

Calibration Log

The following is a list of calibration items issued by Textile Exchange. This list is provided publicly on the [Textile Exchange website](#).

Calibration items shown apply to current normative documents, or to documents which are currently being phased out (Status: “Retirement Pending”). These represent supplemental guidance which Textile Exchange will integrate into guidance documents such as User Manuals where possible. Calibration only applies to the applicable version of a document, where it is specified.

Each calibration item has been assigned a unique number for easy reference. This can be found at the top left corner, before the calibration title (e.g. “Calibration 150”). Please note that not all numbers will be listed nor listed sequentially due to some calibration items having been rejected, retired, or are still pending review/approval.

All calibration items will be retired with the release of the next major revision of the applicable Textile Exchange standard and/or policy. Any calibration items that still apply will then be reissued as applicable.

An automatic 14-day consultation period applies for each calibration item after the first time it is published for certification bodies, during which Textile Exchange will accept feedback to Assurance@TextileExchange.org. Certification bodies shall apply the calibration as applicable during this time.

Calibration 245	Amendment of Transaction Certificate Typographical Errors	CCS-102-V3.1 E2.2.1.b, ASR-104-V3.1 A9.4
Situation:	<p>Many cases of typographical amendments to transaction certificates are requested or identified after fourteen days of issuance, but there is documented evidence received by the certification body by the date of issuance proving it was a typographical error during the creation process.</p> <p>Update (2024.03.01): ASR-103-V3.1 introduced the implementation of the TE-ID, which is a massive project that will likely take a considerable amount of time to have all its components working harmoniously. Flexibility can be introduced for typographical corrections when they are supported by documents.</p>	
Interpretation:	<p>CCS-102-V3.1 E2.2.1.b may be read as follows:</p> <p>To correct typographical errors either within fourteen calendar days of issuance (including increasing the quantity of claimed materials) or beyond fourteen calendar days of issuance if the correction is supported by documentation that the certification body had on file on the date the transaction certificate was issued (excluding increasing the quantity of claimed materials).</p>	

Calibration 245	Amendment of Transaction Certificate Typographical Errors			CCS-102-V3.1 E2.2.1.b, ASR-104-V3.1 A9.4	
	<p>*<u>Added</u>* CCS-102-V3.1 E2.2.1.g, which is as follows: To add or correct a TE-ID or a client number (formerly known as a license number).</p> <p>*<u>Added</u>* ASR-104-V3.1 A9.4.6, which is as follows: "N" for adding or correcting a TE-ID number or a client number (tcAmendmentReason).</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.03.01 Originally Issued: 2023.12.15</p>				
Date Issued:	3/1/2024	Conformity Date:	3/1/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 246	New Codes for ASR-213			ASR-213-V1.2 Section 3, Appendix B	
Situation:	There are various new codes required that are currently absent in the existing version or cannot be integrated with the existing codes. This calibration will be updated periodically as the need for new codes is identified.				
Interpretation:	<p>There are various new codes required that are currently absent in the existing version or cannot be integrated with the existing codes. This calibration will be updated periodically as the need for new codes is identified.</p> <p>The following codes may be used in addition to those specified in ASR-213-V1.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC0045 - Unprocessed non-reclaimed fibers/materials • PC0046 - Processed pre- and post-consumer materials • RM0424 - Other, Recycled Pre-consumer RCS/GRS, VR2 • RM0425 - Other, Recycled Post-consumer RCS/GRS, VR2 <p>Where another product category has been used in place of PC0045 (e.g. for greasy wool or other greasy animal hair), the scope certificate shall be updated to show the product category as PC0045 the next time it is updated and no later than December 31, 2024. All transaction certificates issued after the scope certificate is updated shall show PC0045 for applicable products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC0046 - Shall only be used when the product contains both pre-consumer and post-consumer material. 				

Calibration 246	New Codes for ASR-213		ASR-213-V1.2 Section 3, Appendix B		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC0051 - Grading has been reserved for use by GOTS. This code shall not be used for Textile Exchange standards at this time but may be added in a later update. <p>UPDATED: 2023.03.01 Originally Issued: 2023.12.18</p>				
Date Issued:	3/1/2024	Conformity Date:	3/1/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 251	Consignee Details According to Incoterm	ASR-104-V3.1 B2.9.6.b
Situation:	ASR-104-V3.1 B2.9.6.b specifies that when the buyer is certified, the consignee is required to be a facility on the buyer's scope certificate. Situations have been identified where this is not workable outside of the identified exceptions.	
Interpretation:	<p>This calibration may be implemented immediately upon publication and shall be implemented no later than July 1, 2024.</p> <p>Incoterms®2020 are critical to understanding this calibration. More information about incoterms including definitions for each individual incoterm may be found at https://www.trade.gov/know-your-incoterms.</p> <p>A facility which is not named on the buyer’s scope certificate may be listed as a consignee provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The shipping is done based on an incoterm of FCA, CPT, CIP, FOB, CFR, and CIF. The incoterm is specified in Box 12 of the transaction certificate, with reference to the shipment number, if this is not the same for all shipments on the transaction certificate. <p>In this case, the buyer's certification body shall ensure that transport documentation from the consignee to the buyer's facility is reviewed either as part of issuing the subsequent transaction certificate or on a sampling basis as part of the next audit of the buyer (e.g. when the buyer is a brand and does not obtain outgoing transaction certificates).</p> <p>If the buyer on a transaction certificate is a certified trader (i.e. does not take physical possession of the product), the consignee shall match the consignee which will be listed on the trader's outgoing transaction certificate.</p>	

Calibration 251	Consignee Details According to Incoterm			ASR-104-V3.1 B2.9.6.b	
Date Issued:	3/1/2024	Conformity Date:	3/1/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 253	Technical System Limitations During Transaction Certificate Amendment.			ASR-104-V3.1 A9.2	
Situation:	<p>The transaction certificate policy prevents certification bodies from using invalidation as a way to amend transaction certificates outside the allowable amendment options. A9.2 intends for the Textile Exchange Data Team to support users in cases where amendments are either not allowed or technical reasons prevent their execution.</p> <p>Additional clarity on this criterion will help certification bodies understand when to contact the Data team for support on amending transaction certificates.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>A9.2 may be read as follows:</p> <p>The certification body shall not invalidate a transaction certificate in order to reissue it with corrected data, but shall instead amend the transaction certificate. If technical limitations related to dTrackit are preventing the amendment process, the certification body shall contact Data@TextileExchange.org for support. For all other issues related to amendments that are not covered by the applicable criteria in the Assurance policies, the certification body shall contact Assurance@TextileExchange.org.</p>				
Date Issued:	3/1/2024	Conformity Date:	3/1/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 254	Use of Text Claims for RCS and GRS Logos with "Chasing Arrows" Symbol			TE-301-V1.3 B3.11	
Situation:	<p>In some jurisdictions, the chasing arrows or Mobius loop symbol may not be permitted on products that are not recyclable. The current GRS and RCS logos include this symbol, so may not be allowed in some product-related claims.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>In jurisdictions where the "chasing arrows" or Mobius loop symbol may not be permitted per consumer protection laws (e.g. not being allowed on products that are not recyclable), GRS and RCS product-related claims may omit the relevant Standard logo and use a text claim only.</p>				
Date Issued:	2/29/2024	Conformity Date:	2/29/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 252	Independently Certified Subcontractor Under Common Ownership			CCS-101-V3.1 C5.1	
Situation:	<p>Organizations are allowed to outsource processing and handling of claimed materials to subcontractors. In this case the organization acts as a contracting organization. Following CCS-101-V3.1-C5.1, a subcontractor shall not have common ownership with the contracting organization, thus the contracting organization is not permitted to list a facility under common ownership as an associated subcontractor.</p> <p>It has been requested that a contracting organization should be allowed to list an independently certified subcontractor as a subcontractor in their scope certificate, although they are under common ownership.</p> <p>This request arises from various factors, including geographic considerations, as the contracting organization and the independently certified subcontractor could be situated in different countries. Additionally, differences in certification bodies may contribute to this request, as each entity may be certified by a separate certification body.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>An independently certified subcontractor under common ownership with the contracting organization may be listed as an independently certified subcontractor under the contracting organization's scope certificate. Following CCS-102-D3.4.1, the independently certified subcontractor shall not be audited as part of the contracting organization's audit.</p> <p>Textile Exchange encourages sites under common ownership to be included under the same scope certificate (preferred) or separate scope certificates with the same certification body where workable.</p>				
Date Issued:	2/28/2024	Conformity Date:	2/28/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 249	Use of TE-ID for Assured Claims			TE-301-V1.3 B3.10	
Situation:	<p>The implementation of the Textile Exchange ID (TE-ID) will be used to identify a facility in Textile Exchange's database, thus replacing the license number and responsible certification body name requirement for all assured claims made by organizations who have received confirmation of their TE-ID and submitted a formal claim approval application.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>TE-301-V1.3 Standards Claims Policy B3.10, and all other criteria under Section B:</p> <p>Assured Claims that refer to a certified organization's license number and responsible certification body name, may be replaced or accompanied by a certified organization's TE-ID.</p>				
Date Issued:	1/30/2024	Conformity Date:	1/30/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 247	Implementation of Certified Organization Registration and TE-ID	ASR-103-V3.1 C4
<p>Situation:</p>	<p>The implementation of the Textile Exchange-ID (TE-ID) in early 2024 requires some clarification.</p> <p>Textile Exchange is providing certification bodies with lists of pre-assigned TE-IDs in three batches, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilities listed in dTrackit on an SC by September 13, 2023 (provided to certification bodies December 1, 2023); 2. Facilities listed in dTrackit on an SC by November 15, 2023 (provided in late December 2023); and 3. Facilities listed in dTrackit on an SC by December 31, 2023 (to be provided in January 2023). <p>When an organization registers to create or claim their TE-ID with Textile Exchange, there may be a delay of up to 14 calendar days before the TE-ID is provided. Textile Exchange may ask for certification body assistance in the deduplication of data, which may occasionally result in longer delays.</p>	
<p>Interpretation:</p>	<p>The following items apply for the implementation of the TE-ID in the first quarter of 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a certified organization or facility does not have a TE-ID which was pre-assigned by Textile Exchange (i.e. is newly becoming certified in 2024 or data was not provided to dTrackit in 2023), the registration process with Textile Exchange is mandatory before that certified organization or facility may be listed on a scope certificate issued in 2024. 2. If a certified organization or facility does have a pre-assigned TE-ID, the certification body may issue a scope certificate during the months of January and February 2024 for that organization or facility without the registration process being completed. In this case, the registration process shall be completed before April 1, 2024. 3. The TE-ID is required for the certified organization and all facilities on all scope certificates issued in 2024. All data submissions to dTrackit shall include TE-IDs for the following, effective January 1, 2024: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The certified organization and all facilities listed on each scope certificate (certifiedOrganizationTeld and facilityTeld); and b. The seller on each transaction certificate (sellerTeld). 	

