 4.0 and Recycled Claim Standard 2.0 Revision

November 2021

Introduction

Textile Exchange is committed to building credible, internationally recognized standards that include assurance and monitoring and evaluations systems. As a member of ISEAL, Textile Exchange follows three [Codes of Good Practice](#) in addition to its own procedures for Standard Setting, Accreditation and Certification.

In April 2021, Textile Exchange launched a comprehensive revision of the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) 4.0 and the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) 2.0. In July 2021, Textile Exchange began a comprehensive revision of the Textile Exchange Standards framework with the intent to transition all its eight standards into one unified standard. The revision process of the GRS and RCS will be rolled into the development of the unified standard. You can find more information [here](#).

Goals and Objectives

The shared goal of the GRS and RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials. The GRS includes additional criteria for social and environmental processing requirements and chemical restrictions.

The goal for the Textile Exchange unified standard will be to drive the increased adoption of best practices in fiber and material production and sourcing that lead to positive impacts in line with our Climate+ goal, specifically reduce GHG emissions, improve soil health and biodiversity, and improve water quality and availability.

Scope

We will be moving from eight standards to one material focused standard, that will have different modules applicable to different materials. Chain of custody will remain from source to the final product, with the brand being the last organization requiring certification in the supply chain.

The focus of the standard will be on the fiber and material production level, in line with Textile Exchange's strategy. We are also interested in exploring how to link facility-level certification or practices with our chain of custody. This scope decision will be made with feedback from stakeholders.

Needs Justification

Standards are a crucial tool to drive adoption of preferred fibers and materials and as such, there is the opportunity to use our standards as a driver towards our Climate+ goals. The unified standard will allow Textile Exchange to track progress more efficiently and effectively, while also adding more value into our existing certification system. The new standard would include a comprehensive set of criteria for the materials most commonly used in that textile supply chain including cotton, synthetics, wool, down, and others.

There are some existing standards that address specific fibers or materials, but none that offer a comprehensive approach to material sourcing in line with Climate targets. To ensure the unified standard does not cause duplication of efforts, we are exploring an approach that would recognize initiatives in line with the outcomes identified in our standard.

Timeline

GRS 4.0 and RCS 2.0 were released on July 1, 2017, after a multi-stakeholder review. You can find the summary of changes from that revision [here](#). From April 1 to May 31, 2021, Textile Exchange sought open feedback on the current version of the Global Recycled Standard 4.0 and Recycled Claim Standard 2.0. You can find a summary of feedback received [here](#). In July 2021, Textile Exchange began a comprehensive revision of the Textile Exchange Standards framework with the intent to transition all its eight standards into one unified standard. The revision process of the GRS and RCS will be rolled into the development of the unified standard. We hope to release the unified standard towards the end of 2022.

Decision-Making Process

Textile Exchange will embark on this journey in collaboration with an International Working Group (IWG). Previous IWGs have been established per standard, and with the development of one unified standard, we are planning to focus on one IWG, connected to smaller subject matter expert groups that will inform the IWG. You can learn more about decision-making in our Standard Setting Procedure [here](#).

How to Participate

Textile Exchange's Integrity Team is leading this revision process in close collaboration with the International Working Group. The public will have multiple opportunities to provide feedback throughout the revision process. Please visit the [Unified Standard website](#) for updates.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Standards@TextileExchange.org.