Textile Exchange

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TEXTILE EXCHANGE
STANDARDS

COMMITMENT AND SOURCING CLAIMS POLICY

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NOTE: See the **Implementation** section for more information.

Superseded documents

The following document criteria are superseded as of the mandatory date:

1. *TE-301-V1.4 Standards Claims Policy*, Standards-related commitment and sourcing (progress) claims criteria.

Document version history

Date	Version	Note
September 24, 2026	V1.0	*First version; Standards-related commitment and sourcing (progress) claims criteria was removed from TE-301-V1.4 Standards Claims Policy.*

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About the document

TE-TXL-POL-303 Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy provides guidance and criteria for all entities making **commitment claims** about their planned efforts, goals, and targets and **sourcing claims** about their achieved material sourcing volumes.

Through the combination of high-level guiding principles and criteria that apply to specific standards systems or programs, this document supports alignment, clarity, and credibility across all commitment and sourcing claims.

This policy is **required for use when making claims related to Textile Exchange's standard systems or programs specified in this document. This policy is recommended for all other voluntary commitment and sourcing claims.**

About Textile Exchange

Textile Exchange is a global nonprofit with the mission to transform how we produce, choose, and reuse materials to benefit the people and places at the source.

Our vision is a world where materials have lasting value, leading to thriving communities and landscapes. To get there, we are keeping our focus holistic and interconnected, addressing not only greenhouse gas emissions but also the health of our freshwater, soil, and biodiversity, while respecting human rights and animal welfare.

For more than 20 years, our internationally recognized fiber and raw material production standards have built integrity and accountability across the industry. We are committed to continuously improving our standards system and ensuring its alignment with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems. This globally recognized framework defines practices for effective and credible sustainability systems, and the ISEAL Code underpins much of our work—from governance and strategy to engagement, assurance, and claims. This makes sure that our standards system provides value, rigor, accessibility, and transparency.

All of our standards are implemented and verified by independent third parties, which means that certified organizations are regularly assessed to ensure they consistently demonstrate and maintain the relevant requirements. This impartial certification process ensures fairness, consistency, and trust.

About Materials Matter

Materials Matter is a standards system owned by the global nonprofit Textile Exchange. It sets out to incentivize a world in which the materials in our clothing and textiles are produced in a way that respects climate, nature, people, and animals.

For over a decade, Textile Exchange's system of material-specific standards has guided the fashion, textile, and apparel industry toward more sustainable production. Materials Matter unifies and simplifies this approach, building on the strengths of what came before while offering a more streamlined pathway forward.

At the heart of this global certification system, the *Materials Matter Standard* (also referred to as the standard) represents a significant evolution of Textile Exchange's standards system. It sets detailed requirements for the production and primary processing of raw materials—from how land, water, and energy are used, to how working conditions, animal welfare, emissions, chemicals, and waste are managed. Its purpose is to provide a common language and shared direction for the industry, while recognizing the unique contexts of different material producers, processors, and the communities and landscapes they depend on.

By focusing on the earliest stages of the supply chain, the standard helps clarify both the risks and opportunities related to raw material production. Combining practice-based and outcome-based criteria, it recognizes the work of participating organizations that meet its requirements and ensures fairness and consistency between them. Certification also provides brands and retailers with an accessible and transparent framework for substantiating claims about their materials.

In the long term, the *Materials Matter Standard* is designed as a practical tool for producers and primary processors, helping them to better understand how their activities affect people and ecosystems, take action to manage and mitigate risks, and identify opportunities to deliver beneficial outcomes. Through partnering with programs that share our vision for climate, nature, people, and animals, we aim to accelerate measurable progress across the industry, while reducing duplication and easing the burden on suppliers.

Beyond certification, optional recommended practices and leadership criteria invite participating organizations to raise the bar further through actions such as outcome measurement, renewable energy use, and textile-to-textile recycling.