Calibration 247	Implementation of Certified Organization Registration and TE-ID	ASR-103-V3.1 C4
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. dTrackit will accept data submissions which do not meet item 3. above until March 31, 2024, and will identify them as not meeting the applicable policy but will not reject the data. Effective April 1, 2024, any data submissions which do not meet item 3. above will be rejected by dTrackit restriction logic. 5. For new certifications, the certification body should assign a CB client code and provide it to the organization prior to asking the organization to register for a TE-ID but should encourage or require the organization to register for the TE-ID well in advance of the certification decision being made. 6. The certification body may specify contact email addresses for the following by emailing assurance@textileexchange.org. If no separate email address is provided, the certification body's primary contact with Textile Exchange will be used. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Receiving a periodic report by email of completed registrations associated with the certification body. The certification body may opt-out of receiving this upon request. And b. Requests for support with deduplication of data relating to the certification body's data submissions and specific registration applications. 7. Scope certificates do not need to be updated to include the TE-ID until the earliest of these events occurs: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recertification on or after January 1, 2024; b. The scope certificate is updated for other reasons (e.g. to add products) on or after April 1, 2024; or c. The end of 2024, by which point the scope certificate shall be updated to include the TE-ID (for RAF farm scope certificates which do not expire in 2024 only). 8. Transaction certificates may be issued without the seller's TE-ID for the months of January and February 2024 only, if the seller was certified during 2023 and the certification body has not received a pre-assigned TE-ID for the seller. 9. An outgoing transaction certificate may be issued if the incoming transaction certificate is missing TE-ID data, under CCS-102-V3.1 E2.1.11. 10. In the case of a scope certificate transfer between certification bodies before the TE-ID has been added to the preceding certification body's scope certificate, the organization may obtain the TE-IDs for all of their facilities (including associated subcontractors) by completing the registration process. 	

Calibration 247	Implementation of Certified Organization Registration and TE-ID			ASR-103-V3.1 C4	
	UPDATED: 2024.01.26 Originally Issued: 2023.12.28				
Date Issued:	1/26/2024	Conformity Date:	1/26/2024	Status:	Issued

Calibration 242	License and Facility Number Data Submissions			ASR-103-V3.1, ASR-104-V3.1 SC B3.1.1, B3.4, TC B2.2.6, B2.3.6	
Situation:	There are some data fields which should be specified in dTrackit submissions for the calendar year 2024 but which are not reflected in the updated SC Policy 3.1 and TC Policy 3.1.				
Interpretation:	The following fields should be specified in dTrackit submissions for scope and transaction certificates in 2024 to support the reconciliation of identifiers as the TE-ID is being implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. On scope certificates: facilityNo, subcontractorLicenseNo b. On transaction certificates: sellerLicenseNo, buyerLicenseNo (if the buyer is certified) 				
Date Issued:	12/18/2023	Conformity Date:	12/18/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 244	Risk designation for brand headquarters and distribution facilities			CCS-102-V3.1 Appendix B1.h	
Situation:	The current version of CCS-102 assigns a high-risk designation to a brand when it gets major non-conformities during an audit. This creates the need to audit many distribution facilities which causes unnecessary auditing and a higher cost for the certified organization because low-risk distribution facilities do not require regular auditing.				
	The consideration given to headquarters and distribution facilities after establishing the risk designation needs to be different.				
Interpretation:	Appendix B1.h may be read as follows: Has the site had one or more major non-conformities issued for the scope certificate in the past 12 months, including during the previous audit?				

Calibration 244	Risk designation for brand headquarters and distribution facilities			CCS-102-V3.1 Appendix B1.h	
	A major non-conformity at any of the sites which do not take physical possession of product shall not automatically assign a high-risk level to distribution facilities where only major non-conformities related to material handling need to be considered.				
Date Issued:	12/14/2023	Conformity Date:	12/14/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 235	Guideline regarding the second-party and third-party testing			CCS-102-V3.1 E2.1.3	
Situation:	<p>There is confusion regarding product quality testing criteria, including who may conduct testing and which test reports are required for transaction certificates.</p> <p>Upon further review of the original Calibration 235, Textile Exchange has identified a need for more consultation and more detail in any future testing criteria.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>CCS-102-V3.1 E2.1.3.b may be read as follows:</p> <p>"Third- or second-party product quality test reports for inputs and outputs (recommended for non-recycled fibers, all yarns, and all fabrics)."</p> <p>Quality tests refer to the following tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For fibers (PC0033, PC0034), the fiber length in mm and fiber fineness in applicable unit; • For yarns (PC0029, PC0030, PC0031), the yarn count; • For fabrics (PC0025, PC0026, PC0027, PC0028, PC0039), the fabric gsm (weight in g/m²) and fabric construction (e.g. ends/picks per inch, yarn count). <p>Textile Exchange will consider reintroducing mandatory quality testing criteria via future standard revision processes. This updated calibration replaces Calibration 241.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.12.01</p> <p>Originally Issued: 2023.08.09</p>				
Date Issued:	12/1/2023	Conformity Date:	12/1/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 240	“PR0034 Other” no approval needed		CCS-102-V3.1 Appendix B1 NOTE 1		
Situation:	The CCS certification procedure requires approval from Textile Exchange for the 'other' process category (PR0034) to be used. Textile Exchange has initiated a new internal process for managing 'Other' codes.				
Interpretation:	<p>Certification bodies may use all 'other' codes from ASR-213-V1.2 (RM0262-7, PR0034, PC0038, PD0100) without separate approval from Textile Exchange.</p> <p>A user specific term is required for use of RM0262-7 (see ASR-213-V1.2 3.1.9). A user specific term should be included with all uses of PR0034, PC0038, and PD0100.</p>				
Date Issued:	11/30/2023	Conformity Date:	11/30/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 239	Omitting Material Types for 100% Certified Recycled or Organic Claims		TE-301-V1.3 B3.13.5		
Situation:	When a product contains 100% certified recycled or organic content, could a more generic claim about the materials be made and not list each material name out?				
Interpretation:	<p>For RCS, GRS, and OCS, where multiple material types are certified but the product also contains non-certified material, each material shall be separately listed with the percentage content (e.g. "Made with 48% OCS certified organically grown cotton and 32% OCS certified organically grown wool").</p> <p>For a product or component made of 100% RCS, GRS, or OCS certified materials, the material type(s) may be omitted (e.g. "Made with 100% GRS certified recycled materials").</p>				
Date Issued:	11/30/2023	Conformity Date:	11/30/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 184	Inputs from Tanneries, Slaughterhouses, and Abbatoirs		GRS-101-V4.0/ RCS-101-V2.0 A1		
Situation:	<p>May animal hides/fibers and leather sourced from a tannery, slaughterhouse, or abattoir be accepted as reclaimed inputs?</p> <p>Upon review of additional information, this calibration has been updated to provide additional flexibility.</p>				

Calibration 184	Inputs from Tanneries, Slaughterhouses, and Abbatoirs			GRS-101-V4.0/ RCS-101-V2.0 A1	
Interpretation:	<p>Animal fibers (including wool), and animal hides, sourced following slaughter shall not be accepted as reclaimed inputs for RCS or GRS. Shavings/trimmings from leather tanning, splitting, post-tanning and finishing operations may be accepted as reclaimed inputs for GRS/RCS.</p> <p>NOTE: Calibration 148 addresses steps for certification bodies when there is ambiguity about whether or not a material may be accepted as reclaimed.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.11.14 Originally Issued: 2022.12.31</p>				
Date Issued:	11/14/2023	Conformity Date:	11/14/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 238	Adding RCS for GRS certified organizations			ASR-101-V2.1 B3.1.1	
Situation:	<p>Sometimes an organization is GRS certified but not RCS certified and needs to sell products as RCS certified. This includes cases where the organization is selling to an RCS certified brand and wants the organization to apply labels, as well as cases where products are identified as ineligible for GRS but eligible for RCS. Since the criteria of the RCS are all evaluated during a GRS audit, this is low risk.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>RCS certification is separate from GRS certification. The certification body shall only issue RCS transaction certificates to organizations (sellers) who are RCS certified. Products which carry RCS on-product claims shall not be included on a GRS transaction certificate.</p> <p>When an organization is GRS certified and wishes to become RCS certified, the certification body may issue an RCS scope certificate for the same scope (facilities, process categories, etc) without conducting any additional auditing. In this case, the RCS scope certificate shall be issued with the same expiry date (scValidUntil) as the corresponding GRS scope certificate. RCS may be added as a standard to a multi-standard scope certificate which includes GRS (see ASR-103-V3.1 A5.6.3).</p> <p>The certification body may issue RCS transaction certificates for shipments prior to the issue date of the RCS scope certificate, provided that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The RCS scope certificate is issued before the RCS transaction certificate is issued; and b. The organization was GRS certified at the time of the shipment. 				
Date Issued:	10/31/2023	Conformity Date:	10/31/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 208	Certification Body Moving their Accredited Office		ASR-101-V2.1 D1.1.8		
Situation:	A certification body wishes to transfer their accreditation to a different office, which may or may not be in a different country or party of a different legal entity (e.g. subsidiary or sister company) to the office which held the original accreditation. What is the procedure for this? Is this considered a new accreditation?				
Interpretation:	<p>If a certification body wishes to move their accreditation to a different office, the accreditation body shall determine if this may be accepted as a simple update of contact information or if a new accreditation is required, and shall communicate this decision to Textile Exchange.</p> <p>If the accreditation body determines that this may be accepted as a simple update of contact information, the certification body shall provide an updated application form to assurance@textileexchange.org. Textile Exchange shall update applicable systems accordingly.</p> <p>If a new accreditation is needed, the certification body shall submit a new application form to Textile Exchange with applicable supporting documentation. Textile Exchange will fully evaluate the application but may rely on past experience and/or evidence from the accreditation body to fast-track the application. Provided that this is a transfer of accreditation (i.e. the original office is not maintaining accreditation), Textile Exchange will not charge an additional application fee and will review an application even if certification body applications are otherwise closed.</p>				
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Calibration 140	What is the earliest a recertification audit may be conducted?	ASR-101-V2.1 D4.4.20, D4.6.8			
Situation:	<p>The ACP D4.4.20 recommends ('should' language) that recertification audits be conducted 60 days before the expiry of the previous scope certificate, and D4.6.8 requires that the certification decision be made within 60 days of the audit.</p> <p>How far in advance may a recertification audit be conducted? Is it allowable to finalize a certification decision within 60 days of the audit and issue a scope certificate upon expiry of the previous scope certificate?</p>				

