



# Responsible Wool Standard Implementation Manual 1.0





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The RWS logo was designed by The North Face.

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The official language of the RWS is English. In the case of inconsistency between any translated versions, reference shall default to the English version.

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## Document Revision History

Document version	Reference	Purpose / Change	Date
v1.	A6.2	Clarification. Farm Scope Certificate validity The Scope Certificate may apply to all wool produced during calendar year of the first audit or 12 month period prior to the audit providing points 1-3 are met.	17/01/17
v1.	A8.2	Clarification. Timeline for corrective action for land management requirements.	17/01/17
v1.	A4.2	Clarification. Noils can also be certified.	12/07/17



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## Introduction

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Farming is one of the oldest professions, and its long term success is the result of farmers taking care of their animals and their land. The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) provides an opportunity for farmers to demonstrate their best practices to the public, and a means for brands and consumers to have the certainty that the wool products they buy and sell are in line with their values.

The RWS is a tool to ensure that wool comes from sheep that have been raised with respect to their Five Freedoms<sup>1</sup>, that the land has been managed responsibly, and to provide a robust chain of custody system to validate the source of the material for all product claims.

The standard was developed by an International Working Group (IWG) through an open and transparent process. Our highest priorities were to include representation from all potential stakeholders and to create a tool that balances effective requirements with realistic and auditable criteria. Brands expressed their need for assurance that animal welfare was protected and land management ensured. Animal welfare experts and practitioners advised on best practices in animal welfare and sheep husbandry specifically. Land management experts, practitioners, and farmers in at-risk ecological regions shared their expertise in practices to protect against land degradation. The standard combines expertise and perspectives from all of the major wool-growing regions of the globe.

This is a voluntary standard and is not intended to replace the legal or regulatory requirements of any country. It is the responsibility of each operation to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to marketing, labor, and business practices.

Textile Exchange wants to express our sincere gratitude for the considerable effort that has been put into the development of the RWS by fellow NGOs. Their generous donation of time and expertise has been of huge value in creating a standard that genuinely addresses animal welfare and land health. Our deepest thanks to Four Paws, Humane Society International, The Nature Conservancy and Ovis 21.

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<sup>1</sup> Freedom from Hunger and Thirst, Freedom from Discomfort, Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease, Freedom to Express Normal Behavior, and Freedom from Fear and Distress



## Introduction - RWS Implementation Manual

The RWS Implementation Manual provides interpretations and clarifications for the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS). All guidance given in the manual shall be considered binding to Certification Bodies (CB) working with, and Organizations certified to, the Responsible Wool Standard. For interpretations and clarifications regarding the Content Claim Standard please refer to the CCS Implementation Manual.

This manual will be updated regularly to address areas of uncertainty or to give further detail in the application of the standard. It is up to all users of the standard to regularly check for the most current version of the manual found at [responsiblewool.org](http://responsiblewool.org). The manual will not change or alter any criteria of the standard, but rather is intended to support correct and consistent application of the standard.

CBs are to use the guidance and assessment requirements found in the current version of the RWS Implementation Manual for their clients at the time of their Certification. Whenever there is an update to the manual, TE will inform all CBs and Organizations will be assessed against the new version of the manual during their next annual Certification. If it is a significant change, TE will communicate to CBs that they shall communicate to all Certified Organizations that changes should be made as soon as possible, but will not require compliance with the newly added requirements until their next annual certification.





## Purpose

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The goals of the Responsible Wool Standard are to provide the industry with the best possible tool to:

- Recognize the best practices of farmers
- Ensure that wool comes from farms with a progressive approach to managing their land, and from sheep that have been treated responsibly
- Create an industry benchmark that will drive improvements in animal care and land management where needed
- Provide a robust chain of custody system from farm to final product so that consumers are confident that the wool in the products they choose is truly RWS

## Scope

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The RWS is intended to be used by farmers involved in the production of wool from sheep, certification bodies contracted to provide certification services to the standard, and companies buying and selling products intended to be produced containing RWS certified wool.

The standard is only intended for farming systems that provide animals with continuous outdoor pasture access during the grazing season. Farming systems where sheep are confined year round are not included.

The standard does not apply to nomadic herding systems.

## About Textile Exchange

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Textile Exchange ([www.TextileExchange.org](http://www.TextileExchange.org)) is a non-profit organization that accelerates sustainability practices in the textile industry. We develop and own standards that provide traceability for materials such as organic cotton, recycled polyester, and responsibly sourced down. There has been increasing interest from brands and industry groups in creating a tool to identify the best practices to respect animal welfare and land protection for wool production.





## Why is the standard needed?

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In almost every industry in the world, customers have begun to ask questions about where their products come from. Customers want the companies they buy from to hold high ethical standards in every aspect of their business. Animal welfare organizations have challenged many industries to examine the efficacy and goals of routine farming practices around the world, causing wool production to come into focus for brands and consumers.

More and more companies are asking questions about where their wool comes from and under what conditions it was produced. Customers are not just asking, but demanding that their supply of wool be free of questionable practices. The RWS provides verification of the practices that are happening at the farm level, giving brands a clear solution that will allow them to make claims about their wool sourcing with confidence.

Many individual and regional efforts have been made on animal welfare and land management, and several initiatives and standards exist in varying countries. The RWS does not intend to replace this work, but to provide a global benchmark that can be seen and understood by everyone. The RWS will recognize best practices, and help to phase out the poor ones.

## Key Points in the RWS

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### **Protecting Animal Welfare**

The Five Freedoms of sheep are protected at all times: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from fear and distress.

### **Preserving Land Health**

Progressive methods of land management are practiced on RWS farms, protecting soil health, biodiversity and native species.

### **Supply Chain Traceability**



The identify of the RWS wool is maintained at all times: from the farm to the final product. Consumers can have full confidence that the wool in a product carrying the RWS logo comes from responsibly managed farms.

### **Credible Certification**

A professional, third party certification body audits each stage in the supply chain.

### **Confident Communication**

Only products with 100% certified wool may carry the RWS logo.

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Our process of standard development is open and inclusive. The RWS was developed with the input of farmers, animal welfare experts, land conservation experts, brands and retailers from all parts of the globe.