Implementation

The following implementation requirements apply:

1.	The *TE-TXL-POL-303-V1.0 Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy* is effective September 24, 2026 and may be used as of that date.
2.	The *TE-TXL-POL-303-V1.0 Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy* is mandatory December 31, 2026 and shall be used as of that date.
3.	The *TE-TXL-POL-303-V1.0 Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy* replaces *TE-301-V1.3 Standards Claims Policy* Section A, which shall not be used as of the mandatory date of *TE-301-V1.4 Standards Claims Policy.*
4.	All standards-related commitment and sourcing claims made after the mandatory date shall follow the requirements of this policy.

Document references

Textile Exchange provides additional policies, guidance documents, and templates to support the implementation of this document. All documents relevant to the standards system are available at the Textile Exchange Knowledge Center. The latest version (or code) of referenced documents, including any amendments (for example, calibrations), applies.

The following documents are integral to understanding and implementing this document. This list is for reference only and is a non-exhaustive list:

1.	*TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*
2.	*TE-301 Standards Claims Policy*
3.	*TE-302 Standards Logo Use Specifications*

Document definitions

Refer to the Textile Exchange Glossary for definitions of terms used in this document.

NOTE: *TE-101 Terms and Definitions for Textile Exchange Standards and Related Documents* will not be updated going forward and will become obsolete (i.e., retired) alongside the mandatory implementation date of the *Materials Matter Standard* (TE-MM-STN-101). The Textile Exchange Glossary takes precedence in case of any contradiction or omission.

Document feedback

Points of clarification may be incorporated into supplementary and guidance documents prior to the next revision of this document where applicable. More substantive feedback or suggested changes will be collected and assessed as part of the next review (and if applicable, revision) of this document.

Additional information, context, and/or example may be found in the "**Notes**" and "**Examples**" sections, where applicable. You may submit feedback to Textile Exchange's standards system at any time via this form or by sending an email to standards@textileexchange.org.

Compliance with applicable laws

The *Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy* establishes guidelines and requirements that underpin the guiding principles for commitment and sourcing claims. This policy does not constitute legal advice.

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy, usability, conformity, and timeliness of the information provided, Textile Exchange makes no express or implied warranty or representation that these conditions will be met and shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, or incidental damages arising from the use of the information contained in this policy.

Claims made under this policy are not intended to serve as a guarantee that the claim complies with applicable laws. Each claim maker bears the full responsibility for ensuring compliance with applicable laws and/or standards.

The use of trademarks must comply with the requirements of this document and all other related normative documents. Any noncompliance will be enforced in accordance with internal rules and/or procedures or as required by the law. Textile Exchange may amend or withdraw any part of this policy at its discretion. By referring to or making use of this policy, you acknowledge and accept the terms of the disclaimer.

How to understand the document

Applicability

The *Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy* contains principles that may be useful for all types of organizations making commitment and sourcing claims. The policy also contains some criteria that apply to specific standards systems or programs only, such as Textile Exchange's standards.

Terminology

For the areas in the document with numbered criteria, the following graphics/terms are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, and possibilities or capabilities:

SHALL	Criteria with a red tag and the word "shall" indicate a **requirement**.
SHOULD	Criteria with an orange tag and the word "should" indicate a **recommendation**.
MAY	Criteria with a yellow tag and the word "may" indicate a **permission**.

In the allowed language throughout *TE-TXL-POL-303 Commitment and Sourcing Claims Policy*:

- The words shown within brackets "[xyz]" provide a description of the required language rather than the exact language to be used in a claim.
- Brackets with a slash between two or more descriptions and blue-gray highlight "[abc/xyx]" indicate a choice between multiple options for the required language (see example 1).
- The words shown in parentheses "(xyz)" indicate optional language which may be used.
- Parentheses with a slash between two or more descriptions and blue-gray highlight "(abc/xyz)" indicate a choice between multiple options for the optional language (see example 2).
- The letters/words shown with brackets highlighted in gray indicate a data field that is replaced with the correct information/data as applicable (see example 3).
- If the term or statement in between either the brackets or parentheses is capitalized, it is implied that the term or statement used shall also be capitalized. And
- Where the certification body's name is required in claims, it may be replaced with an appropriate acronym.