Calibration 140	What is the earliest a recertification audit may be conducted?	ASR-101-V2.1 D4.4.20, D4.6.8			
	<p>Update: The current calibration uses the word "may" which allows the user to interpret that they are allowed to exceed the 90-day limit. There have been cases of misinterpretation for this.</p> <p>Adjusting the wording can aid in clarifying the intent of the calibration which is for CBs not to conduct audits further than 90 days before the expiration of the scope certificate.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>Recertification audits may be conducted, as a maximum, up to 90 days before the expiry of the previous scope certificate, i.e. recertification audits are not to be conducted prior to 90 days before the expiration date of the scope certificate. If a certification decision is made prior to the expiry of the previous scope certificate, issuing the new scope certificate may then be delayed up to 90 days after the audit date (typically to the anniversary date).</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.08.31 Originally Issued: 2021.01.28</p>				
Date Issued:	8/31/2023	Conformity Date:	8/31/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 130	Certification of Non-Textile Reclaimed Materials	GRS v4.2/RCS v2.2 A3.1b			
Situation:	<p>What action should certification bodies take before accepting non-textile reclaimed or recycled inputs for RCS or GRS?</p> <p>Update 2023.08.25: Textile Exchange has received significant feedback regarding the wording of the original Calibration 130, including lack of clarity and the additional burden of approvals.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>Due to the wide range of potential reclaimed or recycled materials available, and due to differing definitions of these terms in different countries or sectors, the certification body shall contact Textile Exchange for approval prior to accepting an application from an organization who wishes to certify non-textile pre-consumer reclaimed or recycled materials which are not already RCS or GRS certified.</p> <p>Update (2): The above text has been adapted to only include pre-consumer materials. Advance approval is no longer required for post-consumer materials.</p> <p>Advance approval is required prior to recertification of an organization who accepts non-certified, non-textile pre-consumer reclaimed or recycled materials as input</p>				

Calibration 130	Certification of Non-Textile Reclaimed Materials	GRS v4.2/RCS v2.2 A3.1b			
	<p>unless the certification body has documentation of past approval from Textile Exchange for that organization.</p> <p>The calibration applies to all certification bodies that hold RCS and GRS accreditation. Each certification body is required to reach out to Assurance@TextileExchange.org in order to evaluate the application. The application consists of a set of questions that need to be answered with the appropriate details. If any ineligible material is identified during the renewal application, the certification body is obligated to withdraw the certification.</p> <p>Textile Exchange will be building additional guidance to reduce the scenarios in which advance approval is needed, which may include exempting individual submitters or certification bodies from the approval process based on demonstrated performance.</p> <p>In all cases where advance approval is not needed, Textile Exchange may reach out to the certification body to request an application as described above for a certified organization who is acting as a recycler. In this case, the certification body shall provide the application to Textile Exchange for evaluation.</p> <p>UPDATED (2): 2023.08.25 UPDATED (1): 2022.07.19 Originally Issued: 2020.12.14</p>				
Date Issued:	8/25/2023	Conformity Date:	8/25/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 237	Audit Methods Document Not Published	CCS-102-V3.1 D4			
Situation:	CCS-102-V3.1 CCS Certification Procedures D4 references a new document, ASR-114 Audit and Assessment Methods Policy, which is not yet published.				
Interpretation:	<p>Until ASR-114 Audit and Assessment Methods Policy is published, certification bodies shall continue to apply CCS-102-V3.0 D4 in its place.</p> <p>CCS-102-V3.0 can be accessed at https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2022/03/CCS-102-V3.0-CCS-Certification-Procedures.pdf</p>				
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Calibration 233	Packaging, hangtag, or label manufacturers considered brands for making claims about their products			CCS-201-V3.1 E	
Situation:	When packaging, hangtags, or labels are certified to a Textile Exchange Standard, who is considered to be the brand?				
Interpretation:	<p>Manufacturers of packaging, hangtags, and labels are typically considered to be brands. The following example should be considered alongside the examples in the list of examples in the guidance note, the below should be added:</p> <p>This company would be considered a brand: A company designs and develops products which are packaging, hangtags, or labels used for holding or attaching to another product (e.g. garment) and sells them through multiple distribution channels. The labeling and branding of the product are generally done by the company, as is the printing and physical attaching, in the case of hangtags and labels. In the case of packaging, which is not physically attached, the final packaging product may be physically handled by a non-certified organization before being sold to the final consumer.</p>				
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Calibration 236	Activities Performed by Certification Body Subcontractors			ASR-101-V2.1 Appendix A	
Situation:	<p>Which activities may only be performed by a certification body directly, or by a subcontractor?</p> <p>Relevant definitions from ASR-101-V2.1:</p> <p>Subcontractor: [...]An independent legal entity hired by a certification body to provide services related to certification activities, excluding freelancers.</p> <p>Freelancer: An individual who is hired by an accreditation body or a certification body to act as an assessor or an auditor on a contract/non-employee basis, but subject to the accreditation/certification body’s procedures. A freelancer may not also conduct client recruitment or management activities (see: subcontractor). An individual may be considered to be a freelancer if payment is made to a company (e.g. an incorporated consulting business), provided that the work is stipulated to be done by a named individual and that the business does not engage in client recruitment or management activities.</p>				

Calibration 236	Activities Performed by Certification Body Subcontractors		ASR-101-V2.1 Appendix A		
Interpretation:	<p>The following activities are considered to be core functions of certification body operations and shall only be conducted by certification bodies or their subcontractors, not freelancers or other parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of auditors, including hiring and selecting auditors for specific audits; • Planning of audit activities; • Review of audit reports (separate from final certification decisions); • Review and granting of claims approvals; • Processing of transaction certificate applications; • Maintaining legally required registrations on behalf of the certification body (including CNCA registration for operations in China); • Client management activities including client communications; • Direct client recruitment; • Client invoicing; and • Contracting with clients including certification agreements. <p>NOTE: Certification decisions and the issuance of scope and transaction certificates are required to be conducted by the certification body directly and not by a subcontractor or freelancer (see ASR-101-V2.1 D3.2.6.a).</p>				
Date Issued:	7/12/2023	Conformity Date:	7/12/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 221	Ginning Facilities in Purchasing Seed Cotton		OCS-105-V0.1, ASR-106-v2.3		
Situation:	<p>It has been noted that in some cases in Turkey a ginning facility purchases seed cotton but is not named as the buyer on the input (farm) transaction certificate or seller on the output (lint cotton) transaction certificate, and is instead listed as a subcontractor. GOTS has created an exception for transaction certificates issued before October 1, 2022.</p>				

Calibration 221	Ginning Facilities in Purchasing Seed Cotton	OCS-105-V0.1, ASR-106-v2.3			
Interpretation:	<p>If a ginning facility is purchasing seed cotton, that facility is not a subcontractor by definition and therefore shall be identified as the buyer on input (farm) transaction certificates, then as the seller of lint cotton on the output transaction certificate.</p> <p>GOTS has permitted an exception to these criteria for transaction certificates in Turkey issued before October 1, 2022. In such cases, whenever Textile Exchange is required to review the transaction certificate data (see OCS-105 OCS In Conversion Public Exemption and ASR-106 Accepted Equivalent Standards), a declaration from the seller on the first GOTS transaction certificate shall be provided to Textile Exchange alongside the transaction certificates which states the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The name and address of the organization making the declaration; 2. The name, job title, and signature of the authorized signatory; 3. The number of the first GOTS transaction certificate along with the issuing certification body, date, volume (kg), and buyer's name; 4. A declaration that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The organization understands that the gin took legal ownership of the seed cotton and therefore was required to be the seller on the first transaction certificate; b. The organization will ensure that all transaction certificates issued on or after October 1, 2022 will meet this requirement; and c. That the information provided about the transaction certificate is true and correct. <p>If the first GOTS transaction certificate was issued on or after October 1, 2022, no exception to the definition of subcontractor is permitted.</p>				
Date Issued:	7/7/2023	Conformity Date:	7/7/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 228	Use of Poison Baiting for Predator Control	RWS-101a-V2.2 LM2.6.3			
Situation:	<p>Farmers in different parts of Australia are currently having a major threat from feral pests such as foxes, wild dogs, and feral pigs. Their attacks cause production and financial loss and the local economy is affected. The impact is such that national and state authorities have implemented plans to support the farmers.</p> <p>These predators maim or kill livestock such as lambs, adult sheep, poultry, goats, and native wildlife. They also pose a threat to humans and pets through the transmission of diseases such as Distemper, Parvo, Mange, Hydatids (Zoonotic disease that can</p>				

Calibration 228	Use of Poison Baiting for Predator Control	RWS-101a-V2.2 LM2.6.3
	<p>affect humans), Sheep Measles, Neospora Caninum, and Ehrlichiosis. Some animals can even desiccate feed supplies of grazing animals, destroy pasture and habitat, and contaminate water.</p> <p>The government has implemented programs such as Local Land Services to provide guidance, training, and risk assessments on the use of different pest management techniques such as shooting, trapping, and baiting. Usually, poison baits are restricted materials that cannot be purchased or used without licensing, training, and signage installation on the property.</p> <p>The use of poison as a lethal control method is not currently allowed by the RWS.</p> <p>This calibration aligns with the proposed language for Textile Exchange's upcoming unified standard.</p>	
<p>Interpretation:</p>	<p>A certified farm or farm group in Australia may use poison baiting as a predator control method provided all of the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There shall be a verifiable predator threat to goats/sheep. 2. Predators shall be classified as invasive species by the relevant authority. Endemic predator species shall not be eligible for the application of this calibration. 3. The decision to use poison shall be taken on a landscape or regional level and involve expert input from an external body such as Landcare Australia. 4. Anti-coagulant poisons or cholecalciferol shall not be used. 5. Poison baiting shall take place over set, targeted periods only -it shall not occur continuously. 6. The farm shall have a written predator management plan with the following components at a minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Detailed explanation of the predator issue, b. Predator control proposal establishing the responsible person for every action, when it shall be executed, and where it will be implemented. c. Alternative methods of control that conform to the RWS, e.g. shooting individual predators, or use of CO2 traps, including reasons why they are inadequate for the farm’s situation. d. Integrated approach analysis considering other predator species that could increase in number if the target predator population is reduced. 7. The farm shall have attempted at least two non-lethal control methods (e.g. predator-proof fencing, light or sound deterrents, livestock guardian dogs) before considering the poison bait option. 	

