

Certification Widget – RWS

RWS (Version 2.1)

- RWS is a private standard, launched on June 20, 2016, by Textile Exchange, version 2.1 was launched on May 2020.
- Aims to provide a robust chain of custody system from farm to final product so that consumers are confident that the wool in the products they choose is truly RWS
- Uses chain of custody requirements as per Content Claim Standard (CCS V2.0)
- Does not cover the other inputs or accessories, environmental aspects of processing, social or legal compliance issues.

Who can be certified –


- The full supply chain of the wool fiber, from **farm to traders of finished products**, can be certified. Retailers can be certified voluntarily.
- Certifiable products must contain at least 5% responsible wool material. For example, fiber, yarns, fabrics, garments, etc.

Origin of Raw Materials –

- Wool fibers can be obtained from sources certified according to Responsible Wool Standard.
- Blending of other raw materials allowed as per RWS requirements. But non-certified wools are not allowed.
- Labelling options according to fibers used.

Labelling and Claim Guide –

- Before using the logo, it is mandatory to take the approval of artwork from the certification body.

RWS	More than 10%	Below 10% RWS
Wool Material Percentage	11-100%	5-10%
Label to be used	 Not required to mention certified fiber %	 Shall be mentioned the certified fiber %

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Segregation & Identification in case of companies which produce both RWS and conventional –

- The operator applying for RWS certification needs to set up a good system for separating and properly identifying RWS products from conventional. This applies to the reception of the raw material, as well as all steps of processing, storage rooms, etc. up to the sale.
- The best separation, of course, is in space: separate warehouses and production lines for RWS.
- However, this may often not be possible; in this case, you can separate in time: RWS goods will be processed at the same machines as conventional but at different times. It then has to be assured that relevant equipment needs to be cleaned systematically before processing RWS goods. The company has to take adequate measures to prevent contamination during transport, storage, and production.
- RWS products must be identified and tracked as they move through production.
- This may include, but is not limited to, direct labelling of RWS products, machines, storage vessels, or storage areas.
- Labels and signs must be visible and understandable by all workers operating in the area.

Traceability –

- As a minimum, traceability must be assured one step back and one step forth at each stage of the supply chain.

Training of Staff –

- Workers need to be trained regarding the requirements of the standard (including documentation of the training).
- The facility must appoint a responsible person for the certification.

Documentation –

- RWS units need a functioning and comprehensible system for documenting and identifying RWS goods.
- Written procedures and working instructions must be in place to ensure the integrity and identity of RWS products. Wherever parallel production of RWS and conventional products takes place, bags, containers, boxes with RWS products have to be labelled at all steps through your facility to avoid contamination. This includes the full production at each step.
- The operator has to keep full documentation of quantity, origin, and flow of goods. Supplier certificates, waybills, reception notes, processing records, storage books,



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and invoices have to be kept. All these records have to refer to the RWS condition of the product. All records need to be retained for a minimum of at least 5 years.

- RWS units need a good bookkeeping system, allowing for evaluation of quantities purchased (raw material vs. quantities of a finished product sold) to check mass balance calculations. For each production step, the records must demonstrate the balance between the inputs and the outputs containing the declared final amount of Claimed Material. All calculations are done based on the weight of the materials and must also take into account stock levels and rejected goods.
- Except for open raw material arriving directly from the field, only packed or sealed and labelled products must be accepted for RWS processing; unlabeled products should be returned to the supplier.
- Transport routes and transport means must be documented.

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Labelling –

- When an RWS logo is used, a reference to the Certification Body that has certified the goods (e.g., Certification Body's name and/or logo) and a reference to the certified organization (e.g., organization's name and/or certification number) as well as the label grade must be used.
- Brands and retailers may only have logos applied to goods that have been certified to the end of the supply chain (incl. last step of ownership).
- Individual components of a product may be identified as certified to the RWS only in a manner that makes it completely clear that it is only the identified component that contains responsible wool material, and not the whole product. For example, only the inner of a jacket is made with 100% responsible wool.

Procedure –

- Please check the GSCS website (<https://gscsintl.com/>) for all relevant standards, procedures, and manuals.

Transaction Certificates –

- Transaction certificate verifies the goods being shipped from one organization to the next conforming to a given standard.
- Certified entities purchasing RWS fibers, as well as such which purchase RWS goods must receive and maintain transaction certificates (=TCs, certificates of inspection), for the whole quantity purchased (per RWS criteria). As long as goods will be labelled and sold as RWS, TCs are also obliged for the wholesale (excluded are retailers).
- TCs are issued by the certification body which is in charge of the suppliers' product, based on copies of invoices, packing lists, and shipping documents, as well as TCs from previous suppliers. In special cases, TCs can cover several deliveries. The maximum amount of time a single TC may cover is 3 months.