Document scope

Scope of the document

The **principles** in this document are to be used as guidance for all commitment and sourcing claims. The principles are aligned closely with the SMART goal framework and are adapted to the context of this document and claim types.

The **criteria** in this document are required to be used for claims related to the specific Textile Exchange standards system or program, including **standards-related commitment and sourcing claims.**

The sections throughout this document that are titled "Standards-related criteria" outline the criteria that apply to all commitment and sourcing claims related to Textile Exchange's standards, which are listed below:

- *Materials Matter Standard*;
- *Responsible Down Standard* (RDS);
- *Organic Content Standard* (OCS);

- *Global Recycled Standard* (GRS);
- *Recycled Claim Standard* (RCS);
- *Responsible Wool Standard* (RWS);
- *Responsible Alpaca Standard* (RAS); and
- *Responsible Mohair Standard* (RMS).

Adhering to the criteria in the standards-related criteria sections is essential for all organizations, including **certified** and **noncertified organizations**, seeking to communicate about commitments and sourcing efforts related to materials certified to Textile Exchange's standards.

Claims about raw material production and primary processing of raw materials and/or claims about material sale efforts and achievements are out of scope of the standards-related criteria of this policy. However, it is still recommended that the organizations making these claims use the principles in this document as guidance.

Claims that do not mention a Textile Exchange standard directly (for example, reference a generic material attribute such as recycled or organic) are out of scope of this policy, but it is still recommended to use the principles of this document for claims guidance.

Claim types

The types of claims outlined in this document include:

1. **Commitment claim:** A claim made by an organization regarding its planned efforts, goals, or targets, throughout a defined period of time.
2. **Sourcing claim:** A claim made by an organization regarding its achieved material sourcing volumes over a defined period of time.

NOTE: When reporting on progress made toward commitments about material sourcing, this would be considered a sourcing claim.

Guiding claims principles

Textile Exchange applies ISEAL's Credibility Principles and follows good practices to support claims that are communicated transparently—with clarity, accuracy, and relevance—and are supported by reliable and transparent systems.

- **Clear**: The claim is easily understood and free from misleading information.
- **Accurate**: The claim is truthful, based on substantiated evidence, and an accurate interpretation of that evidence.
- **Relevant**: The claim is about an issue that is significant to the product or business and not a distraction from more important issues.
- **Transparent**: Information about the claim and claim system is easily accessible and publicly available, including the scope, verification, and supporting evidence.
- **Robust**: There is a robust system in place that controls when claims can be used and by whom, and clear criteria are met before any claims are made.

Section 1: Commitment claims

Commitment claims are statements made by organizations regarding their planned efforts, goals, and targets.

The SMART principles for making commitment claims are:

- **S**pecific: The scope and subject of the commitment are well-defined and clear.
- **M**easurable: The commitment includes a quantifiable measure or indicator that can be objectively tracked and that is supported by verifiable data.
- **A**chievable: The commitment is realistic and achievable with an implementation plan.
- **R**elevant: The commitment is meaningful and appropriate to the claim's purpose, scope, and context.
- **T**ime-bound: The commitment includes a defined time-frame.

Please note that in jurisdictions where relevant legislation may have requirements for commitment claims, also known as future environmental performance claims (for example, the EU Empowering Consumers Directive), it is recommended to seek advice from legal counsel on the risks associated with your claims.

1.1. Specific

The intent of this principle is to ensure that commitment claims effectively describe the scope of what is included in the claim, enabling the claim to be easily understood and progress toward the goal to be reported consistently.

A clearly defined scope includes the most important aspects of the commitment based on its specific context, such as material type, material category, product category, relevant program name, area of impact, stage of the supply chain, stage of productions, etc.

By establishing a specific scope, organizations can communicate commitments transparently and reduce ambiguity in communications to stakeholders.