Calibration 228	Use of Poison Baiting for Predator Control	RWS-101a-V2.2 LM2.6.3			
	<p>8. Monitoring shall take place before and after poison bait is used to first determine where invasive predators are active and secondly to determine the success of the baiting program. Records shall be kept.</p> <p>9. The position of baits shall be marked and any undated baits removed at the end of the baiting period.</p> <p>10. Poison bait shall be distributed so as to avoid non-target wildlife being harmed by primary or secondary poisoning.</p> <p>11. Signs shall be placed all around the property, especially on their boundary to ensure all neighbors and visitors are aware poisoning is conducted on the property.</p> <p>12. All bait (including that which is unused or uneaten) shall be used and disposed of according to product label requirements.</p> <p>13. Fumigating dens with carbon monoxide is not an acceptable activity under this exemption.</p>				
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Calibration 223	Requirements for Wastewater/Effluent/Sludge Treatment Systems	GRS-101-V4.0 C2.3e, C2.3f			
Situation:	<p>The GRS allows treating wastewater either on-site or off-site. Many operators treat wastewater off-site in a common effluent treatment plant (CETP) which may be private or government owned.</p> <p>The Waste/Effluent section in the GRS establishes that CETPs need to conform with GRS v4.0 Appendix D which is based on ZDHC’s Wastewater Guidelines. However, CETPs abide by local or national governmental standards which usually are more lenient than ZDHC’s standards. Additionally, the certification bodies cannot audit the quality of the water leaving the CETP. These facts create a gap in conformity with the GRS.</p> <p>Moreover, the GRS is vague on proper treatment and disposal of sludge because it doesn’t refer to any guideline parameters to assess its attributes, which is needed for on-site treatment systems that certification bodies will audit.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>Each GRS site shall have a system to ensure that wastewater receives proper treatment, whether the site has an on-site process or uses an off-site service provider. Depending on the wastewater treatment location, the following applies:</p>				

Calibration 223	Requirements for Wastewater/Effluent/Sludge Treatment Systems	GRS-101-V4.0 C2.3e, C2.3f			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. On-site treatment systems shall conform to the criteria of GRS-101-V4.0 C2.3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. For sludge management, the site should provide the certification body with a copy of the valid contract between the site and the sludge disposal contractor. b. If using an off-site treatment plant, known as a common effluent treatment plant (CETP), the site shall provide the certification body with evidence that the treated wastewater/effluent leaving the CETP facility meets local or national legal parameters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The certification body should confirm that the CETP is legally operating by reviewing the existence of a permit, agreement, or contract with the certified site or with any other system participants such as the local pollution control board. ii. The site should provide evidence that sludge generated at the CETP facility meets local or national legal parameters. 				
Date Issued:	5/31/2023	Conformity Date:	5/31/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 227	Darkness Period for Ducks	RDS-101-V3.0 AW2.7			
Situation:	<p>Ducks are primarily raised for meat with down a secondary consideration. Companies worldwide are working with different criteria when providing a mandatory darkness period to ducks, depending on the country of operation and the standard(s) prevailing within the farmed duck industry of each country. The RDS criteria differ from some of these standards. Textile Exchange identified the benefit of updating the RDS with the most common practice.</p> <p>This calibration aligns with the proposed language for Textile Exchange's upcoming unified standard.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>RDS criterion AW2.7 may be implemented as follows where the criterion as written in the standard is not feasible:</p> <p>Except for brooding under a heat lamp up to four weeks of age, ducks shall be provided a minimum period of six hours of continuous darkness - or near darkness - at night and this shall be preceded by thirty minutes of dusk and followed by thirty minutes of dawn. In addition, a minimum of eight hours of light during the day shall be provided.</p>				
Date Issued:	5/31/2023	Conformity Date:	5/31/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 232	Transfer Audits in the case of CB Suspension	ASR-112-V2.0 C3.4			
Situation:	Transfer audits are abbreviated audits intended to simplify the transition between certification bodies when there may be an urgent need outside of the recertification cycle. ASR-112-V2.0 permits transfer audits in the case of CB withdrawal, but does not permit them for voluntary transfers between CBs. In the case of a CB being suspended, their clients may feel that a transfer of certification is necessary to control risk and ensure continuity of service.				
Interpretation:	<p>A transfer audit may be conducted when the certification body has been suspended for the organization's scope and is still suspended 7 calendar days before the date the transfer audit is conducted. See ASR-112-V2.0 C3.5 for more information about transfer audits.</p> <p>In this case, the succeeding certification body shall specify the preceding certification body's scope certificate number in the scLegacyNo data field on the dTrackit data submission for the succeeding certification body's scope certificate, and shall follow instructions from Textile Exchange for reporting on transfer audits to allow for fees to be calculated correctly.</p>				
Date Issued:	4/19/2023	Conformity Date:	4/19/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 167	Mulesed Restocking	RWS-101a-V2.2/RAF-105a-V2.0 AW4.15			
Situation:	<p>In Australia, the majority of wool still comes from mulesed sheep, which is prohibited under RWS.</p> <p>A plan that includes the RWS in the recovery phase of the farmer industry in Australia needs to be developed to have animal welfare regulations such non-mulesing principles embeded in the operational procedures of the farms, facilitating the progressive shift of the flock while ramping up operations.</p>				
Interpretation:	The majority of the sheep flock in Australia is mulesed. This creates challenges to producing non-mulesed wool in Australia when related to flock restocking for reasons of maintaining flock genetics or recovering from extreme climate events like droughts and fires. Other reasons for restocking may be: significant expansion of the flock, changing the breed or strain of sheep, and recovering from a disease problem causing high mortality or culling.				

Calibration 167	Mulesed Restocking	RWS-101a-V2.2/RAF-105a-V2.0 AW4.15
	<p>Textile Exchange is addressing this situation using a calibration where the criteria below will facilitate a certification body's assessment that determines if an individual exemption is eligible. This process will be carried out by the certification body, based on ASR-101-V2.1 Accreditation and Certification Procedures for Textile Exchange Standards, section D4.15.3. Exemptions for mulesed stock other than for ram replacements and extreme climate events like droughts and fires must be dealt with on a case-by-case basis - as well as reviewed annually for renewal - per the usual exemption request and approval process with Textile Exchange.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The certification body may process a single exemption request from a certified group on behalf of several farms for the purchase of mulesed rams. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The farms need to be members of that group and b. The request needs to include a list of the farms, each showing the number of rams needed for the period of one year. 2. Wool from mulesed sheep included in an exemption request shall never be sold as RWS certified. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The farmer will implement handling and transportation systems to guarantee this wool is kept separate from non-mulesed wool. 3. The certification body shall keep a record of the quantity of mulesed stock approved to be purchased in each granted exemption, and <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The certification body will report these numbers to Textile Exchange using ASR-502 Quarterly NC Report Template, in the Exemption tab, using column H "Notes" to report the number of animals being purchased under that exemption. 4. In case of expanding the flock, the farmer must provide their plan in terms of numbers and timelines and why this cannot be met by retention of their own home-bred ewe lambs. 5. In case of changing the breed or strain of sheep, the farmer shall provide a plan detailing genetics change and reasoning. For example, the farm is moving to sheep that are better suited to non-mulesing and the farmer is therefore not retaining sheep that have a high wrinkle score, leading to a lack of breeding females. 	

Calibration 167	Mulesed Restocking		RWS-101a-V2.2/RAF-105a-V2.0 AW4.15		
	<p>6. In case of disease, the exemption request will be processed similarly as an extreme climate event if it has arisen from circumstances outside the farmer’s control (no evidence of mismanagement or neglect).</p> <p>7. The certification body may grant an exemption to a farmer for restocking mulesed sheep if ALL of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The farmer demonstrates they have attempted to source non-mulesed stock before requesting the exemption. b. The stock requested is specifically rams for breeding. c. An extreme climate event occurs (and is demonstrated to have affected the farm) or the farmer has a specific breeding goal (the exemption request mentions genetic traits/breed type that is being selected). d. The number of mulesed breeding males brought in each year is less than 0.5% of the total flock size. e. The farmer has implemented handling and transportation systems to guarantee that wool from these mulesed animals will be kept separate from non-mulesed wool and will not be sold or marketed as RWS certified. And f. The farmer shall demonstrate that they are not artificially creating a need for additional stock – i.e., by selling their own non-mulesed ewes and/or ewe lambs and then requesting an allowance to purchase mulesed animals. <p>UPDATED: 2022.03.03 Originally Issued: 2021.11.09</p>				
Date Issued:	3/3/2023	Conformity Date:	3/3/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 154	Maps vs GIS Data	RAF-101a-V2.1/RAF-101b-V1.1/RAF-101c-V1.0 F2.6.2			
Situation:	RAF farm group criteria require the ICS to maintain maps or sketches of each farm showing where animals are located. Textile Exchange is moving to require that GIS data be submitted by each farm. How does this affect the criterion relating to maps?				
Interpretation:	<p>An RAF farm group or communal farmer group ICS is not required to maintain maps or sketches of each farm showing where animals are located provided that the ICS maintains the following, which can be clearly linked per farm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A list of farms which can be linked back to the scope certificate; 2. A copy of the Farm Questions for each farm, as required by Textile Exchange's system; and 3. Polygon data (i.e. GIS shapefiles) for each farm showing the location and amount of farmland. <p>NOTE: Textile Exchange's system will not automatically give the ICS access to the GIS data for each member farm collected by Textile Exchange, but will provide a mechanism for the ICS to access the information in the future. Additional fees may apply for this access.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.02.28 Originally Issued: 2021.08.20</p>				
Date Issued:	2/28/2023	Conformity Date:	2/28/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 220	Mixed Fibers and Proportion of Fibers	CCS-101-V3.1 D4			
Situation:	<p>Pre- and post-consumer waste such as yarn or non-woven textiles are recycled into various textile materials. CCS D4.2 calls for a material composition test report of the output claimed material, but this requirement has proven to be unpractical due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The high cost and duration of testing, • The impossibility of finding the exact proportion of each fiber in the output material, and • The error factor introduced by the big amount of different input materials, along with their size and weight. <p>For example, 1000 garments will have 1000 varieties of blends or materials, and each garment's weight will be slightly different.</p>				

Calibration 220	Mixed Fibers and Proportion of Fibers			CCS-101-V3.1 D4	
Interpretation:	<p>When mixed fibers are used in raw materials, there is no need to do a material composition test to know the percentage of each fiber present. The raw material codes for mixed fibers (RM0258, RM0259, RM0260, RM0261) shall only be used by the material recycler. No other operator in the supply chain, after the recycler, is allowed to change the mixed fiber codes in the output transaction certificate or when they are used in the material composition on the input transaction certificate.</p> <p>A blend of virgin material shall not be defined as “mixed fibers” in any case. The mixed-fiber codes are only allowed to be used by recyclers for pre-consumer and post-consumer waste.</p> <p>When an input transaction certificate specifies that a product contains mixed fibers, this same designation shall be used in the output transaction certificate. Even when the detailed results of a material composition test are available, the transaction certificate shall list "mixed fibers" with the corresponding raw material code rather than separating out individual fibers.</p>				
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Calibration 224	Change of Accreditation Bodies			ASR-101-V2.1 D1.1.8.a	
Situation:	What needs to be considered for a certification body to change accreditation bodies?				
Interpretation:	<p>An accredited certification body may change accreditation body for either voluntary or involuntary reasons.</p> <p>An involuntary change in accreditation body occurs when the accreditation body is no longer able and willing to offer accreditation for the certification body's scope (e.g. is no longer a Textile Exchange accreditation body, or is no longer accepting certification bodies in a specific country). A change for any other reason is a voluntary change in accreditation body.</p> <p>The following steps shall apply for a change in accreditation body:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The certification body shall notify Textile Exchange of their intention to change accreditation body and submit an updated copy of ASR-206 Certification Body Application Form naming the new accreditation body. 2. If the succeeding accreditation body is not an authorized Textile Exchange accreditation body, the certification body shall pay the new accreditation body fee (see ASR-107 Certification Fee Structure) and the accreditation body shall complete the authorization process before the change is approved. 				