## RWS International Working Group

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### Technical Group

Anne Gillespie	Textile Exchange
Hanna Denes	Textile Exchange
Stuart Adams	Continuum Textiles
Gyorgyi Acs	Control Union

### Steering Committee

Madelene Ericsson	H&M
Cecilia Takayama	Kering
Nick Allen, Todd Copeland	Patagonia
Beth Jensen	Outdoor Industry Association
Natalie Dudinszky	Previously of RESP
Bill Parker	Ovis 21
Margot Bennett	Coyuchi
Pamela Ravasio	European Outdoor Group
Greg Scott	Mountain Equipment Co-op

### Advisory Group

Kjersti Kviseth	2025 Design
Oistein Thorsen	Benchmark Sustainability Science
Rebecca Loyo Mayo	Burberry



## Advisory Group

Charline Ducas, Sina Gerlach	C&A
Megan Meiklejohn, Ruth Hsia Isenstadt, Kate Morricks	Eileen Fisher
Graham Storie	Esprit
Rebecca Burgess	Fibershed
Melissa Fifield, Megan Stoneburner	GAP Inc
Jose Fernandez	Global Merino
Caroline Reid, Sofia Gape, Paola Brenna	IKEA
James Roberts	Indigenous Designs
Manu Rastogi	Kathmandu
Phil Townsend	Marks and Spencer
Peter Vandeleur	New Merino
William Burnidge	The Nature Conservancy
Marissa Pagnani, Jessica Lenhart, Katie O'Hare	PVH
Tom Chappell	Ramblers Way
Raul Richero	Richero
Sarah Compson	Soil Association
Rajneet Chahal, Steven Brunn	Target
Carol Shu	The North Face
Caroline Bartlett	Trucost
Daphne Guelker	UL
Adam Mott	VF Corp



## How to Use This Document

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This document sets forth the overall requirements for compliance with the RWS. Guidance and farmer support documents are available in the RWS Farmer Guidebook.

The Standard includes four sections: General Information, Animal Welfare Requirements, Land Management Requirements, and Farm Group Certification.

Throughout the Standard, the following words have been used to describe what is required, recommended, allowed, or possible:

- 'shall' indicates a requirement
- 'should' indicates a recommendation
- 'may' indicates an allowance
- 'can' indicates a capability or possibility

“Desired Outcomes” have been included to detail the intent of requirements, but they are not requirements themselves. They are designated by an orange icon before each module, see the following example:



**Desired outcome:**

Sheep have access to sufficient feed and water, suited to the animals' age and needs, to maintain normal health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.

The following documents were used as a reference for the development of the RWS:

- ISO/IEC 17065:2012
- ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards

The following acronyms are commonly used in the standard:

**RWS** Responsible Wool Standard

**TE** Textile Exchange

**CB** Certification Body

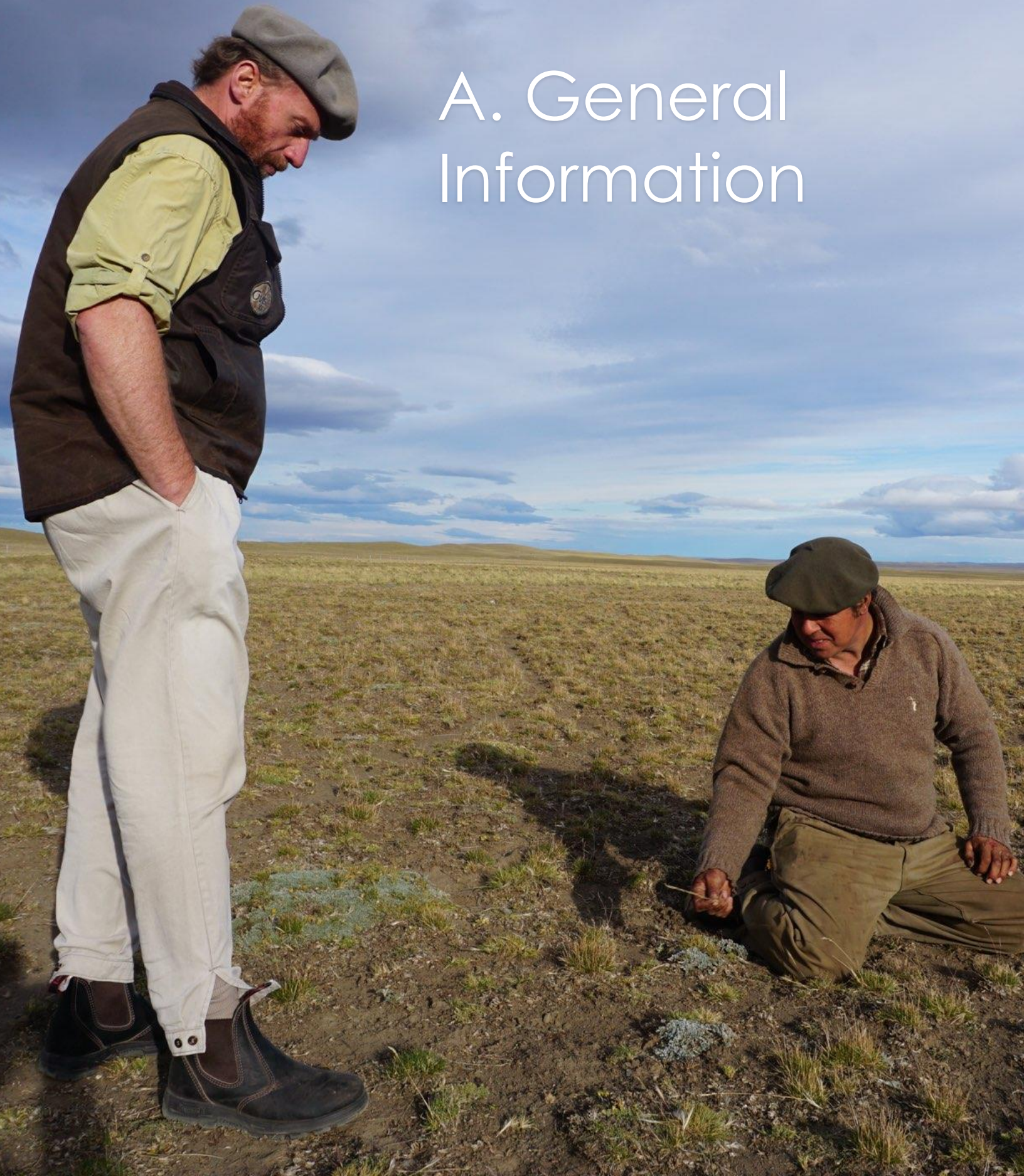
**ICS** Internal Control System

**NC** Non-compliance

**BCS** Body Condition Score



# A. General Information





## A1. Definitions

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### **Announced Audit**

The site is contacted well in advance to set a date for the on-site audit.

### **Audit**

A means to verify compliance with a standard. Audits can be on-site audits, desk audits (review of documents) or a combination of both.

### **Carrying Capacity**

The average number of animals that can be placed on a pasture for a year without harming it. It is a measure of a pasture's ability to produce enough forage to meet the requirements of grazing animals. It will be expressed as DSE/hectare.

### **Certification Body (CB)**

An authorized third party carrying out audit and certification in accordance with the provisions set out in this Standard.

### **Ceased Mulesing**

Wool from sheep where the property has ceased mulesing. A mob may contain mulesed sheep; but no lamb born on this property in the last 12 months has been mulesed at the time of the certification.

### **Chain of Custody**

A system to document and control the path taken by a defined entry material through all stages of transfer and production, to the final product. The chain of custody preserves the identity of the entry material.

### **Confirmation Visit**

Less than one hour notification; visual check for animal welfare compliance only. Confirmation visits are to be done in addition to full audits.

### **Content Claim Standard**

The Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard (CCS) is a chain of custody standard for tracking and verifying the content of one or more specific raw materials in a final product. The CCS is owned and managed by Textile Exchange, a non-profit organization





committed to the responsible expansion of textile sustainability across the global textile value chain.