Examples of specific commitment claims include:

- "Brand XYZ aims to source 100% **Materials Matter Certified™ wool** used in our **sweaters and knitwear** by 2027."
- "We are working toward our goal of sourcing 75% **Materials Matter Certified™ recycled materials** used in our **home textiles product line** by 2030."
- "Our organization is working to source 100% of the **natural fibers** used in our **home textile products** from producers that use regenerative farming practices by January 2028".
- "We will work with our suppliers to reduce **water consumption** in our **Tiers 1-3 operations** by 30% by 2030."
- "We will eliminate **virgin polyester** from our products by 2030."

Standards-related criteria

1.1.1 SHALL

A standards-related commitment claim shall include a clearly defined certified material type (for example, wool) or material category (for example, animal fibers) expressed as "[standard's name/acronym] Certified".

a. A claim that references other standards initiatives, or programs within the commitment shall ensure that all programs are clearly defined within the claim.

1.1.2 SHOULD

A standards-related commitment claim should include a clearly defined product portfolio, such as a product category (for example, home textiles) or product collection (for example, Spring 2026).

1.2. Measurable

The intent of this principle is to ensure that commitment claims include an objective measurement to track progress toward the commitment.

An objective measurement includes a measurable goal that is defined by a clear unit of measurement or percentage.

By establishing a measurable target, organizations can consistently monitor progress and support transparent reporting to stakeholders on progress.

Examples of measurable commitments include:

- "We aim to source **80%** of the wool in our products from Materials Matter Certified™ sources by 2030."
- "By 2030, we aim to source **2,000 tonnes** of Materials Matter Certified™ recycled cotton."
- "Our 2035 goal is for **100%** of the core materials (wool, cotton, polyester) used in our products to come from certified sources."
- "We commit to reducing energy use in our textile dyeing and finishing processes by **25%** by 2030."

Standards-related criteria

1.2.1	SHALL	A standards-related commitment claim shall include a measurable goal expressed as a defined unit of measurement (for example, tonnes) or a percentage.
1.2.2	SHOULD	The unit of measurement or percentage used should be informed by quantifiable and verifiable sourcing data.
1.2.3	SHOULD	A standards-related commitment claim that includes other standards, programs, or initiatives within the commitment should include separate measurable goals for each program.

1.3. Achievable

The intent of this principle is to ensure that organizations establish a detailed, realistic, and clear pathway for achieving their commitments and demonstrate how progress will be monitored, evaluated, and communicated.

An implementation plan or company sourcing policy that includes relevant elements necessary for implementation, such as the allocation of resources, helps ensure the commitment is achievable.

Regular verification by an independent third-party expert, whose findings are made available to consumers, further supports ensuring the commitment is achievable.

By establishing an achievable implementation plan, organizations are better equipped to demonstrate accountability, measure progress toward their goals, and provide stakeholders with confidence that claims are supported by realistic plans.

Standards-related criteria

1.3.1	SHOULD	A standards-related commitment claim should be supported by an implementation plan that includes the following:

a. Realistic plans for achieving the commitment, including key milestones and dates;
b. Elements needed to support the implementation, such as allocation of budget, staff, and technology resources;
c. Process for monitoring and reporting on the progress toward the commitment; and
d. Updated reports on progress achieved toward the commitment.

NOTE:

1) It is recommended to have an implementation plan in place in jurisdictions where relevant legislation may require it, and to seek advice from legal counsel on the risks associated with your claims.

1.3.2

SHOULD

An implementation plan supporting a commitment claim should be reviewed and verified on an ongoing basis or when any meaningful changes are made to the implementation plan.

NOTE:

1) It is recommended to have implementation plans regularly verified in jurisdictions where relevant legislation may require it, and to seek advice from legal counsel on the risks associated with your claims.

1.3.3

SHOULD

An implementation plan supporting a commitment claim should be verified by a third-party that is:

a. Independent from the trader;
b. Free from conflicts of interest; and
c. Experienced and competent as it relates to the relevant scope and subject of the commitment.