Calibration 224	Change of Accreditation Bodies		ASR-101-V2.1 D1.1.8.a		
	<p>3. In the case of a voluntary change in accreditation body, the certification body shall meet the following criteria :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Any assessment which has been started by the preceding accreditation body has been completed and the accreditation decision has been made. b. The certification body shall have a positive accreditation decision from the last assessment with the preceding accreditation body (i.e. there is no suspension or withdrawal of part or all of the scope of accreditation). c. The certification body shall be up to date with all required submissions to Textile Exchange, including site fees and data submissions, and shall not be under sanction from Textile Exchange. <p>4. Once the above criteria have been satisfied, Textile Exchange will approve the change in accreditation body.</p> <p>5. The succeeding accreditation body shall consider all assessment reports from the preceding accreditation body for at least the previous two years in conducting their initial assessment.</p>				
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Calibration 148	Ineligible Reclaimed Inputs		GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1		
Situation:	<p>Textile Exchange has become aware of several situations where certification bodies have issued scope certificates to material recyclers for material which has been accepted by the certification body as pre-consumer, but which does not match Textile Exchange's definition of pre-consumer material. Textile Exchange acknowledges that this may have related to a lack of clarity in past guidance.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>Any scope certificates with ineligible inputs (i.e. which do not qualify as reclaimed) shall have the scope reduced to exclude ineligible inputs or shall be withdrawn immediately. No recertification (with the same certification body or a new certification body) is possible in these cases.</p> <p>If the certification body is not sure if a reclaimed input is eligible or has not certified that reclaimed input before, they should reach out to Textile Exchange for clarification prior to including it in the scope of GRS or RCS certification. If Textile Exchange or the AB finds errors in this area where the certification body did not</p>				

Calibration 148	Ineligible Reclaimed Inputs		GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1		
	<p>request guidance from Textile Exchange, the scope certificate shall have the scope reduced to exclude ineligible inputs or shall be withdrawn immediately.</p> <p>NOTE: A previous exception was included in this calibration for scope certificates issued on or before April 15, 2021. All such scope certificates have now expired so that exception has been removed.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.01.31 Originally Issued: 2021.04.15</p>				
Date Issued:	1/31/2023	Conformity Date:	1/31/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 222	Water deprivation for ewes in late pregnancy or lactating period.		RWS-101a-V2.2 AW1.7.3		
Situation:	<p>The requirement in the RWS, for ewes in late pregnancy or lactating period, to not be deprived of water for more than 8 hours, doesn't conform to industry best practice recommendations for preparation time for shearing. These guidelines propose a longer withdrawal from water to allow animals to empty out to protect their health and comfort when they are sheared. These industry guidelines are also taking account of worker health and safety, as empty sheep are lighter and so cause less strain on the shearer. Australian and New Zealand guidelines suggest a minimum of 8 hours and maximum of 20 hours off water for ewes that are in late pregnancy or lactating.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>Ewes in late pregnancy or lactating period shall not be deprived of water for more than 20 hours.</p> <p>This requirement supersedes the criterion AW1.7.3 in the standard since this directly contradicts it and is based on further information which is now available to Textile Exchange.</p>				
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Calibration 178	Criteria for the product category PC0029 Dyed Yarn for reclaimed dyed inputs		ASR-213-V1.1 Table 3.3		
Situation:	<p>Under GRS/RCS, certain products are made from dyed reclaimed inputs (pre-consumer or post-consumer), and additional dyeing is not done on such products. Can we call such yarn 'undyed' or 'greige' yarn instead of 'dyed yarn'?</p>				

Calibration 178	Criteria for the product category PC0029 Dyed Yarn for reclaimed dyed inputs			ASR-213-V1.1 Table 3.3	
Interpretation:	<p>When product inputs used by a certified site have been previously dyed but only identified as dyed products as a result of a previous recycling process, they shall be identified with the 'Dyed yarn' (PC0029) category to avoid confusion with 'Undyed Yarn' (PC0031), which shall not be used on any dyed material.</p> <p>A supplier may request the certification body to include a statement such as "Product's color was maintained from its life cycle previous to entering the certified supply chain." or "Product is made from inputs which were previously dyed and the resulting product color is not a result of an additional dyeing process.". This information can be included in box 12 of the Transaction Certificate template (ASR-205-V3.0).</p> <p>NOTE: Post-consumer or pre-consumer reclaimed products could have already been dyed in a previous life cycle and recycled (a process based on color sorting). In such a process, dyeing might not be performed by a certified site, but washing or finishing could be done on reclaimed product, yarn, or fabric. In such a case, the output will also be 'Dyed yarn' (PC0029) since the input is dyed reclaimed product (pre-consumer / post-consumer). When reclaimed products that have been previously dyed are certified, the 'Dyed yarn' (PC0029) category shall be used to avoid confusion with 'Undyed Yarn' (PC0031), which shall not be used on any dyed material.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.01.31 Originally Issued: 2022.06.08</p>				
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Calibration 216	GRS Modules for Sites without Physical Possession			GRS-101-V4.0 A3.2c	
Situation:	Do the GRS social, environmental, and chemical criteria apply to sites without physical possession of GRS materials?				
Interpretation:	<p>The GRS social, environmental, and chemical criteria do not apply to sites without physical possession of GRS materials such as traders and buying houses. These criteria still apply to facilities with physical possession of claimed materials, including subcontractors.</p> <p>Chain of custody criteria from the CCS do apply to these sites when they are certified.</p>				
Date Issued:	1/31/2023	Conformity Date:	1/31/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 15	Pre-Consumer Glass (Moil)	GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1, definition of pre-consumer			
Situation:	May glass moil be considered to be reclaimed material?				
Interpretation :	<p>Moil (unwanted top that occurs with every glass-blown object) shall not be considered recycled under GRS. Waste from breakage and rejection may be considered pre-consumer recycled if it undergoes an additional reprocessing stage and is within industry norms for the percentage of breakage and rejection.</p> <p><i>For cases where the reclaimed status of a material is in question, refer to Calibration 148.</i></p> <p>UPDATED: 2023.01.19 Originally Issued: 2019.03.01</p>				
Date Issued:	1/19/2023	Conformity Date:	1/19/2023	Status:	Issued

Calibration 215	Approval for VR2 Certifications	CCS-105-V3.0 B1.2-3			
Situation:	It is unclear when approval from Textile Exchange is required to use VR2 material.				
Interpretation:	Approval from Textile Exchange is required before the certification body schedules an audit for any site which is implementing alternative volume reconciliation directly to produce VR2 materials. No special approval is needed for sites that purchase and sell VR2 materials based on the criteria of the CCS.				
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Calibration 129	Reclaimed Inputs for Buttons	GRS-301-V4.0/RCS-301-V2.0 A1			
Situation:	A button maker punches buttons out of a sheet of resin. The remaining material from the sheet is reground to be used as an input for buttons. May this material be considered reclaimed/recycled? Is the answer different if the regrinding process occurs at a different site?				
Interpretation:	<p>The remaining material after buttons are punched out of a sheet of resin (or similar material) shall not be considered to be reclaimed or recycled if it is used as a raw material input for button making. This includes situations where the regrinding is outsourced or is done at a different site.</p> <p>The previous version of this guidance allowed any affected scope certificates active at that time to remain valid until expiry.</p>				

Calibration 129	Reclaimed Inputs for Buttons			GRS-301-V4.0/RCS-301-V2.0 A1	
	UPDATED: 2022.12.12 Originally Issued: 2020.12.14				
Date Issued:	12/12/2022	Conformity Date:	2/1/2020	Status:	Issued

Calibration 80	Accepting Organic Inputs for OCS			OCS-101-V3.0 C1.1	
Situation:	Are all national organic standards accepted for OCS inputs? May organic inputs which have been processed after the farm be accepted for OCS?				
Interpretation:	<p>The OCS allows first processors to accept organically grown material inputs from farms which are certified under one of the three categories listed (USDA NOP, Regulation (EC) 834/2007 & EU 2018/848, or IFOAM Family of Standards). A national organic standard which is not included in this list shall not be used to provide organically grown material inputs for OCS.</p> <p>Sites further along the supply chain (i.e. not the first processor) may only accept inputs which are OCS certified or certified to a standard listed as equivalent for OCS in ASR-106 Accepted Equivalent Standards.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2022.12.12 Originally Issued: 2020.07.10</p>				
Date Issued:	12/12/2022	Conformity Date:	12/12/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 192	Classification of a rented facility in the scope certificate?			CCS-101-V3.1 C5.2	
Situation:	A certified organization rents a facility for the washing process and pays all costs involved such as labor, utilities and materials. Is this facility a site or a subcontractor?				
Interpretation:	<p>When the certificate holder rents a facility to conduct a process and pays for labor, overhead, and materials used, the facility will be considered a part of the organization and shall be listed in the Site Appendix on the scope certificate as a site, not a subcontractor.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2022.12.12 Originally Issued: 2022.09.22</p>				
Date Issued:	12/12/2022	Conformity Date:	12/12/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 197	Certified Sites as Associated Subcontractors	CCS-101-V3.1 C5.2			
Situation:	May the scope certificate holder use a subcontractor who is independently certified to the same standard as an associated subcontractor?				
Interpretation:	A subcontractor facility that is independently certified to the same Textile Exchange standard shall not be listed as an associated subcontractor since they hold an independent scope certificate.				
Date Issued:	12/1/2022	Conformity Date:	12/1/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 190	Blending RDS/RAF material with recycled material of the same type	RDS-101-V3.0/RAF-101a-V2.2/RAF-101b-V1.2/RAF-101c-V1.0 B2.1.1.b			
Situation:	RDS and RAF fibers may be blended with recycled RDS or recycled RAF fibers for a labeled claimed product.				
Interpretation:	An RWS product that contains recycled wool may only qualify for labeling to the RWS if the product contains at least 5% RWS wool and 100% of the wool in the product is certified to either RWS or mixed with RCS or GRS certified wool. The same guidance may be applied for other RAF standards (e.g., blend of RMS and recycled mohair) and for RDS (blend of RDS and recycled down).				
Date Issued:	9/23/2022	Conformity Date:	9/23/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 168	Ineligible Reclaimed inputs - Silk Spinning Waste	GRS-201-V4.2/RCS-201-V2.2			
Situation:	Are "silk wastes" eligible for GRS/RCS certification as "pre-consumer material"?				
Interpretation:	<p>Waste produced from a silk filament spinning process is regularly reused in the silk spun spinning process. Therefore, such waste does not qualify as reclaimed nor pre-consumer material, and the process does not qualify as recycling.</p> <p>Therefore, only yarn hard waste as silk filament or silk spun yarns shall be considered as pre-consumer and only if the next processing step is recycling (e.g. mechanical shredding). Follow the calibration log 148.</p>				