### **Farm**

Any site where sheep are raised for food production or for their wool.

### **Pain relief**

The administration of analgesic and local anesthetic drugs given with the aim of providing significant alleviation of pain.

### **Parallel Production**

Carrying certified and non-certified sheep on the same farm.

### **Pesticides**

Substances used for destroying insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals. Pesticides include bactericides, baits, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, lures, rodenticides and repellents.

### **Scope Certificate**

A document issued by the Certification Body that verifies that a given organization is qualified to produce goods to the standard.

### **Site**

A single farm, functional unit of an organization, or a combination of units situated at one locality, which is geographically distinct from other units of the same organization.

### **Stocking Rate**

Stocking rate refers to the number of stock per hectare on a given piece of land during a grazing season (for the sake of the RWS, this will be one year). It will be expressed as DSE/hectare.

### **Trader**

Entity trading (buying and selling, but not processing) RWS goods in the supply chain between the source of the wool and the retail merchant of the final product, regardless of whether the goods are physically received or not (e.g. import, export or wholesale trading entities, or brand distribution centers selling to other retailers). Agents that do not take ownership of the goods and retailers only selling to the end consumer are not considered as traders.



### **Transaction Certificate (TC)**

A document supplied by the Certification Body that verifies that the goods being shipped from one organization to the next conform to the 'Responsible Wool Standard'.

### **Unannounced Audit**

The auditor gives a maximum of 2 months window within which the on-site audit may take place. At the beginning of the certification year the CB will advise the farmer of the window of time during which an on-site audit will happen, and that they are responsible to be present and have the required documents on hand during that time.



## A2. Land Classes

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Land Classes shall be determined by the farmer, and confirmed by the Certification Body during the on-site audit. Applicability of Land Management Requirements varies by Land Class.

### Land Class 1-2

*Arable land suited to intensive (LC 1) and regular (LC 2) cultivation*

**Key Features:**

- Arable
- Higher fertility
- Minimal erosion risk
- Acidic (pH above 5)

**Capability:**

- For pasture and crop production when rainfall is adequate
- High input / high output systems work well

### Land Class 3

*Grazing land suited to cultivation for pasture improvement and/or occasional cropping*

**Key Features:**

- Lower to middle slopes
- Semi-arable
- Moderate erosion risk
- Moderate acidity (pH 4.5-5)
- Lower natural fertility

**Capability:**

- Groundcover and pasture persistence is important
- Maintain pasture base through direct drill options
- Occasional cropping

### Land Class 4

*Land suited to grazing but not for cultivation*



### Land Class 4

<b>Key Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle to upper slopes</li> <li>• Non-arable</li> <li>• Moderate to high erosion</li> <li>• Acidic (pH below 4.5)</li> <li>• Low fertility, shallow soils</li> </ul>	<b>Capability:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only suited to permanent pasture</li> <li>• Manage to maintain pasture stability and ground cover</li> <li>• Best suited to lower input management systems</li> <li>• Generally not suited to introduced perennial grasses</li> </ul>
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### Land Class 5

<i>Land suited to lighter grazing only</i>	
<b>Key Features:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steep upper slopes</li> <li>• Non-arable</li> <li>• Subject to erosion</li> <li>• Acidic (pH below 4.5)</li> <li>• Low fertility, shallow soils</li> </ul>	<b>Capability:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leave natural or revegetate</li> <li>• Lightly graze to maintain existing pasture / groundcover</li> <li>• Potential conservation areas</li> </ul>

## A3. References

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The following documents are part of the Responsible Wool Standard and are fully binding. All documents may be found at <http://responsiblewool.org>.

- Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard
- Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard Implementation Manual
- RWS Licensing Requirements for Certification Bodies
- RWS Logo Use and Claims Guide
- Accreditation and Certification Procedures for Textile Exchange Standards



- TE Policy and Template for Issuing Certificates of Compliance (Scope Certificates, SCs)
- Scope Certificate Template
- TE Policy and Template for Issuing Transaction Certificates (TCs)
- Transaction Certificate Template



## A4. Applicability

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A4.1 The RWS requires all sites to be certified to the applicable module(s), beginning with wool farmers and through the seller in the final business-to-business transaction. Retailers (business-to-consumer transaction) are not required to be certified.

A4.2 The Responsible Wool Standard requires compliance with the requirements of the Content Claim Standard (CCS) whereby:

1. For application to the RWS, each reference of “CCS” in the Content Claim Standard shall be understood as “RWS”. In the case of contradiction with the CCS, the RWS requirement supersedes that of the CCS.
2. Claimed Material, as defined in the CCS, refers to “RWS Wool” for the RWS which is defined as:

**RWS Wool:** wool produced from RWS certified sites or otherwise sold by organizations that are certified to comply with the applicable modules of the RWS.

### Manual Guidance:

This also includes noils.

A4.3 Under this standard certified products may be 100% certified wool or blended certified wool containing from 5 – 99% percentage of certified material. Final products containing non-certified wool are not permitted to be labelled with the RWS name or logo. See *RWS Logo Use and Claims Guide* for more information on allowed consumer communication.

## A5. Certification Body Requirements

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A5.1 All CBs shall be authorized to perform RWS Certification activities - initially by TE - in accordance with the RWS Licensing Requirements for Certification Bodies. Licensing to the RWS is divided into the two competencies of Farm Scope and Supply Chain Scope; CBs may apply for one or both.

A5.2 CBs shall meet all requirements of TE’s Accreditation and Certification Procedures for Textile Exchange Standards and thereby ISO 17065.



A5.3 Where local legislation and the RWS requirements conflict, the Certification Body shall contact TE to find the most practical resolution. When there is confusion about the interpretation of the standard, the first point of contact shall be the Certification Body, which will contact Textile Exchange if further clarification is needed.

## A6. Farm Certification

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### A6.1 Farms or Farm Groups Audits

Farms will be audited to the requirements from the Animal Welfare and Land Management Modules. Farm Audits will:

- occur once per calendar year,
- occur during times of higher risk (i.e. marking and shearing) at the discretion of the Certification Body; and
- may include Unannounced Audits and Confirmation Visits.

At the beginning of the certification year the CB will advise the farmer of the window of time during which an on-site audit will happen. Farmers are responsible to be present and have the required documents on hand during that time.

### A6.2 Farm Scope Certificate

RWS Farm Scope Certificates are valid for 3 years, with one On-Site Audit per calendar year. The Farm Scope Certificate shall apply to all wool produced during the calendar year of the first audit, as long as the following requirements are met:

1. At the time of the audit, no Animal Welfare NC-1s are found.
2. The farm has never Mulesed or has achieved Ceased Mulesing status prior to the calendar year of the audit.
3. Chain of Custody of the previously shorn wool is confirmed.



**Manual Guidance:**

The Scope Certificate may apply to all wool produced during calendar year of the first audit or 12 month period prior to the audit providing points 1-3 are met.

**A6.3 Transaction Certificate**

Wool from an RWS farm during the validity period of the Farm Scope Certificate shall be considered RWS Wool. When RWS Wool is first sold, the seller shall apply for a Transaction Certificate with the responsible Certification Body.