EXAMPLE:

1) Examples of third parties include certification bodies, consulting firms, experts, and existing third-party frameworks used to verify annual reports.
2) As the scheme owner, Textile Exchange would not be considered a third-party free from conflicts of interest.

NOTE:

1) It is recommended to have implementation plans verified by an independent third-party in jurisdictions where relevant legislation may require it, and to seek advice from legal counsel on the risks associated with your claims.

1.4. Relevant

The intent of this principle is to ensure that commitment claims are meaningful and relevant to the organization making the claim, and that the claim is communicated clearly and accurately.

The commitment should be aligned with the other commitments and goals the organization has in place and should be about an area of work where the organization has the ability to make meaningful impact.

A relevant commitment is supported by clear, realistic, and specific claims language that accurately describes the commitment and does not overstate the scope or planned achievements.

A relevant commitment is also supported by making claims in locations that accurately reflect the scope of the commitment and do not create consumer confusion, such as the perception that the claim relates to a specific product or service. When making claims near product(s), it is essential to use claims language/disclaimers that clearly explain the commitment and how the product(s) are related to the claim to limit any consumer misunderstanding.

By ensuring commitment claims are relevant, organizations are better equipped to maintain the integrity and credibility of their claims.

Standards-related criteria

1.4.1

SHALL

A standards-related commitment claim shall include the following information in the claim:

a. A clearly defined material scope per 1.1.1;
b. A measurable goal per 1.2.1; and
c. A defined target date per 1.5.1.

1.4.2

SHOULD

A standards-related commitment claim should be made in combination with a relevant informational statement about the standard(s).

NOTE:

1) See *TE-301 Standards Claims Policy* for informational statements about the GRS, RCS, OCS, RDS, and RAF standards.
2) See *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy* for informational statements about the Materials Matter Standard.

1.4.3

SHOULD

A standards-related commitment claim should include an implementation plan that is publicly available through a URL, hyperlink, QR code, and/or additional text on the claim that guides to where information can be found, per 1.3.1.

1.4.4

SHALL

A standards-related commitment claim shall only be made off-product.

EXAMPLE:

1) Examples of off-product claims include sustainability webpages, material webpages, annual reports, or other informational materials.

NOTE:

1) See *TE-301 Standards Claims Policy* for further details on how to make product claims about the GRS, RCS, OCS, RDS, and RAF standards.
2) See *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy* for further details on how to make product claims about the Materials Matter Standard.

1.4.5

MAY

A standards-related commitment claim may be made near the point of sale of labeled certified products provided:

a. The products have a clear association with the commitment claim (for example, contains certified materials that are included in the commitment); and
b. The claim includes a statement that makes it clear how to find certified products, such as “Look for the [standard's name/acronym] Certified label to find products that contain certified materials.”

1.5. Time-bound

The intent of this principle is to ensure that commitment claims include a clear and realistic timeline that provides context for evaluating progress toward and achievement of the commitment.

A time-bound commitment identifies the **baseline date** on which the commitment was established and the **target date** by which the commitment is intended to be achieved.

By establishing a defined timeframe, organizations are incentivized to create an achievable implementation plan, monitor and report progress consistently, and remain accountable.

Examples of time-bound commitments include:

- "**As of January 2026**, we commit to sourcing 100% OCS Certified™ cotton **by December 2027**."
- "**As of 2025**, we commit to reducing our Scope 1, 2, and 3 carbon emissions by 50% **by 2030**."
- "**Using our 2025 sourcing volumes as the baseline**, we will increase our sourcing of wool to 100% Materials Matter Certified™ wool and Responsible Wool Standard Certified™ wool by **December 2030**, with progress reported annually."
- "**In 2023**, we set a goal to source all of our cotton from certified sources **by 2028**."

Standards-related criteria

1.5.1 SHALL	Standards-related commitment claims shall include a clearly defined target date. The target date shall include the year and may include a month and/or day.
1.5.2 SHOULD	Standards-related commitment claims should include a clearly defined baseline date. When included, the baseline date shall include the year and may include a month and/or day.