Calibration 168	Ineligible Reclaimed inputs - Silk Spinning Waste			GRS-201-V4.2/RCS-201-V2.2	
	<p>If a certification body has previously issued a scope certificate for ineligible silk waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the scope certificate may be maintained by the certification body until its expiry, and b. the certification body shall notify the client that their scope certificate cannot be renewed for this product. <p>No recertification is possible with material inputs which do not qualify as reclaimed, and any scope certificates with ineligible inputs issued after April 15, 2021 shall have the scope reduced to exclude ineligible inputs or shall be withdrawn immediately.</p> <p>If the certification body is not sure if a reclaimed input is eligible or has not certified that reclaimed input before, they shall reach out to Textile Exchange for clarification prior to including it in the scope of GRS or RCS certification. If Textile Exchange or the AB finds errors in this area where the certification body did not request guidance from Textile Exchange, the scope certificate shall have the scope reduced to exclude ineligible inputs or shall be withdrawn immediately.</p>				
Date Issued:	6/9/2022	Conformity Date:	6/9/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 182	Certified organization becomes ineligible			CCS-101-V3.1 B4	
Situation:	<p>A company becomes either banned by Textile Exchange or the United States government sanctions a company, product, or input which results in the company becoming ineligible for certification.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>In the event that a previously certified component, product, shipment, or site is identified as restricted, and therefore ineligible for certification, the certification body:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Shall immediately notify Textile Exchange and withdraw the related scope certificate(s) of such ineligible entity(ies); b. Shall cease all related certification activities within the prescribed timeline provided by Textile Exchange; c. Shall notify the certification body of any buyer of the identified ineligibility and any resulting withdrawal if any related transaction certificate(s) has been issued during the validity period of the scope certificate; d. Shall not issue transaction certificates for products at the first processor that have become ineligible for certification immediately upon becoming ineligible. For products already certified prior to becoming ineligible, the certification 				

Calibration 182	Certified organization becomes ineligible			CCS-101-V3.1 B4	
	<p>body may consider them to be certified unless specifically identified by Textile Exchange to be considered ineligible immediately; And</p> <p>e. Shall not issue transaction certificates for ineligible products after six months of becoming ineligible.</p> <p>NOTE: This applies only to outputs of any process that is not the first processor (see item D).</p>				
Date Issued:	6/8/2022	Conformity Date:	6/8/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 187	Mulesing using the ring method			RWS-101a-V2.2 AW3.11	
Situation:	<p>Wool producers in Victoria, Australia, are using rubber rings (the kind used for castration) to remove excess skin from the breech area of sheep and give the same effect as standard mulesing. The skin will be pulled tight and the ring applied to stop the flow of blood and the skin dies and drops off. It will give chronic rather than acute pain to the sheep.</p> <p>This technique falls into the definition of mulesing in the RWS, so it is prohibited.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>AW3.11.1 Freeze mulesing (steining) and any other form of breech modification is prohibited.</p>				
Date Issued:	6/8/2022	Conformity Date:	6/8/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 180	Assessment of Textile Exchange logo use by CBs			ASR-101-V2.1 C4.6	
Situation:	<p>It is not clear in the ACP what ABs shall check in their assessment of CBs regarding CB use of the Textile Exchange logo and CB adherence to the Claims Policy.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>A certification body becomes authorized to use of the Textile Exchange standard logo(s) when the certification body licensing contract for the applicable standard has been signed with Textile Exchange (see TE-301-V1.2 Standards Claims Policy, section C2.5). The certification body may use a placeholder for the Textile Exchange standard logo (e.g. "logo goes here") to demonstrate conformity of logo use for assessment by their accreditation body prior to the certification body licensing contract being signed.</p>				

Calibration 180	Assessment of Textile Exchange logo use by CBs		ASR-101-V2.1 C4.6		
	The accreditation body shall evaluate certification body conformance with C2.3, C2.4, and C2.5 of TE-301-V1.2 Standards Claims Policy during their assessments of the certification body.				
Date Issued:	6/8/2022	Conformity Date:	6/8/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 177	Minimum months of records for Initial audit		CCS-201-V3.0 & V2.0 C4 of CCS V3.0 & B1.2 of CCS V20		
Situation:	How many months of records (such as production, attendance, payroll, etc.) should the facility have before a GRS audit can be conducted if a facility was just established?				
Interpretation:	If a brand new facility is being certified, at least three months of operation records are needed to ensure a proper CCS and/or GRS audit.				
Date Issued:	4/28/2022	Conformity Date:	4/28/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 23	Transition Between Standard Versions		ASR-101-V2.1 D4.4.2		
Situation:	Transition from old standard version to new version.				
Interpretation:	<p>Certified organizations shall be in conformity with updated standards or requirements as of the mandatory implementation date (typically one year after publication in the case of a standard). The certification body shall check conformity to the updated standard or requirements as of the next regularly scheduled audit.</p> <p>Update (1): Certification bodies shall inform their clients of the mandatory implementation date for applicable new standards or requirements.</p> <p>Update (2): Organizations audited on or after the mandatory implementation date shall operate in conformance with and be subject to the criteria of both documents which will include any unannounced audits.</p> <p>UPDATED (2): 2022.03.14 UPDATED (1): 2020.06.30 Originally Issued: 2018.08.01</p>				
Date Issued:	3/14/2022	Conformity Date:	3/14/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 149	Restricted Chemicals in Fiber Production	GRS-101-V4.0 D2.2			
Situation:	Textile Exchange has identified that a number of chip, fiber, and filament producers have been certified to the GRS while using restricted chemicals. Textile Exchange has further identified that in many cases there might be no alternative chemical available, and that the requirements of GRS Section D might be so strict as to effectively exclude particular fibers from the GRS system unintentionally.				
Interpretation:	<p>If the site uses any of the listed restricted chemicals in a chip, fiber, or filament production process, the scope certificate shall be withdrawn or downgraded to RCS immediately. This includes but is not limited to the following chemicals and fibers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMAC (Dimethylacetamide/ Dimethylacetamide) in elastane/spandex; and • Antimony trioxide and Cobalt (II) Acetate Tetrahydrate in polyester. <p>The details of how these chemicals may be used in certified products in the future will be considered in the unified standard development process.</p> <p>NOTE: A previous exception was included in this calibration for scope certificates issued on or before April 15, 2021. All such scope certificates have now expired so that exception has been removed.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2022.01.31 Originally Issued: 2021.04.15</p>				
Date Issued:	1/31/2022	Conformity Date:	1/31/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 161	Collectors and Concentrators Outside of CB's Geographic Scope	GRS-201-V4.2/RCS-201-V2.2 A4 Guidance			
Situation:	If a certification body has a limited geographic scope of operations, may the certification body's material recycler clients source from collectors or concentrators which are located outside of the geographic scope?				
Interpretation:	<p>All collectors and concentrators shall be located within the geographic scope of the material recycler's certification body unless one of the following options applies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The collector or concentrator is independently certified to the RCS or GRS; or 2. The certification body outsources all required evaluation of the collector or concentrator to a certification body who is accredited for the RCS and/or GRS with a geographic scope which includes the collector or concentrator's location. 				
Date Issued:	1/31/2022	Conformity Date:	1/31/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 173	RAF GIS Farm Questions: Elimination of Excel submission option.		RAF-102-V2.1 D1.2.1.b		
Situation:	<p>RAF-102-v2.01, D1.2.1b requires data submission of Farm Questions using an online survey form or an Excel file. This requirement is mandatory as of January 1st, 2022. Textile Exchange made both options available as it was unknown whether the ArcGIS system would be ready by then.</p> <p>As the system was made ready by January 1st, 2022, the Excel file option will no longer be an alternative because it cannot be linked to the automated features of dTrackit, thus requiring manual processing and delays. The system will no longer accommodate manual submission of this information via Excel after March 31st, 2022, so the focus will be on implementing only automated data collection methods.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>The certification body shall report a set of Farm Questions for each certified farm (including each member in the case of Farm Group Certification and Communal Farmer Group Certification). The certification body shall ensure all questions are complete and accurate prior to submission.</p> <p>The options available for submission and with mandatory implementation date no later than April 1st, 2022 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The online survey form, using the custom link provided to the certification body. 2. A mobile app with a convenient offline feature which allows entering data and submitting it later if there are internet connectivity issues. 				
Date Issued:	1/26/2022	Conformity Date:	1/26/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 170	Removal of sheep from natural pasture		RWS-101a-V2.2 AW5.7, AW2.14, AW2.11, AW3.2, LM1.1		
Situation:	<p>Australian dry weather conditions affect the pasture ground cover in farms, forcing the farmer to practice continuous confinement feeding as a regular farming practice.</p> <p>Each year, sheep are held off pasture in a confinement yard for a period of time, usually summer or autumn seasons. The animals cannot demonstrate natural behaviors and have welfare conditions (5 freedoms), and the farmer feeds them with supplementary hay, anipro, and barley.</p>				