## A7. Supply Chain Certification

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**A7.1 Supply Chain Audits**

After the farm, each site is required to be audited against the Content Claim Standard requirements, up to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction. On-Site Audits are to occur at least annually, within the calendar year, and within the validity period of the Scope Certificate.

**A7.2 Supply Chain Scope Certificate**

Scope Certificates shall not exceed 14 months of validity, and shall be renewed after successful assessment by the CB.

**A7.3 Transaction Certificates**

All RWS Wool inputs entering the supply chain at any point shall have a Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by the Certification Body. Further details about TCs can be found in the CCS.

## A8. Requirement Types

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**A8.1 Animal Welfare Requirements**



Each Animal Welfare Requirement has been assigned an NC level. If one of the requirements is not met at the initial On-Site Audit, the NC level determines the effect on the certification status.

- NC-1: NC-1 level requirements relate to critical practices (e.g. mulesing, castration, tail docking, and on-farm slaughter). Any NCs related to critical practices are not allowed. Critical practice requirements shall be met **before or at the time of the first audit.**
- NC-2: NC-2 level requirements relate to general treatment of the animals. NC-2 violations shall be corrected within **30 days** of the farmer receiving the audit report.
- NC-3: NC-3 level requirements relate to documentation or infrastructure. NC-3 violations shall be corrected within **90 days** of the farmer receiving the audit report.

## A8.2 Land Management Requirements

Each Land Management Requirement has been assigned as either MAJOR or MINOR. This classification is used to distinguish required criteria and criteria that may be met through continuous improvement. Some requirements may not apply to certain farming situations, in those cases, scoring shall be adjusted accordingly by the Certification Body.

- MAJORS: All of these requirements shall be met to achieve certification.
- MINORS: In the first year of certification 50% of the applicable Minor requirements shall be met. For subsequent years, this score shall increase by an additional 10% until 90% or above is achieved.

### Manual Guidance:

Land Management non-conformities

Major non conformities shall be corrected within 30 days of the On Site Audit.

Minor non conformities shall be corrected within 60 days of the On Site Audit.

CBs may require non conformities to be corrected sooner depending on the severity of the non-conformity.

Time scales

Non-conformities must be corrected within the specified times. Certification decisions may be made by the CB up to two weeks after receiving notification of the correction of



non-conformities from the Certification Organization. In the case of no non-conformities, certification decisions must be made within two months of the inspection.

#### Derogations

It is possible that a situation will arise in which a farmer meets the goals of the standard, but does not conform to a specific requirement of the standard. In this situation, the Certification Body may request to grant a derogation which means the certificate is issued without the requirement being met. Derogations are granted on a case-by-case basis, and only for a limited period of time per farm.

In these cases, the Certification Body shall submit the audit report to Textile Exchange, along with the description of the derogation, the reason for the derogation, and the amount of time allowed for the derogation. Textile Exchange will make the final decision of whether or not the derogation is allowed.



## B. Animal Welfare Requirements







## AW1 Management



### Desired outcome:

Farmers have a clear strategy and set of protocols to safeguard the welfare of the sheep, and to demonstrate compliance to the RWS.

Nr.	Requirement	Level
AW1.1	<p>Parallel production is not allowed: all sheep on the farm shall fall under RWS certification.</p> <p><b>Manual Guidance</b>            Sheep that are run for meat on a different farm under same management would also fall under the requirements of the standard. If farmer is temporarily housing sheep for another farmer / farmer does not own the sheep on the farm, the sheep will need to be cared for in line with the requirements of the RWS but the farmer should not be held accountable for things outside of his control (e.g. inappropriate docking that has taken place previously).</p>	NC-1
AW1.2	<p>Farmer shall give auditor full access to the farm and operations that fall under certification. A representative number of sheep shall be made available in a yard for viewing by the auditor.</p> <p>AW1.2.1 As directed by the auditor, this shall include access to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• buildings</li> <li>• land</li> <li>• documents</li> <li>• sheep</li> <li>• workers</li> </ul>	NC-1
AW1.3	Farm shall comply with all applicable legislation on animal welfare and land management.	NC-1
AW1.4	<p>Farmer shall be knowledgeable on current and best practices regarding animal welfare and land management in sheep production.</p> <p>AW1.4.1 Farmer shall have read and understood the RWS.</p>	NC-2



AW1.5	<p>Workers shall be trained or experienced and competent in handling animals, and shall possess and practice the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals. They shall be knowledgeable in current best practices for animal welfare and land management for sheep production.</p> <p>AW1.5.1 Training records should be maintained.</p> <p>AW1.5.2 Workers shall have access to the RWS, and be made aware of the relevant requirements.</p>	NC-2
AW1.6	<p>All external workers that come onto the farm to perform work involving the sheep shall be made aware of the relevant parts of the RWS.</p> <p>AW1.6.1 All subcontractors shall sign the RWS Contractor Declaration.</p> <div data-bbox="435 884 1287 1077"> <p>Manual Guidance:</p> <p>There may not be signed declarations available by the first audit. In these cases a commitment to follow the process in future is acceptable.</p> </div>	NC-2
AW1.7	Records shall be kept for a minimum of five years.	NC-3



## AW2 Nutrition



### Desired outcome:

Sheep have access to sufficient feed and water - suited to the animals' age and needs - to maintain normal health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.

Nr.	Requirement	Level
AW2.1	<p>Sheep shall have access to adequate nutrition, suited to the animals' age and needs, to maintain normal health and to prevent prolonged hunger or malnutrition.</p> <p>AW2.1.1 Feeding shall be addressed in a management plan.</p>	NC-2
AW2.2	<p>Sheep shall have an adequate supply of clean, safe drinking water each day.</p> <p>AW2.2.1 Water points supplied from troughs, drinkers or natural water sources shall be clean and be of good quality and an accessible level at all times.</p>	NC-2
AW2.3	<p>Stocking rates shall be recorded and followed to plan pasture, feeding rations and water resource availability.</p> <p>AW2.3.1 Stocking rates shall be determined based on land type, pasture quality and seasonal conditions.</p> <p>AW2.3.2 Stocking rates shall be determined according to class of stock, season, available feed and total grazing pressure (including estimates of use by local herbivores).</p> <p>AW2.3.3 The amount of feed on offer should be measured to calculate the number of available grazing days.</p>	NC-2
AW2.4	<p>The body condition of sheep shall be routinely monitored and recorded as part of the farm's management system to confirm health of the sheep.</p> <p>AW2.4.1 Farm workers shall be able to measure the Body Condition Score (BCS) of sheep.</p> <p>AW2.4.2 If there is evidence of BCS below 2, appropriate action shall be taken to return the animals to good health.</p>	NC-1





Manual Guidance:

The requirement to address BCS below 2 can be applied in a flock context, i.e. if monitoring and recording is done on a flock basis with an average score calculated, action would need to be taken if this average falls below 2.