Section 2: Sourcing claims

Sourcing claims, also known as “progress claims” or “procurement claims”, are claims made by organizations regarding their achieved material sourcing volumes.

The SMART principles for making sourcing claims are:

- **S**pecific: The scope of the sourcing claim is well defined and clear.
- **M**easured: The sourcing claim includes an objective and accurate measurement or indicator.
- **A**chieved: The sourcing claim shares an achievement that is supported by appropriate evidence.
- **R**elevant: The sourcing claim is meaningful, supported by the language and location of the claim.
- **T**ime-bound: The sourcing claim includes a defined date of achievement.

Sourcing claims may be made as:

- A progress report to a previously set commitment per Section 1 of this policy; or
- A report (independent from a previously set commitment) on achieved sourcing volumes.

2.1. Specific

The intent of this principle is to ensure that sourcing claims effectively describe the scope of what is included in the claim, enabling claims to be easily understood.

A clearly defined scope includes the most important aspects of the sourcing claim that are based on the specific context of the sourcing volume achievements, such as the material type, material category, product category, relevant program name, etc.

By establishing a specific scope, organizations can communicate sourcing volumes achieved transparently and reduce ambiguity in communications to stakeholders.

Examples of specific sourcing claims include:

- "In 2025, 82% of the **wool** used in Brand XYZ's **sweaters and knitwear** was **Materials Matter Certified™**."
- "In 2026, we sourced 1,150 tonnes of **Materials Matter Certified™ recycled materials** for our **home textiles product line**."
- “We are making progress toward our commitment to source 100% of our **polyester** from **Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) Certified™** sources by 2028, with 65% of our polyester currently sourced from RCS Certified™ sources.”

Standards-related criteria

2.1.1 SHALL

A standards-related sourcing claim shall include a clearly defined certified material type (for example, wool) or material category (for example, animal fibers) expressed as “[standard's name/acronym] Certified”.

a. A claim that references other standards initiatives, or programs within the commitment shall ensure that all programs are clearly defined within the claim.

2.1.2 SHOULD

A standards-related sourcing claim should include a clearly defined product portfolio, such as a product category (for example, home textiles) or product collection (for example, Spring 2026).

2.2. Measured

The intent of this principle is to ensure that sourcing claims include an objective unit of measurement to accurately represent the measured sourcing volumes achieved.

Based on the available sourcing volume data, the sourcing volumes should be represented as:

- **Absolute measurements** in the form of defined units of measurement (for example, tonnes) when sufficient data is available (for example, certified material sourcing volumes); or
- **Comparative measurements** (for example, percentages) only when sufficient data is available (for example, total sourcing volumes).

By applying objective measurements informed by available information, organizations are better equipped to report sourcing claims transparently, consistently, and accurately.

Examples of sourcing claims made based on objective measurements include:

- "As of January 2026, **2,000 tonnes** of the cotton we sourced was OCS Certified™ cotton."
- "We have made progress toward our commitment to source **100%** of our wool from RWS Certified™ wool by 2028. To date, **80%** of our wool is RWS Certified™."
- "Our wool sourcing in 2025 came from **75%** Materials Matter Certified™ sources."
- "In 2025, we sourced **1,000 tonnes** of GRS Certified™ recycled polyester, representing **65% of our total polyester sourcing volumes**."

Standards-related criteria

2.2.1 SHALL	A standards-related sourcing claim shall include sourcing measurements achieved, expressed as a defined unit of measurement (for example, tonnes) or a percentage.
2.2.2 SHOULD	A standards-related sourcing claim should include a sourcing measurement that is relevant to the sourcing volume data available to the organization, such as: a. If the organization only has data available for certified material sourcing volumes, only an absolute volume claim should be made (for example, tonnes). b. If the organization has data available for total material sourcing volumes and certified material sourcing volumes, a percentage-based claim may be made.
2.2.3 SHOULD	A standards-related sourcing claim that includes other standards, programs, or initiatives within the claim should include separate measurements for each program.