Calibration 170	Removal of sheep from natural pasture		RWS-101a-V2.2 AW5.7, AW2.14, AW2.11, AW3.2, LM1.1		
	<p>Challenges can arise when the farm uses confinement yards as a management tool rather than as a contingency plan, as the RWS standard specifies.</p> <p>The auditors are signaling confinement feeding as a major non-conformity, but the farmers find it very difficult to stop this practice under the current weather conditions in Australia.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>The RWS-101a -v2.2 Responsible Wool Standard recognizes in Section C Animal Welfare the need to provide the flock with access to natural graze as an integral part of their living environment (AW2.11) and establishes the requirement to have a pasture-based system for sheep. The only exception is when an emergency or severe weather conditions such as droughts, floods, fires, heavy snowfall, etc., would otherwise negatively impact sheep welfare and affect the amount of pasture available for sheep or keeping a healthy soil base for it.</p> <p>The CB shall use the following criteria to assess if the farmer complies with the RWS principles when removing sheep from natural pasture. The farmer needs to meet ALL clauses to be considered compliant with AW2.11:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The farmer has a written document that explains the type of emergency or severe weather affecting the farm and forcing the removal of sheep from natural pasture, including a detailed management plan that guarantees sheep welfare, as per AW5.7. This clause also covers situations like weather conditions resulting from the change of seasons, which can affect soil and animal health. Thus, it requires the written plan to have actions on land management (LM1.1) and animal health (AW3.2). 2. The farm establishes a correct and effective stocking rate and follows it, as per AW2.14. The proper management of this rate can provide, for the most part, enough in-farm produced hay/forage to feed the flock during periods when removed from natural pasture. 3. The farm keeps records of the duration and justification of each emergency or severe weather occurrence that led to removing sheep from natural pasture. Justification may involve information such as weather data, soil moisture deficits, pasture vegetation cover measurement, predator monitoring etc. 				
Date Issued:	1/11/2022	Conformity Date:	1/11/2022	Status:	Issued

Calibration 164	Collectors and Concentrators - Additional verification & physical inspection	GRS-201-V4.2/RCS-201-V2.2 A4 Guidance			
Situation:	<p>The GRS Implementation Manual V4.2 A4 states that “Certification bodies shall keep a list of all collectors and concentrators that supply to recycling clients. 10% of this total shall be chosen for additional verification, with 2% chosen for physical inspection.”</p> <p>It is not clear that if the percentages selected for additional verification should be determined per certification body, per certified organization, or on another basis.</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>The sampling of collectors and concentrators (10% additional verification and 2% physical inspection) shall be determined per certification body and is always rounded up. The 2% sample for physical inspection may be counted towards the 10% sample for additional verification.</p> <p>Example: A certification body has certified 50 GRS material recyclers (mechanical, chemical, and/or biological) in total. Each recycler has one collector and one concentrator. As a result, the certification body will have 50x1 + 50x1 = 100 collectors/concentrators. The certification body therefore needs to select 10% of 100 = 10 collectors/concentrators for additional verification and 2% of 100 = 2 collectors/concentrators for physical inspection.</p>				
Date Issued:	9/22/2021	Conformity Date:	9/22/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 162	Sale of Mixed Down and Feather from a Slaughter Site	ASR-213-V1.1 Table 3.1			
Situation:	<p>Some RDS slaughter sites sell mixed down and feather to sites which are not included in the same scope certificate. The slaughter sites are not able to determine the exact percentage of down and of feather from the total quantity, since these two raw materials are separated at the down processing stage. How should this material be reflected on scope and transaction certificates?</p>				
Interpretation:	<p>The raw material codes RM0330 and RM0331 (PFC) may be used for mixed down and feather on transaction certificates only if the seller named on the transaction certificate is a slaughter site. These codes may also be used on the corresponding scope certificates. These codes shall not be used on scope or transaction certificates where the percentage of down and of feather in the product can be identified.</p>				
Date Issued:	9/16/2021	Conformity Date:	9/16/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 159	Physical Possession	CCS-101-V3.0 B1			
Situation:	In the CCS we say that traders without physical possession of product do not have to be certified. We occasionally get questions about what ‘physical possession’ means. Can you draft a calibration for that and let us know what it is so we can add that as a future update to the User Manual as well?				
Interpretation:	<p>Physical possession of goods is the physical custody or control of goods in material form. It is different from ownership of goods, where an entity acquires the proprietary rights over the goods.</p> <p>For example, when a processor sends materials to a subcontractor, they merely transfer the physical possession and not the ownership of materials. Here, the processor is the owner of the materials but does not have physical possession of materials, and the subcontractor has physical possession of materials but is not the owner.</p> <p>Different actors in the supply chain such as processors, wholesalers, distributors, and retailers usually take physical possession of materials and products. Others, such as traders, do not take physical possession due to their intermediary function. Brands sometimes take physical possession depending on the setup of their commercial operations. Textile Exchange standards intend to cover the different arrangements among supply chain participants while guaranteeing the integrity of the verified materials and products.</p>				
Date Issued:	9/3/2021	Conformity Date:	9/3/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 155	CNCA Registration and Freelancers	ASR-101-V2.1 D1.1.3 & D3.2.6.f			
Situation:	May a certification body contract with auditors who work for an entity registered with CNCA but which is not accredited to ISO 17065 as a way to meet the Chinese legal requirement for CNCA registration?				
Interpretation:	Any independently owned entity which holds registration with CNCA for the purpose of a certification body operating legally in China is considered to be a subcontractor of the certification body and is therefore required to hold ISO 17065 accreditation. Freelancers in China may be hired by a certification body or certification body subcontractor which holds CNCA registration.				
Date Issued:	7/26/2021	Conformity Date:	7/26/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 151	Organizations Between Farm and First Processor for RAF	RAF-101a-V2.1/RAF-101b-V1.1/RAF-101c-V1.0 B1.3			
Situation:	In some countries, "brokers" take possession of animal fiber in between the farm and the first processor, often to facilitate a sale at auction. It is unclear if these brokers require certification.				
Interpretation:	<p>Organizations which take legal ownership of animal fiber in between the farm and the first processor are required to be certified to the standard, except where the applicable version of the CCS allows for an exception to certification. If an organization takes physical possession of the animal fiber (i.e. for storage) but not legal ownership, the organization shall be treated as a subcontractor by whoever owns the animal fiber while it is being stored (typically the farm or ICS).</p> <p>If the organization arranges for the sale of wool (e.g. at auction) and charges a service fee to the farm, they are not considered to take legal ownership even if they receive payment for the animal fiber and remit it to the farm. In this case, the organization would be considered to be a broker. If the organization purchases the animal fiber from the farm for a set price, they are considered to take legal ownership.</p>				
Date Issued:	6/4/2021	Conformity Date:	6/4/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 145	CB Translations of Documents	ASR-101-V2.1 D1.8.1			
Situation:	May certification bodies prepare translations of Textile Exchange standards or other Textile Exchange documents to share with their non-English speaking clients?				
Interpretation:	<p>Certification bodies may publish their own translations of Textile Exchange Standards and other documents, provided the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textile Exchange has not published an official translation of the document in the target language. Any certification body translations shall be discontinued if Textile Exchange publishes an official translation. 2. A copy of the translated document shall be provided to Textile Exchange by email to Assurance@TextileExchange.org. 3. For documents in Chinese or Spanish, the certification body shall wait for approval from Textile Exchange before publishing the document. 4. Documents shall not copy any photos used in the original Textile Exchange document. Explanatory graphics may be copied. 				

Calibration 145	CB Translations of Documents		ASR-101-V2.1 D1.8.1		
	<p>5. Documents shall include the text “Unofficial translation prepared by <CB NAME(S)>”. This text shall appear in English on the first page and in the target language on every page.</p> <p>6. Certification bodies working in the same region or language are encouraged to collaborate on translations to improve consistency.</p> <p>7. Where Textile Exchange provides a glossary of translated terms in the target language, the provided terms shall be used.</p>				
Date Issued:	3/22/2021	Conformity Date:	3/22/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 134	USDA NOP Eligibility		OCS-205-V2.1 Box 15		
Situation:	How should the certification body of a supply chain organization (not a first processor) determine the answer to the question "Certification of the organic material used for the products listed complies with USDA NOP rules"?				
Interpretation:	<p>For supply chain companies after the first processor, OCS Material is considered to comply with USDA NOP rules if all of the incoming OCS Material complies with USDA NOP rules, as indicated on the incoming transaction certificate. If any of the incoming OCS Material cannot be confirmed to comply with USDA NOP rules (i.e. 'No' is checked for this box on the incoming TC), 'No' shall be selected.</p> <p>Checking 'Yes' on this box indicates that all listed products comply with USDA NOP rules. Products from the same shipment may be divided into separate TCs if necessary to allow for this.</p>				
Date Issued:	1/18/2021	Conformity Date:	1/18/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 131	Non-NPOP Seed Cotton in India			OCS-101-V3.0 C1.1	
Situation:	Can non-NPOP seed cotton from India be accepted in the OCS supply chain at the ginning stage, if it is certified to another standard that is approved under IFOAM Family of Standards?				
Interpretation:	Since organic fibers are covered under NPOP and to meet national regulations, any organic fibers originating from India must be certified to NPOP as a basic requirement, to be accepted as OCS Material. Other certifications such as NOP may also be in place for the fibers.				
Date Issued:	1/18/2021	Conformity Date:	1/18/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 136	Definition of "Lot"			RAF-101a-V2.1/RAF-101b-V1.1 G1.7.3	
Situation:	What is referred to by the word "lot" for the purposes of G1.7.3 in the RAF standards? Is it acceptable for a farm group to outsource the storage of bales of wool which may be combined into lots for sale?				
Interpretation:	The word "lot" in G1.7.3 of the RAF standards refers to any discrete, identifiable unit of fiber which cannot be accidentally mixed with other lots.				
Date Issued:	1/15/2021	Conformity Date:	1/15/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 112	Sufficient Personnel			ASR-101-V2.1 D3.1.1	
Situation:	What is a sufficient number of personnel based on the number of scope certificates?				
Interpretation:	<p>The number of personnel needed for a certification body with a set number of scope certificates will vary depending on the circumstances. In determining the number of personnel needed, the certification body should consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The time required to conduct each audit (including audit time, travel, planning, and reporting), as well as the review/certification decision; 2. The time required for administrative functions (e.g. issuing SCs, TCs, and claims approvals; closing NCs) per scope certificate; 3. The percentage of each person's time which is dedicated to Textile Exchange standards; 4. Time spent on training and general administrative tasks; and 5. Full-time working hours after regular time off. <p>The number of personnel should not be less than 1 full-time equivalent person per 100 scope certificates, and this will typically not be sufficient.</p>				
Date Issued:	1/14/2021	Conformity Date:	1/14/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 74	Scope of Processes for GRS Chemical Requirements			GRS-101-V4.0 D2	
Situation:	Are processes that do not "add" to the product (e.g. spin finishes for yarn) included in the scope of evaluation for chemicals according to the GRS?				
Interpretation:	<p>Spin finishers (and processing aids) are still considered to be part of the scope of the GRS. The GRS does not make a distinction between products that are “added to the product,” but uses the phrase: “GRS criteria for the use of chemicals that may be used in the production of GRS products are based on the following main requirements...” GRS chemical rules are applicable to all certified materials, as well as any non-certified materials once they are blended into a certified product and to any other inputs used during production.</p>				
Date Issued:	1/14/2021	Conformity Date:	1/14/2021	Status:	Issued

