



# Textile Exchange Standard-Setting System Report

## 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 – with the exception of the RCS – a Logo Use and Claims Guide.

### Scope

| Standard                  | Scope  | Sector  | Users  |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Content Claim Standard    | Chain of custody<br>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<br>Organic materials<br>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<br>Recycled materials<br>Minimum 5%<br>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<br>Recycled materials<br>Minimum 20%<br>Additional social, environmental, and chemical requirements on each production stage.<br>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<br>Animal welfare<br>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<br>Animal welfare<br>Land management<br>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 designed either with a pure chain of custody focus or with additional social, environmental, and animal welfare requirements. The chain of custody aspects are in place to ensure that the product’s content is accurate with the intended outcome that increased trust in sustainable materials occurs, leading to increased production. This additionally increases the trust associated with social and environmental benefits inherent in those materials. 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"> <li>• Industry has a tool to build trust among consumers about claims being made on products.</li> <li>• Companies have a tool to verify business to business content claims.</li> <li>• There is a strong chain of custody for claimed materials as they move through the supply chain.</li> <li>• Businesses using like materials are assessed by the same criteria, creating an even playing field across the industry.</li> </ul>   |
| Organic Content Standard  | The Goal of the OCS is to ensure trust in organic content claims.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies have a tool to verify the organic content of their products.</li> <li>• Industry has a tool to make accurate business to business and consumer-facing claims about the organic content of their products.</li> <li>• There is a strong chain of custody for certified organic input materials as they move through the supply chain.</li> </ul>   |
| Recycled Claim Standard   | The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment of recycled definitions across multiple applications.</li> <li>• Track and trace recycled input materials.</li> <li>• Provide consumers (both brands and end consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions.</li> <li>• Provide assurance that materials are actually recycled and in a final product.</li> </ul>  |
| 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"> <li>• Alignment of definitions across multiple applications.</li> <li>• Track and trace recycled input materials.</li> <li>• Provide customers (both brands and consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions.</li> <li>• Reduce harmful impact of production to people and the environment.</li> <li>• Provide assurance that materials in the final product are actually recycled and processed more sustainably.</li> <li>• Drive innovation in addressing quality issues in the use of recycled materials.</li> </ul> |
| Responsible Down Standard | The goals of the RDS are to provide the industry with the best possible tool to ensure that down does not come                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>  |



|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
|                           | 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.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reward and influence the down and feather industry for practices that respect the humane treatment of ducks and geese.</li> <li>• Provide companies with a tool to know what is in their products, and to make accurate claims.</li> <li>• Ensure strong chain of custody for certified materials as they move through the supply chain</li> </ul>   |
| Responsible Wool Standard | 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Reward and encourage the wool industry for practices that respect the humane treatment of animals.</li> <li>• Provide companies with a tool to know what is in their products, and to make accurate claims.</li> <li>• Ensure strong chain of custody for certified materials as they move through the supply chain.</li> </ul> |

### 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 systems 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. There are no other chain of custody standards for organic that are applicable beyond textiles. The OCS is designed to work in any industry with any product.

#### Recycled Claim Standard

1. There is no other globally applicable, third-party independent standard that validates recycled material content claims.
2. The RCS is the only standard that aligns verification among all the interested stakeholders.
3. Some companies are not able to meet all of the strict requirements of the GRS, but still need support in their use of recycled materials.

#### Global Recycled Standard

1. There is no other globally applicable, third-party independent standard that combines recycled material verification with social, environmental, and chemical processing requirements.
2. There are multiple processing standards that make it difficult for suppliers to communicate their sustainability attributes in a concise way.
3. There are unique issues with chemicals in products that contain recycled material.

#### 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 Animal Rights groups to address these issues.
3. There have not been any global third party standards, applicable for the textile industry that fully address animal welfare issues and chain of custody.
4. At this point in time there is the opportunity to align the needs of the many stakeholders, and develop an efficient and effective tool that will send a clear message to the industry.

#### Responsible Wool Standard

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#### Performance level

All TE 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 TE 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   | Revision date  | Next revision |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|---------------|
| Content Claim Standard    | Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association                         | September 11, 2012   |  |               |
| Organic Content Standard  | Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association                         | March, 2013<br>Preceded by the OE 100 (2004) and the OE Blended (2007) |  |               |
| Recycled Claim Standard   | Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association                         | October, 2013  |  |               |
| Global Recycled Standard  | Control Union<br>Ownership was passed to Textile Exchange January 1, 2011 | 2008   | 2.1 – March, 2012<br>3.0 – August, 2014<br>4.0 – currently being revised |               |
| Responsible Down Standard | Textile Exchange, Control Union and The North Face                        | January 21, 2014   | March 30, 2015   |               |
| Responsible Wool Standard | Textile Exchange & IWG  | June, 2016   |  |               |

### 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

Stakeholders can contribute at any point through the process. Participation in standards consultation is open to all interested parties. All standards undergo Public Consultation involving up to two rounds of stakeholder feedback. The first period is at least 60 days and the second at least 30 days. In addition to the Public Consultation input is actively sought through meetings, surveys and pilots. During the development or revision of standards relevant documents such as Terms of Reference, meeting notes and the workplan are publically 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) Steering Committee: a small representative group responsible for setting the terms of reference for the standard, and ensuring the standard is developed accordingly
- b) Technical Group: a smaller group, not necessarily representative, tasked with writing and/or editing the standard itself
- c) Advisory Group: a small group of relevant experts, available for comment and direction into specific elements of the standard, but not required for full participation

The Steering Committee and Technical Group are chosen from the individuals who have expressed interest in these roles following the initial stakeholder outreach. The selection and acceptance of participants is to be done with the goal to have balanced representation of interested parties, covering the different:

- a) points in the supply chain (e.g.: farmer, manufacturing, brands)
- b) geographic regions (e.g.: Asia, Europe)
- c) market sectors (e.g.: apparel, home)
- d) interest groups (e.g.: animal welfare organizations, trade associations)
- e) certification expert (e.g.: certification body, standards body)

The selection and acceptance of participants in the International Working Group by TE and the Steering Committee shall reflect a balance of interest and adequate stakeholder engagement. Individuals will be chosen based on the following:

- a) expert knowledge and/or experience of the issue(s) under consideration
- b) capacity to contribute a wide range of viewpoints
- c) represent potentially affected stakeholders
- d) understanding of TE's mission and vision

### Decision-making process

The process of decision-making will reflect a balance of views among interested parties in the subject matter and in the geographic scope to which the standard applies. The standard-setting process shall strive for consensus among all core members (Technical Group and Steering Committee) of the IWG.

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 will be invited; after consideration of this feedback, the IWG will attempt to form a consensus, or move to a vote. A decision is considered to pass with a majority vote.
- c) In the event of a tie vote, TE will make the deciding vote, however, it will strive for consensus on any given issue at all times.

### Proposal for Revision or Creation of New standards

Proposals to develop a new standard may be submitted by any interested party. The decision to develop a new, or revise an existing, TE standard rests with the TE Advisory Board, who 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](mailto: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](#).