2.3. Achieved

The intent of this principle is to ensure that sourcing claims accurately reflect the sourcing volumes that have actually been achieved and are substantiated by appropriate evidence.

An organization should be able to demonstrate that sourcing volumes have been achieved through:

- Documentation that substantiates the sourcing volumes achieved and the calculation methodology used;
- Verification by an independent third party that assesses the accuracy of the sourcing volumes and calculation methodology used; and
- Publicly available verification and calculation methodology information.

Demonstrating that sourcing volumes have been achieved and substantiated through appropriate documentation, third-party verification, and publicly available information helps organizations make more credible and transparent sourcing claims.

Standards-Related Criteria

2.3.1 SHOULD

The claim maker should maintain relevant documentation that substantiates the accuracy of the sourcing volume data that supports the standards-related sourcing claim.

EXAMPLE:

1) Examples of relevant documentation include transaction certificates, purchase orders, or inventory records.

2.3.2 SHOULD

Sourcing volume data should be reviewed and verified on an ongoing basis or when there are updates to the sourcing volume data and associated standards-related sourcing claim.

2.3.3 SHOULD

Sourcing volume data should be reviewed and verified by a third-party that is:

a. Independent from the trader;
b. Free from conflicts of interest; and
c. Experienced and competent as it relates to the relevant scope and subject of the commitment.

EXAMPLE:

1) Examples of third parties include certification bodies and existing third-party frameworks (for example, used to verify annual reports).
2) As the scheme owner, Textile Exchange would not be considered a third-party free from conflicts of interest.

2.3.4 SHOULD

A standards-related sourcing claim that is made as a progress report to a previously set commitment per Section 1 should include a statement that makes it clear that the sourcing claim indicates achieved progress toward an associated commitment.

EXAMPLE:

1) An example of a statement that makes it clear the sourcing claim indicates achieved progress toward an associated commitment is "We are making progress toward our commitment to source X% of our [material type] from [standard's name/acronym] certified sources by [target date]."

2.4. Relevant

The intent of this principle is to ensure that sourcing claims are meaningful and relevant to the organization making the claim and that claims are communicated clearly and accurately.

A sourcing claim should be aligned with commitments and goals the organization has in place and is about an area of sourcing where the organization has the ability to make a meaningful impact.

A relevant sourcing claim is supported by clear and accurate claims language that accurately describes and does not overstate the sourcing volumes achieved. When sourcing claims are made to report progress toward a previously set commitment, it should be clear that the sourcing claim indicates progress achieved toward the associated commitment.

A relevant sourcing claim is also supported by making claims on locations that accurately reflect the scope of the sourcing claim and do not create consumer confusion, such as the perception that the claim relates to a specific product. When making claims near product(s), it is essential to use claims language/disclaimers that

clearly explain the sourcing claim and how the product(s) relate to the claim, to limit any consumer misunderstanding.

By ensuring sourcing claims are relevant, organizations are better equipped to maintain the integrity and credibility of their claims.

Standards-related criteria

2.4.1
SHALL

A standards-related sourcing claim shall include the following information in the claim:

a. A clearly defined material scope per 2.1.1;
b. An achieved sourcing measurement per 2.2.1; and
c. A defined achievement date per 2.5.1.

2.4.2
SHOULD

A standards-related sourcing claim should be made in combination with a relevant informational statement about the standard(s).

NOTE:

1) See *TE-301 Standards Claims Policy* for informational statements about the GRS, RCS, OCS, RDS, and RAF standards.
2) See *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy* for informational statements about Materials Matter Standard.

2.4.3
SHOULD

A standards-related sourcing claim should include relevant documentation that substantiates the accuracy of the sourcing volume that is publicly available through a URL, hyperlink, QR code, and/or additional text on the claim that guides to where information can be found, per 2.3.1.

2.4.4
SHALL

A standards-related sourcing claim shall only be made off-product.

EXAMPLE:

1) Examples of off-product claims include sustainability webpages, material webpages, annual reports, or other informational materials.