AW2.5	Changes in diet shall be introduced gradually.	NC-2
	AW2.5.1 Sheep shall be introduced to crop grazing and or supplementary feeding at a rate that allows the sheep to adapt to the new feed.	
AW2.6	Sheep shall only be deprived of feed and water for reasonable management practices (such as shearing, transport, or slaughter). Deprivation periods shall be no longer than 24 hours.	NC-1
	AW2.6.1 Sheep held in sheds or yards for management practices (such as shearing) shall be monitored for signs of distress during time held off feed and water.	
	AW2.6.2 Animals in ill health or poor condition shall not be deprived of food or water until they recover.	
	AW2.6.3 Pregnant or lactating ewes shall not be deprived of water for more than 8 hours.	
AW2.7	Feed shall be stored properly	NC-2
	AW2.7.1 Hazardous material shall not be stored near feed storage areas.	
AW2.8	Routine checks and monitoring shall be conducted regularly to ensure feed and water quality and quantity is maintained.	NC-2
	AW2.8.1 Equipment used to deliver feed and water shall be cleaned and maintained in good working order and any problems promptly rectified.	
	AW2.8.2 Pasture grazing and water from natural sources shall be routinely monitored as a management practice.	
	AW2.8.3 Access to poisonous plants, contaminated feed and harmful substances shall be avoided.	
	AW2.8.4 Any problems with feed or water for animal welfare or land health shall be addressed immediately.	



- AW2.9 In exceptional circumstances (such as extreme weather events) measures shall be taken to ensure adequate feed and water are made available to sheep. NC-2
- AW2.9.1 An emergency plan shall be in place for supplementary feeding or relocation of animals to an area with accessible nutritious feed.
- AW2.9.2 An emergency plan shall be in place to maintain access to water in the event of severe weather (e.g. drought)
- AW2.9.3 If animal welfare is at risk, arrangements shall be made to relocate, sell, or humanely dispose of the sheep to ensure their welfare is not adversely affected.



## AW3 Infrastructure



### Desired outcome:

Sheep are kept in an environment that provides the conditions and facilities needed for health, safety, comfort and normal behavior.

Nr.	Requirement	Level
AW3.1	All sheep shall have access to effective shade, shelter and/or windbreaks if necessary to protect them from adverse weather conditions.	NC-3
	AW3.1.1 Shelter can be natural or artificial as long as it is available and provides effective protection against prevailing conditions as needed.	
	AW3.1.2 A strategy shall be in place for the provision of shelter in the event of emergency situations caused by extreme weather events.	
AW3.2	Handling and housing systems (including shearing sheds) shall be designed, constructed and maintained so as to minimize stress and the likelihood of injury to the sheep during handling.	NC-3
	AW3.2.1 Buildings shall be structurally sound.	
	AW3.2.2 Infrastructure shall be free of sharp protrusions, faults and flaws that could cause injury.	
	AW3.2.3 Flooring in holding pens shall have good traction.	
	AW3.2.4 Infrastructure shall inspected and maintained regularly.	
AW3.3	All fencing shall be appropriate, and shall be regularly inspected and maintained.	NC-3

### Housing Requirements

*Applicable only to sheep that are housed during cold weather seasons.*



AW3.4	Housed sheep shall have pens that provide sufficient freedom of movement and floor space to lie in a normal resting posture.	NC-3
	AW3.4.1 Housing space required shall take into account the age, size and class of sheep and environment.	
AW3.5	Housed sheep shall have access to a dry bedding area sufficient to avoid discomfort.	NC-2
	AW3.5.1 Sheep housed on solid concrete floor shall be given sufficient bedding.	
	AW3.5.2 Buildings shall be constructed to provide drainage.	
	AW3.5.3 Bedding from timber-based products sourced from chemically treated wood is prohibited.	
AW3.6	Housed sheep shall have access to a lit area for the normal period of daylight hours.	NC-3
AW3.7	Housing shall be well ventilated, and kept in a sanitary condition.	NC-3



## AW4 Health



### Desired outcome:

The farmer demonstrates a good understanding and a proactive approach to ensure that the health of the sheep is maintained through all stages of life. Sheep are free from pain, injury or disease through prevention, rapid diagnosis, and treatment.

Nr.	Requirement	Level
AW4.1	The producer shall have a management plan for flock health and animal welfare.	NC-1
	AW4.1.1 The plan shall be reviewed at least annually.	
	AW4.1.2 The farm shall keep sufficient records to allow assessment against the management plan.	
AW4.2	The farm shall conduct routine welfare inspections and monitor for signs of disease or production disorders.	NC-1
	AW4.2.1 The frequency of inspections shall be increased as required during, for example, extreme weather events, lambing times, flystrike etc.	
	<b>Manual Guidance:</b> Sheep should be inspected frequently enough to avoid unnecessary suffering. The frequency of inspections should be appropriate to the scale and type of farming system. For example, a large farm of 20,000 acres it is not expected that sheep will be inspected as frequently as on a small scale farm.	
AW4.3	Mortality records shall be kept.	
	AW4.3.1 If mortality rates fall outside expected levels, actions shall be taken and the problem resolved.	NC-3
	AW4.3.2 Unexpected deaths and disease outbreaks shall be investigated and remedial and preventive actions shall be taken.	



AW4.4	Measures shall be taken to prevent or control external and internal parasite infestations such as fly strike, ticks, lice, gastro-intestinal worms and scab.	NC-2
	AW4.4.1 Advice shall be sought as needed from a veterinarian or specialist advisor on prevention, treatment, and strategies to avoid the development of resistant parasites.	
	AW4.4.2 When infestations are likely or are found to occur, sheep shall be treated to control the parasites.	
	AW4.4.3 Internal parasites shall be controlled through grazing management and treatment administered at appropriate times to lifecycle of parasites.	
AW4.5	Action shall be taken promptly to treat lameness and to remove any causes of lameness.	NC-2
	AW4.5.1 Flocks shall be monitored for lame sheep on a regular basis.	
	AW4.5.2 Stockpeople shall be able to recognize lameness, assess severity and take prompt action to resolve the lameness as quickly as possible.	
AW4.6	Sheep that are found suffering from serious health problems shall be treated promptly.	NC-1
	AW4.6.1 Responsible personnel shall identify and treat sick and/or injured animals and obtain veterinary advice when needed.	
	AW4.6.2 Sheep that cannot move on their own may only be moved using a humane conveyance method, such as a truck, sled, or cart.	
	AW4.6.3 Animals who will not recover should be promptly and humanely euthanized.	
AW4.7	Any treatments for the health of the sheep shall be appropriately administered.	NC-2
AW4.8	Good hygiene practices shall be followed in relation to facilities, personnel, handling and instruments.	NC-2

## Animal Husbandry Procedures



AW4.9	The decision to carry out injurious husbandry procedures, including tail docking and castration, shall be based on a welfare risk/benefit analysis rather than as a routine.	NC-2
	The risk/benefit analysis shall include:	
	AW4.9.1 The methods used and steps taken to minimize suffering	
	AW4.9.2 Regular review of whether the procedures remain necessary, the procedures, pain management protocols used.	
	AW4.9.3 Pain management options shall be discussed with a veterinary surgeon and options shall be reviewed regularly.	
AW4.10	Animal husbandry procedures shall be performed or supervised by a competent stockperson, using well maintained equipment designed specifically for the purpose.	NC-1
	AW4.10.1 Farm shall have written and/or visual standard operating procedures on how animal husbandry procedures are to be carried out.	
AW4.11	Tail docking shall only be carried out if failure to do so would lead to welfare problems.	NC-1
	AW4.11.1 For all methods, pain relief shall be applied when suitable pain relief is available.	
	AW4.11.2 The procedure shall be performed using either thermocautery (preferred method) or the application of a rubber ring.	
	AW4.11.3 The procedure shall be carried out between the ages of 24 hours and 8 weeks.	
	AW4.11.4 Docked tails shall cover the vulva in ewes and the equivalent length in rams.	
	AW4.11.5 Farmers shall monitor for signs of post-operative complications and take appropriate corrective actions.	
	AW4.11.6 Lambs shall not be tail docked until the ewe/lamb bond has become established.	





