



Recycled Claim Standard & Global Recycled Standard

International Working Group Charter

RECYCLED CLAIM STANDARD (RCS)

Purpose

The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials.

The objectives of the RCS are to:

- Alignment of recycled definitions across multiple applications.
- Track and trace recycled input materials.
- Provide consumers (both brands and end consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions.
- Provide assurance that materials are actually recycled and in a final product.

Scope

The Recycled Claim Standard is intended for use with any product (non-food) that contains at least 5% recycled material. Each stage of production is required to be certified, beginning at the recycling stage and ending at the last seller in the final business-to-business transaction. Material collection and material concentration sites are subject to self-declaration, document collection, and on-site visits.

Additional information on the scope of the RCS may be found in the RCS Terms of Reference. All information in the Terms of Reference is subject to change at the discretion of the International Working Group.

GLOBAL RECYCLED STANDARD (GRS)

Purpose

The goal of the GRS is to increase use of recycled materials in products and reduce/eliminate the harm caused by its production.

The objectives of the GRS are:

- Alignment of definitions across multiple applications.
- Track and trace recycled input materials.
- Provide customers (both brands and consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions.
- Reduce harmful impact of production to people and the environment.
- Provide assurance that materials in the final product are actually recycled and processed



more sustainably.

- Drive innovation in addressing quality issues in the use of recycled materials.

Scope

The Global Recycled Standard is intended for use with any product (non-food) that contains at least 20% recycled material. Each stage of production is required to be certified, beginning at the recycling stage and ending at the last seller in the final business-to-business transaction. Material collection and material concentration sites are subject to self-declaration, document collection, and on-site visits.

Additional information on the scope of the RCS may be found in the RCS Terms of Reference. All information in the Terms of Reference is subject to change at the discretion of the International Working Group.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (IWG)

The revision will be run by the RCS/GRS International Working Group. Full details of the roles and responsibilities for all participants can be found in the TE Standard Setting Principles and Procedures document.

IWG Member Commitments

IWG members agree that the purpose of the RCS is to be a change agent in the area of recycling, and that in order to have the greatest impact we must have meaningful, effective requirements and wide-scale adoption.

This stakeholder group will aim to reflect the various parts of industry. Participation in this group is voluntary, and open to all who are interested. Every effort will be made to be sure that all parts of the supply chain and any parties that might be affected by the standard are included.

IWG members commit to:

- Work openly and collaboratively to make the RCS and GRS the best possible standards.
- Treat any information that is shared with respect: not to use this information in any way that could result in any harm or cost to the participants of the group.
- Support industry alignment in order to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of certification.
- Commit to promote the RCS and GRS as the industry solutions for recycled material use.

Structure

The IWG will consist of three groups that will have different levels of involvement with the standard:

Technical Working Group: This group will be actively involved in research and writing of the standard (for the purpose of this revision, TE will fill the role of the Technical Working Group).

Steering Committee: The Steering Committee will provide guidance on the development of the standard, and will participate in key decision-making.

**Together, the Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups will have “ownership” of the development of the standard. This means that there is a high level of responsibility for*



all members of these groups, and strong engagement will be required so that decisions are made effectively.

Advisory Committee: This group will advise on specific issues of knowledge related to their position in industry or society. They will be sent regular updates on the progress of the standard, and will be able to comment at any time, but will only be asked for direct participation on specific issues.

Roles and Responsibilities

Technical Working Group (Textile Exchange)

- Ensure the process complies with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice
- Coordinate the activities of the RCS and GRS IWG: setting phone calls, keeping records, publicizing updates, and engaging with the broader stakeholder group.
- Engage in the revision of the RCS and GRS, research and writing
- Manage stakeholder outreach and engagement
- Conduct field research as needed, with support of certification bodies
- Maintain ownership of the final standard; responsible for the final release, administration and promotion of the standard.

Steering Committee

- Read relevant materials in advance of each call
- Actively participate in the majority of the IWG calls, or nominate a colleague as a temporary replacement or to bring in expertise on a specific area
 - Any Steering Committee members who are not actively participating (or arranging substitutes from their organization) in at least 50% of the calls will be asked to transfer out of the Steering Committee, so that a more active participant can take their place.
 - The 50% participation may also include submissions of feedback, comments via email, or separate phone calls.
- Vote on key decisions related to the development of the RCS and GRS, as needed
- Provide guidance on:
 - Justification of the need for the standard
 - Mapping of other standards and initiatives
 - Purpose of the standard and market needs
 - Scope of the standard
 - Definition of steps in standard revision, timelines, timeframe for external contribution, and expected timeframe for completion
 - Identification of consultation and stakeholder groups
 - Equivalency acceptance and recognition of other standards
 - Give input into key sections of the standard as needed

Advisory Group

- Read relevant materials in advance of each call
- Actively participate in the majority of the IWG calls, or nominate a colleague as a temporary replacement or to bring in expertise on a specific area
- Provide guidance on:
 - Terms of Reference



- Mapping of other standards and initiatives
- Identification of consultation and stakeholder groups
- Equivalency acceptance and recognition of other standards
- Give input into key sections of the standard as needed

Decision Making

The standard-setting process shall strive for consensus among all core members (Technical Working Group and Steering Committee) of the IWG. In the event that consensus is not possible, the following will happen:

- The member(s) who disagree from the majority shall present alternative solutions for consideration
- If a compromise cannot be reached within the group, input from the wider stakeholder group will be invited; after consideration of this feedback, the IWG will attempt to form a consensus, or move to a simple majority vote

Further details can be found in TE Standard Setting and Revision Procedures:

www.TextileExchange.org/Integrity.

Public Engagement

In order to ensure that the RCS and GRS are practical standards, and fulfill the expectations of all stakeholders, we will have at least one period of open review by the public. This group will not be actively involved in the writing and editing of the standard, but will be asked to give formal feedback on the draft versions of the standard that are released.

Transparency

The revision of the RCS and GRS will be an open and transparent process, with input from the public accepted at any point. The drafts of the standards will be posted on a public website (<http://revision.globalrecycled.org>), as well as progress updates and meeting notes. As different sections of the standard are addressed, input will be solicited from the IWG Advisory Committee, as well as through outreach to the broader industry through TE newsletter and website updates.

As a member of the RCS and GRS International Working Group, I, _____, have read and understand the RCS and GRS IWG Charter and agree to the terms therein.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED

Name _____ Date _____

Company _____

Signature _____