NOTE:

1) See *TE-301 Standards Claims Policy* for further details on how to make product claims about the GRS, RCS, OCS, RDS, and RAF standards.
2) See *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy* for further details on how to make product claims about the Materials Matter Standard.

2.4.5
MAY

A standards-related sourcing claim may be made near the point of sale of labeled certified products provided:

a. The products have a clear association with the sourcing claim (for example, contains certified materials that are included in the sourcing claim); and
b. The claim includes a statement that makes it clear how to find certified products, such as "Look for the [standard's name/acronym] Certified label to find products that contain certified materials."

EXAMPLE:

1) Examples of claims made near the point of sale of labeled certified products include in-store signage, e-commerce pages, and catalogs.

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2.5. Time-bound

The intent of this principle is to ensure the sourcing claims include a clearly defined date or period of time during which the stated sourcing volumes were achieved, enabling stakeholders to accurately interpret performance over time.

A time-bound sourcing claim identifies the **achievement date or reporting period** during which the sourcing volume was achieved.

By establishing a defined date or period of time the sourcing volumes were achieved, organizations are better equipped to provide context for reported sourcing volumes and support transparent communication.

Examples of time-bound sourcing claims include:

- "**During the 2026 reporting period**, 70% of the cotton we sourced was Organic Content Standard (OCS) Certified™."
- "**Throughout 2026**, 90% of the nylon we sourced was GRS Certified™, representing progress toward our 2027 sourcing target of sourcing 100% GRS Certified™ nylon."
- "**As of December 2025**, 40% of the wool we are sourcing is Materials Matter Certified™ and 20% is Responsible Wool Standard Certified™."

Standards-related criteria

2.5.1	SHALL	A standards-related sourcing claim shall include a clearly defined achievement date or reporting period. The date/period shall include the year and may include a month and/or day.

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Section 3: Additional standards-related criteria

3.1. Eligibility

3.1.1 MAY

A standards-related commitment or sourcing claim may be made by a certified organization that holds a valid scope certificate for the applicable standard(s) and has signed a Trademark License Agreement (TLA), when applicable.

3.1.2 MAY

A standards-related commitment or sourcing claim may be made by a noncertified organization.

NOTE:

1) Some noncertified organizations may be required to sign a promotional license agreement (PLA) before making a claim; please contact trademark@textileexchange.org to check whether a PLA or other authorization is required for a specific case.

3.2. Approvals

3.2.1 MAY

A standards-related commitment or sourcing claim made by a certified organization may be submitted and approved by the claim maker's certification body prior to making the claim.

NOTE:

1) All standards-related commitment and sourcing claims will be reviewed by the claim maker's certification body on an annual basis to ensure claims are being made in accordance with this policy.
2) The submission and approval process outlined in the relevant guidance or normative procedures must be followed.
3) A claim made by a noncertified organization does not require approval at this time, however Textile Exchange will regularly monitor all standards-related commitment and sourcing claims for conformity with the requirements of this policy.

3.3. Trademark use

3.3.1 MAY

A standards-related commitment and sourcing claim made by a certified organization may be accompanied by the relevant standard(s) mark(s):

a. The GRS, RCS, OCS, RDS, and RAF marks, in conformance with *TE-302 Standards Logo Use Specifications.*
b. The Materials Matter logo, in compliance with the trademark requirements in *TE-MM-POL-301 Materials Matter Claims and Labeling Policy*.

NOTE:

1) The Materials Matter Certification Mark must not be used alongside any standards-related commitment and sourcing claims. Only the GRS, RCS, OCS, RDS, and RAF marks and the Materials Matter logo are eligible for such use.

3.3.2 MAY

A standards-related commitment and sourcing claim made by a noncertified organization may be accompanied by the Materials Matter logo when relevant to the scope of the claim. No other trademarks are allowed for use.

NOTE:

1) If using the Materials Matter logo, prior authorization is required in the form of a signed agreement. Contact trademark@textileexchange.org to obtain authorization.