Manual Guidance:

The average taildocking age of the flock can be calculated by reviewing the spread of lambing dates and the date of taildocking. In an extensive pasture lambing system where there is a spread of ages of lambs, the age can be based on the average across the lambs in the flock.

- |          |   |      |
|----------|---|------|
| AW4.12   | Castration shall only be carried out on males that are being kept beyond puberty.   | NC-1 |
| AW4.12.1 | For all methods, pain relief shall be applied when suitable pain relief is available.   |      |
| AW4.12.2 | The procedure shall be performed using either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Application of a rubber ring</li> <li>b) Emasculator</li> <li>c) Shortening of scrotum</li> <li>d) Surgical. Pain relief is mandatory</li> </ul> |      |
| AW4.12.3 | The procedure shall be carried out between the ages of 24 hours and 8 weeks.  |      |
| AW4.12.4 | Producers shall monitor for signs of post-operative complications and take appropriate corrective actions.  |      |
| AW4.12.5 | Lambs shall not be castrated until the ewe/lamb bond has become established.  |      |

Manual Guidance:

The average castration age of the flock can be calculated by reviewing the spread of lambing dates and the date of castration.

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|----------|--|------|
| AW4.13   | Any sheep marking for identification shall be in accordance with current legislation and best practices. | NC-2 |
| AW4.13.1 | Tagging is a permitted method of identification.   |      |
| AW4.13.2 | Hotbranding and hornbranding are prohibited.   |      |
| AW4.13.2 | Earmarking (notching) and tattooing are allowed only if it is a legal requirement.                       |      |



AW4.14 Dehorning, disbudding and substantial horn trimming is prohibited unless needed to address animal welfare. NC-1

AW4.14.1 Horned sheep shall be inspected regularly to ensure the tip or other parts of the horn is not in contact with face.

AW4.14.2 Minor horn trimming (removal of tips) shall be performed by a competent stockperson.

AW4.14.3 Substantial horn trimming shall be performed by a veterinarian using anesthesia.

AW4.15 Mulesing is prohibited. NC-1

AW4.15.1 Farms with Ceased Mulesing status are accepted.

**Manual Guidance:**

A derogation may be granted for bringing mulesed sheep on to the farm in an emergency situation. The wool must be segregated and may not be sold as RWS certified.

## Shearing

AW4.16 Shearing shall be performed by - or under the direct supervision of - a competent shearer, using techniques and equipment designed to minimize animal stress and injury. NC-1

AW4.16.1 Sheep should be handled calmly and confidently to minimize stress.

AW4.16.2 Particular care shall be taken not to cut or injure the animal, especially the teats/udders of female sheep and the penis/sheath and scrotum of rams.

AW4.16.3 An action plan shall be instituted to address and prevent any recurring problems with injuries or mishandling.

AW4.16.4 Shearers shall sign the "RWS Contractors' Declaration" (see *RWS Farmer Guidebook*).

AW4.16.5 Written and/or visual "Shearing Standard Operating Procedures" (see *RWS Farmer Guidebook*) shall be posted in a visible location of the shearing shed.




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AW4.17 All shearing related injuries shall be attended to promptly. NC-2

AW4.17.1 In the event on a severe cut or injury the shearer shall cease shearing immediately to treat the injury.

AW4.17.2 Pain relief shall be applied for serious injuries when suitable pain relief is available.

AW4.17.3 Records of serious injuries shall be kept.

**Manual Guidance:**

The following are considered serious injuries: Open wounds that are greater than 10 cm or at a depth that reaches the muscle layer, the removal of teats in ewes, damage to the prepuce and removal of the tip of the vulva.

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## Euthanasia and On-Farm Slaughter

AW4.18 Sheep shall be euthanized without delay if they are experiencing severe pain or illness and do not have a reasonable expectation of improvement. NC-1

AW4.18.1 All workers shall have clear set of criteria to recognize when an animal needs to be euthanized, and be instructed to act accordingly.

AW4.18.2 The euthanasia shall be done using a method that is quick, causes minimal stress and pain, and results in a rapid loss of consciousness followed by death without the animal regaining consciousness.

AW4.18.3 Except in situations of emergency euthanasia, stunning prior to killing is required. Stunning may only be skipped in cases where the animal is in severe pain and finding access to tools for stunning would prolong the suffering.



AW4.19	When an animal is slaughtered on-farm, it shall be done using a method that is quick, causes minimal stress and pain, and results in a rapid loss of consciousness followed by death without the animal regaining consciousness.	NC-1
AW4.19.1	Slaughter shall be carried out by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) a trained, competent worker</li> <li>b) a licensed slaughterman</li> <li>c) a veterinary surgeon.</li> </ul>	
AW4.19.2	Acceptable methods of slaughter for sheep include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Firearm</li> <li>b) Penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolt guns. Use of the captive bolt gun shall be immediately followed by a secondary method to ensure death (such as exsanguination or pithing).</li> </ul>	
AW4.19.3	The spinal cord shall not be severed or broken in any animal until after confirmation of death.	
AW4.19.4	Death shall be confirmed through observation of pupils, heart beat and lack of respiration prior to disposal or further processing.	
AW4.19.5	Sheep shall be slaughtered away from the view of other animals except in unavoidable cases.	

## Breeding, Pregnancy and Lambing

AW4.20	Breeding strategy shall address welfare traits and suitability for the type of environment in which the sheep are raised.	NC-2
AW4.21	Artificial breeding procedures shall be carried out by competent operators.	NC-1
AW4.21.1	Cervical artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis shall only be carried out by persons trained and competent with the techniques.	
AW4.21.2	Electoroejaculation is prohibited.	
AW4.21.3	Laparoscopic artificial insemination shall be carried out only by veterinarians or by trained and competent operators under veterinarian supervision. Appropriate pain relief shall be used.	