Calibration 128	RAF ICS in a Different Country			RAF-101a-V2.0/RAF-101b-V1.0 F1.3	
Situation:	May an RAF farm group ICS be located in a different country than the farms, provided that necessary management oversight is maintained?				
Interpretation:	The ICS location for a farm group shall be in the same country as the farms. If the certified organization's main operation is in another country, it may be included as a subsequent site in the scope certificate and may be involved with the work of the ICS.				
Date Issued:	12/15/2020	Conformity Date:	12/15/2020	Status:	Issued

Calibration 116	Reclaimed Fur			GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A3.1b	
Situation:	May reclaimed fur be accepted as an input for GRS or RCS?				
Interpretation:	Post-consumer reclaimed fur may be accepted as an input for GRS or RCS. Pre-consumer reclaimed fur is outside the scope of the standards.				
Date Issued:	11/9/2020	Conformity Date:	11/9/2020	Status:	Issued

Calibration 103	Withdrawing SCs that were issued only as Electronic certificates			ASR-101-V2.1 D1.1.14a	
Situation:	A certification body uses only electronic certificates, which causes the certification body to lack provisions to comply with requirement D1.1.14a to have clients return all copies of certificates (as no physical certificates are issued).				
Interpretation:	In the case of suspension or withdrawal of a scope certificate, the organization's obligations under D1.1.14a are considered to be met if the original scope certificate (if issued as a physical document) is returned to the certification body and all electronic or printed copies of the scope certificate are destroyed.				
Date Issued:	10/29/2020	Conformity Date:	10/29/2020	Status:	Issued

Calibration 110	Timing of Recertification Audits and SC Issuance	ASR-101-V2.1 D4.7.3			
Situation:	Recertification audits are sometimes conducted 2-3 months prior to the expiry of the existing scope certificate, meaning the deadline for the certification decision (60 days after the audit) may fall before the expiry of the previous scope certificate. How should scope certificate issuance and validity dates be handled in this case?				
Interpretation:	Textile Exchange's intention is that the anniversary date remain consistent for each scope certificate. In the case that the recertification audit is conducted more than 60 days prior to the expiry of a scope certificate, the certification decision shall still be made within 60 days, but the certification body may wait until the expiry of the previous scope certificate to issue the new scope certificate.				
Date Issued:	10/29/2020	Conformity Date:	10/29/2020	Status:	Issued

Calibration 65	Recycled Down and Feathers	GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1			
Situation:	A down recycler purchases reclaimed down which has been through a light "pre-wash" process. The recycler's washing process is considered to be the recycling process. Does the supplier require RCS/GRS certification?				
Interpretation:	If the reclaimed down supplier is purchasing down from a collector, the supplier needs to be RCS/GRS certified. If the supplier is acting as a collector, the certification body may agree for the down recycler to accept a Reclaimed Material Declaration Form from the supplier.				
Date Issued:	8/27/2020	Conformity Date:	8/27/2020	Status:	Issued

Calibration 89	Use of Expired Organic Food	OCS-101-V3.0 C1.1			
Situation:	May organic expired/non-saleable food products (e.g. collected from grocery stores) be accepted as inputs for OCS?				
Interpretation:	<p>Food waste which is used as a feedstock for a non-food/feed manufacturing process may be accepted as an OCS input if the following apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The product was intended for use as food/feed and is a waste product from the supply chain or the end user; 2. The organic status of the product shall verified through one of the following methods: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A supply chain transaction certificate from an accepted organic standard; or b. A packaged product which carries an organic label from an accepted organic standard, and where the scope certificate for the final processor (as identified on the packaging) is confirmed. <p>In this case, the processor accepting the food waste shall be considered to be the first processor. Accepted organic standards are identified in OCS 3.0 C1.1.</p>				
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Calibration 67	Freedom of association and collective bargaining	GRS-101-V4.0 B2.3			
Situation:	Is the client required to have some form of elected worker representation? E.g. union, collective bargaining agreement, or worker committee.				
Interpretation:	The intent of this requirement is to ensure that unions and other forms of worker organization are not blocked/actively avoided. There is no requirement that one be in place if the workers have not chosen to do so.				
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Calibration 73	Auditors conducting audits of the same organization in consecutive years			ASR-101-V2.1 D1.2.13c	
Situation:	If there are multiple auditors on an audit team, does the limit of three consecutive years apply to all auditors or only to the lead auditor?				
Interpretation:	The requirement for an auditor to not audit the same organization in more than three consecutive years applies to all auditors.				
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Calibration 94	Combined Audit Checklists			ASR-101-V2.1 D4.4.19	
Situation:	May a certification body produce a combined checklist or report intended to address both a Textile Exchange standard and another standard? What approval for this is needed?				
Interpretation:	A certification body may produce a combined checklist or report template intended to address both a Textile Exchange standard and another standard, provided that all required elements for the Textile Exchange standard are included. No special approval is needed, though the checklist or template shall be evaluated by the accreditation body during the next office assessment.				
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Calibration 70	Clarification on Shadow Audit Requirements			ASR-101-V2.1 D3.1.5e, f; D3.1.6b, c	
Situation:	May certification bodies perform one shadow audit to the more complex standard (e.g. GRS) and consider this to cover as a shadow audit for all other standards (e.g. CCS, RCS, OCS)?				
Interpretation:	Auditor qualification scopes are intended to mirror accreditation scopes. Any audit which includes the CCS (all except farms) may meet the shadow audit requirement for CCS auditor qualification. A GRS audit at a material recycler may meet the shadow audit requirement for RCS auditor qualification. GRS/RCS audits may not be used to complete OCS qualification, or vice versa.				
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Calibration 78	Certification of Ocean Waste		GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1		
Situation:	Some organizations wish to claim reclaimed ocean waste (waste collected from in or near oceans) specifically on GRS and RCS transaction certificates. Standard requirements do not validate that the plastic is in fact ocean plastic.				
Interpretation:	<p>Reclaimed ocean waste is defined as material which has been reclaimed from oceans and/or from shorelines (within 0.2 km of the water level at low tide or the water level at high tide, whichever is higher). Materials from municipal recycling systems may not be included as reclaimed ocean waste.</p> <p>No claims relating to reclaimed ocean waste may be included on transaction certificates unless the following conditions are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The collector, concentrator, and all handlers are either RCS or GRS certified. 2. In this case, the material recycler may accept an incoming RCS transaction certificate to produce a GRS product. 3. All material is confirmed to be reclaimed ocean waste during audits of the collector and concentrator. 4. "Reclaimed ocean waste" may be mentioned on Box 15 of the transaction certificate. It may not be mentioned on the scope certificate. 5. For sites after the material recycler, reclaimed ocean waste is indicated on the incoming transaction certificate. And 6. Public-facing claims relating to reclaimed ocean waste are not associated with the RCS or GRS standard names or logos. <p>NOTE: This issue has been identified for reconsideration by the International Working Group during the next RCS and GRS revision process.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2020.08.07 Originally Issued: 2020.07.02</p>				
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Calibration 88	Use of Expired Food as Recycled	GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1			
Situation:	May expired/non-saleable food products (e.g. collected from grocery stores) be accepted as recycled inputs?				
Interpretation:	Food waste which is used as feedstock for a (non-food) recycling process may be accepted as an input for GRS or RCS. If the food waste is collected in the supply chain (e.g. from grocery stores) it shall be considered to be pre-consumer.				
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Calibration 62	Oligomer Recycling	GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1			
Situation:	There is a lack of clarity regarding oligomer recycling. Previous guidance from Textile Exchange did not allow oligomers to be considered reclaimed/recycled.				
Interpretation:	Oligomers produced during processing may be accepted as a reclaimed input under GRS and RCS. If the oligomers are purchased by a recycler they may be considered to be pre-consumer.				
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Calibration 45	Re-Recycling of Post-Consumer Materials	GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1, definition of post-consumer			
Situation:	Can waste from post-consumer recycling activities still be considered post-consumer waste?				
Interpretation:	<p>Post-consumer recycled material which is put through an additional (pre-consumer) recycling process may continue to be considered post-consumer, provided that the percentage of post-consumer content can be accurately determined. If the percentage of material which is post-consumer prior to the final recycling process cannot be accurately determined, the material shall be considered to be pre-consumer.</p> <p>UPDATED: 2020.06.30 Originally Issue: 2017.03.01</p>				
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Calibration 64	Shadow Assessment Definition		ASR-101-V2.0 C4.6.3b, C4.6.4b, C4.6.8		
Situation:	Clarity needed regarding definition of a Shadow Assessment - do these mean strictly witness audits or also include review audits?				
Interpretation:	<p>References to accreditation body shadow assessments refer to witness audits as defined in the situation. Review audits are a valuable tool, but Textile Exchange also believes that it is important to observe how the certification body auditor conducts the audit.</p> <p>The minimum frequency for shadow assessments is one per two years per standard, and we know that in many circumstances accreditation bodies are conducting more shadows than this. After the minimum number of shadow assessments is met, review audits as described may be used.</p> <p>IOAS definitions used in this calibration:</p> <p>Witness Audits - accreditation body assessor observes certification body’s auditor(s) at work; assessor and auditor(s) have an introductory meeting prior to the audit, and an exit meeting for feedback and clarification of any questions after the audit, neither meeting involving the audited organization; assessor will not speak during the audit but may take notes. Witness audits should be full audits.</p> <p>Review Audits - accreditation body assessor visits the organization and verifies information from the certification body’s latest audit report and certification decision; it includes interviewing the operator or the person who was present for the last inspection, reviewing records, and a physical visit to the premises. Duration may vary according to operation size and complexity but is not expected to be a full repeat audit.</p> <p>The auditor that conducted the reviewed audit is not required to be present; certification body is strongly encouraged to have a certification body representative accompanying the assessor during the Review Audit to witness it but shall not interfere with the assessor’s work in any sense.)</p>				
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Calibration 10	Generating Pre-Consumer Waste		GRS-101-V4.0/RCS-101-V2.0 A1		
Situation:	Pre-consumer waste that is collected from a production stage and then used again in the same production stage may undergo processing steps that meet the definition of "recycled material ".				
Interpretation:	Production wastes may only be considered to be pre-consumer reclaimed material if they are reprocessed through a recycling process at a site with 'recycling' included as a process in its scope. UPDATE: 2020.06.30 Originally Issued: 2019.05.01				
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