AW4.22	Lambing shall be supervised and timely action taken while keeping disturbances to a minimum. In extensive systems, where animals are unaccustomed to daily supervision, breeds or strains suited to easy births and good maternal care should be used.	NC-2
AW4.22.1	All workers shall be able to recognize the signs of lambing difficulty and know when and how to provide appropriate assistance and when to seek assistance from an experienced producer or veterinarian.	
AW4.22.2	Any ewe with a prolapse shall be treated immediately using an appropriate technique and, where necessary, veterinary advice shall be sought.	
AW4.22.3	Embryotomy shall only be performed on dead lambs by a skilled person or veterinarian.	
AW4.23	The lambing period shall be planned to coincide with local climatic conditions favorable to good welfare and survival.	NC-2
AW4.24	Practices and procedures for lamb feeding and provisions for fostering shall be planned prior to the start of lambing.	NC-2
AW4.24.1	Artificially reared lambs shall receive a sufficient amount of colostrum after birth to ensure their welfare.	
AW4.24.2	Close restraints of ewes for the purpose of lamb fostering is allowed only when other methods are not possible.	



## AW5 Behavior and Handling



### Desired outcome:

Good human-animal relationships are in place that allow the sheep to be in a positive emotional state and express natural behavior.

Nr.	Requirement	Level
AW5.1	Care shall be taken when introducing rams to a new group; sheep shall be monitored for signs of aggression.	NC-2
AW5.2	Isolation of individual sheep shall be minimized.	NC-2
AW5.2.1	In case individual isolation cannot be avoided, the confined sheep shall be given a companion or be able to maintain visual contact with other sheep. Exception to contact with neighboring sheep may be made for quarantine purposes.	
AW5.3	Animals shall be handled humanely; mistreatment of animals is unacceptable.	NC-1
AW5.3.1	Mistreatment includes rough physical contact such as kicking, striking, slamming gates on the sheep, tripping, throwing or dropping animals, dragging or pulling sheep by the fleece, tail, ears, head, or neck, or dragging by the back legs.	
AW5.3.2	Extra care shall be taken when handling sheep with special needs, such as young lambs, heavily pregnant ewes, lame sheep and rams. Heavily pregnant ewes shall only be handled when absolutely necessary.	
AW5.3.3	Electric prodders shall not be used.	
AW5.4	Long term close confinement in crates or tethering is prohibited.	NC-1
AW5.4.1	Tethering or use of crates shall only be used for a minimum time to address a special need such as the provision of medical care.	



AW5.5	<p>Sheep moved on foot shall not be forced to proceed at a pace that will cause exhaustion, heat stress or injury.</p> <p>AW5.5.1 Sheep shall be driven in a calm manner at a relaxed pace, natural to that animal, and not faster than the pace of the slowest animal.</p> <p>AW5.5.2 Sick, injured, disabled, severely lame or heavily pregnant animals shall be moved only when necessary and at a pace to suit their condition.</p>	NC-1
AW5.6	<p>In situations where the farm is responsible for or in control of transport of sheep, the requirements in the RWS Transport Guidance or regional legal requirements shall be met.</p> <p>AW5.6.1 If the legislation does not cover all points in the RWS Transport Guidance, the RWS Transport Guidance shall be applied.</p>	NC-1
AW5.7	<p>The farmer shall keep records of injury and death rates associated with all transport of their sheep, and take actions to address high rates.</p>	NC-3
AW5.8	<p>Stockperson shall have good command of dogs and be in control when working sheep.</p> <p>AW5.8.1 A dog that habitually bites sheep shall be muzzled while working sheep.</p> <p>AW5.8.2 Dogs shall not be allowed to force the sheep to move too quickly nor to continue to force the sheep when they have nowhere to go.</p>	NC-2
AW5.9	<p>All other animals kept on the farm shall be treated humanely.</p> <p>AW5.9.1 Continuous confinement of any animal on the farm is prohibited. Animals shall receive nutrition, care, handling and veterinary attention as required for their health, safety and comfort.</p>	NC-2



# C. Land Management Requirements







## LM1 Soil



### Desired outcome:

Farmers have an understanding of what will impact the health of their soil, and have a strategy to mitigate damage and improve soil health.

LC	Nr.	Requirement	Level
All	LM1.1	Land shall not be degraded by overgrazing and/or other management techniques.	MAJ
	LM1.1.1	Soil and land health including forage resources, soil erosion, compaction, organic matter and any other areas of risk relevant to the farm, shall be addressed through actions and in a written management plan.	
All	LM1.2	Soil compaction shall be monitored and managed.	MAJ
	LM1.2.1	Steps shall be taken to prevent or minimize soil compaction and to restore damaged areas.	
All	LM1.3	Soil erosion shall be monitored and managed.	MAJ
	LM1.3.1	Steps shall be taken to prevent or minimize soil erosion and to restore damaged areas.	
All	LM1.4	Soil organic matter shall be monitored and managed.	MIN
	LM1.4.1	Steps shall be taken to prevent or minimize loss of soil organic matter and to restore damaged areas.	
All	LM1.5	The farmer shall monitor key indicators of land health.	MIN
	LM1.5.1	Monitoring sites shall be set for pasture composition and soil degradation. The number and distribution of the monitoring sites shall conform to the RWS Monitoring Guidance document.	
All	LM1.6	Hazardous materials shall not be disposed of on the farmland unless specifically allowed by law and it is safe to use the affected land for grazing.	MAJ



## LM2 Biodiversity



### Desired outcome:

Farmers have an understanding of what will impact of the biodiversity of their land, and have a strategy to protect and improve it over time.

LC	Nr.	Requirement	Level
All	LM2.1	Sensitive and high conservation value areas and wildlife species on the property shall be monitored and managed.	MAJ
	LM2.1.1	There shall be no grazing of sensitive areas in times of the year when it could have a negative impact on the ecosystem or on wildlife species.	
All	LM2.2	Forage resources shall be monitored and managed.	MIN
	LM2.2.1	Steps shall be taken to prevent or minimize degradation of forage resources, especially native range and perennial cover, and to restore degraded areas.	
All	LM2.3	The farmer shall monitor and manage the infestation of unwanted exotic or invasive plants.	MIN
All	LM2.4	Farmer shall monitor the population of predators and wildlife (birds, mammals, or reptiles) on the farm and apply livestock husbandry practices that maintain biodiversity.	MIN
All	LM2.5	Lethal control shall be minimized and done humanely.	MAJ
	LM2.5.1	Lethal control shall target the specific, individual animals(s) that is/are creating the conflict.	
	LM2.5.2	Lethal control of any animal shall result in instantaneous unconsciousness and death.	
	LM2.5.3	Use of poison for lethal control is prohibited.	
All	LM2.6	Deforestation for conversion to agricultural land is prohibited.	MAJ
All	LM2.7	Hunting, fishing or gathering of rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species is prohibited.	MAJ



## LM3 Fertilizers



### Desired outcome:

Farmers use the minimum amount of inputs to meet the nutritional needs of their land to maintain their carrying capacity.

LC	Nr.	Requirement	Level
1-3	LM3.1	There shall be a fertilizer management strategy that is reviewed annually.	MAJ
	LM3.1.1	The strategy shall include calculations of likely crop requirements, taking account of available nutrients in soil, organic manures, composts and crop residues is in place and be based on the principles of efficiency and reduction of use.	
1-3	LM3.2	The farmer shall test and record soil nutrient levels, at intervals relevant to maintaining a healthy vibrant soil.	MIN
1-3	LM3.3	Fertilizers applied shall be appropriate and as specific to the situation as possible with minimal side effects.	MIN
	LM3.2.1	Manures and fertilizers that can have a negative effect on soil microbial life and/or which contain heavy metals should not be used.	
1-3	LM3.4	Application methods and equipment that minimize waste and pollution shall be adopted.	MIN
	LM3.4.1	Application equipment shall be kept in good working order, cleaned after use, and regularly calibrated.	



## LM4 Pesticides



### Desired outcome:

Farmers use the minimum amount of pesticides to achieve adequate control of pest burden on their farm.

The Pesticides requirements apply to:

- Land classes 1-3
- and the use of pesticides on animals.

LC	Nr.	Requirement	Level
1-3	LM4.1	There shall be an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan or strategy that is reviewed annually.	MAJ
	LM4.1.1	The IPM plan or strategy shall be based on the principles of prevention, observation, monitoring and intervention. The plan shall include the recommended thresholds or triggers to use pesticides where these are available.	
1-3	LM4.2	Farmers shall have a monitoring program for crop, pasture and for parasites.	MIN
	LM4.2.1	Decisions to use pesticides shall be based on monitoring and thresholds.	
1-3	LM4.3	Biological, physical and cultural control methods shall be used over chemical methods if they provide satisfactory control.	MIN
1-3	LM4.4	Pesticides applied shall be appropriate and as specific to the situation as possible with minimal side effects.	MIN
1-3	LM4.5	Farmers shall use the minimum amount of pesticides to achieve adequate control of pest burden on their farm.	MIN
	LM4.5.1	Prophylactic use of pesticides is prohibited.	



1-3	LM4.6	Measures shall be in place to limit the impact of pesticide use.	MIN
	LM4.6.1	Farmers shall take care to avoid damage to beneficial organisms.	
	LM4.6.2	Risks from pesticide application for human and animal health or the environment shall be minimized.	
	LM4.6.3	Systems shall be in place to ensure that pesticides reach all targeted areas and to minimize losses to non-target areas or the atmosphere.	
1-3	LM4.7	Actions shall be taken to avoid pesticide resistance.	MIN
1-3	LM4.8	Application records shall be kept for all pesticides that have been used.	MIN



# D. Farm Group Certification







## Introduction

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Farmers may be certified to the Responsible Wool Standard as part of a group rather than individually.

## D1. Relevant Definitions

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### **Farm Group**

A group of farmers that has similar farming practices, is located within the same geographical region, and is managed by an Internal Control System. Farmer groups can be cooperatives, associations, or similar organizations. The Farm Group can be self-organized and run by members, or organized by a separate entity such as a trader or broker.

### **Internal Control System (ICS)**

The system used by a Farm Group to provide oversight of the group's activities and conformance with the requirements of the standard.

### **ICS Manager**

The ICS manager (or management group) is responsible for the implementation of the ICS.

## D2. Farm Group Certification and Auditing

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### **D2.1 Application**

Farm Groups shall apply with an approved Certification Body. As part of the application for RWS Farm Group Certification, the ICS manager shall be required to show proof of an established and fully operational ICS prior to the first audit.

### **D2.2 Scope Certificates and Transaction Certificates**

The Farm Group shall be considered as a single certified Organization and will receive a single Scope Certificate.

Individual farms in the group may not use the certification independently (i.e. they cannot sell wool as RWS certified). The ICS Manager may not necessarily own the goods,





but a TC may still be issued – with the Farm Group named as the seller – on behalf of the group. See *TE Policy and Template for Issuing Transaction Certificates (TCs)*.

## D2.3 Farm Group Audits

### D2.3.1 Farm Group ICS Audit

The Certification Body shall verify the effectiveness and practices of the Farm Group ICS through an annual On-Site Audit including the following:

- a. Reviewing the ICS management, its effective application, and compliance with the RWS requirements.
- b. Assessing the documentation of the ICS.
- c. Conducting visits to a sample number of farm group members, as described below.

### D2.3.2 Farm Group Member Audit

In addition to the Audit of the ICS during the On-Site Audit of a Farm Group, the Certification Body shall also carry out annual On-Site Audits of Farm Group members.

The Certification Body shall conduct an assessment to determine the total number of and which farmers that shall be inspected. On-Site Audits of a minimum of the square root (rounded up) of the number of group members shall be performed. Additional Farm Group members may be selected for inspection based on the risk assessment conducted by the CB. This defined procedure shall be submitted to Textile Exchange. This decision shall be based on the following risk factors:

- a. The number and size of operations associated with the Farm Group;
- b. The degree of uniformity of the farms and the type of farming practices in place;
- c. The Group's familiarity with the RWS requirements;
- d. The effectiveness of the Group's ICS;
- e. Previous inspection findings and certification conditions;
- f. Third party information (if available); and
- g. Local legislation and level of legal enforcement.



## D3. Farm Group Requirements

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- D3.1 Farm Group applying for RWS Certification shall meet the following requirements:
- a. All member farms shall adhere to the requirements of the RWS.
  - b. Be administered by a manager or management group that is responsible for implementing the ICS.
  - c. Farming practices shall be consistent across group members.
  - d. Parallel production of certified and non-certified wool is not allowed.
  - e. Farm group members shall be provided with training regarding the RWS to ensure that all members understand the standard requirements and how they apply to their farms.
  - f. All farms shall have available the resources and skills necessary to meet the requirements in the standard.
  - g. Procedures shall be established for accepting new members, ensuring that acceptance happens only after internal inspections and training.

## D4. Internal Control System Requirements

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- D4.1 In order to qualify for Farm Group certification, the Certified Organization shall establish an Internal Control System. The ICS shall meet the following guidelines:
- a. A documented management structure shall be in place for the ICS.
  - b. All Farm Group members shall have access to a copy of the RWS.
  - c. All Farm Group members shall be able to demonstrate an understanding the relevant requirements of the standard and be aware of consequences of Non-Compliance and sanctions.
  - d. Internal inspections of all group members shall be carried out by the ICS manager or representative at least annually.
  - e. Appropriate system is in place to address Non-Compliances found on member farms.
  - f. Systems shall be in place to enforce corrective action for cases of RWS Non-Compliance.
  - g. Systems shall be in place for addressing conflicts of interest.
  - h. Records shall be kept and maintained of the following:



1. Complete list of farm group members, with a copy of completed Internal Audit Checklist (to ensure conformance with RWS) for each one.
2. Responses to RWS Farm Questions for each group member (to be submitted to the Certification Body at the time of the audit).
3. Signed membership agreements with each participating farm, specifying rights and obligations of group members to comply with the standard and permit inspections by the ICS inspectors as well as audits by the Certification Body.
4. ICS administrative procedures including:
  - i. Copies of the forms used for internal control;
  - ii. Records of violations and sanctions;
  - iii. Records of removal of members of the Producer Group;
  - iv. Procedures for appeal;
  - v. Records of Farm Group member training on the RWS; and
  - vi. Records of all ICS inspection results.