



Quick Guide to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)

The [Responsible Mohair Standard \(RMS\)](#) is an industry tool designed to recognize the best practices of farmers, ensuring that mohair comes from farms with a progressive approach to managing their land, and from goats that have been treated responsibly.

As an independent, voluntary standard, companies can choose to become certified to the RMS. On farms, the certification ensures that goats are treated with respect to their Five Provisions¹ and also ensures best practices in the management and protection of the land.

Objectives

- Ensure that mohair does not come from animals that have been subjected to any unnecessary harm.
- Reward and influence the mohair industry for strong animal welfare, land management, and social welfare practices.
- Provide robust chain of custody from farm to final product.
- Create an industry benchmark to drive improvements in animal care, land management, and social welfare where needed.

Key Points in the RMS

Protecting Animal Welfare

A holistic approach to animal welfare based around the Five Provisions.

Preserving Land Health

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

Protecting Social Welfare

Social welfare, working conditions, and health and safety of workers is addressed.

Credible Certification

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

Chain of Custody

Certification ensures that the identity of the RMS mohair is maintained at all times: from the farm to the final product. Only products with 100% certified mohair may carry the RMS logo.

Stakeholder Engagement

The RMS was developed with the input of farmers, animal welfare experts, land conservation experts, brands and retailers from all parts of the globe.

Adoption of the RMS

The majority of the world's mohair is produced in South Africa. The industry has made a strong commitment to the Responsible Mohair Standard and we expect to see certified mohair in the supply chain very soon.

Brands from across a number of sectors and geographies have made commitments and targets to source RMS-certified mohair.



¹ The Five Provisions are internationally recognized standards for the protection of animal welfare, consisting of: 1. Good Nutrition; 2. Good Environment; 3. Good Health; 4. Appropriate Behavior; 5. Positive Mental Experiences. (Source: Farm Animal Welfare Council)





Getting Started

The RMS requires all sites to be certified, beginning with the mohair farmers and through to the seller in the final business-to-business transaction. Usually, the last stage to be certified is the garment manufacturer or the brand; retailers (business-to-consumers) are not required to be certified.

Farm Scope

Farms are certified to the Animal Welfare, Land Management, and Social Welfare Modules of the RMS.

Processing Scope

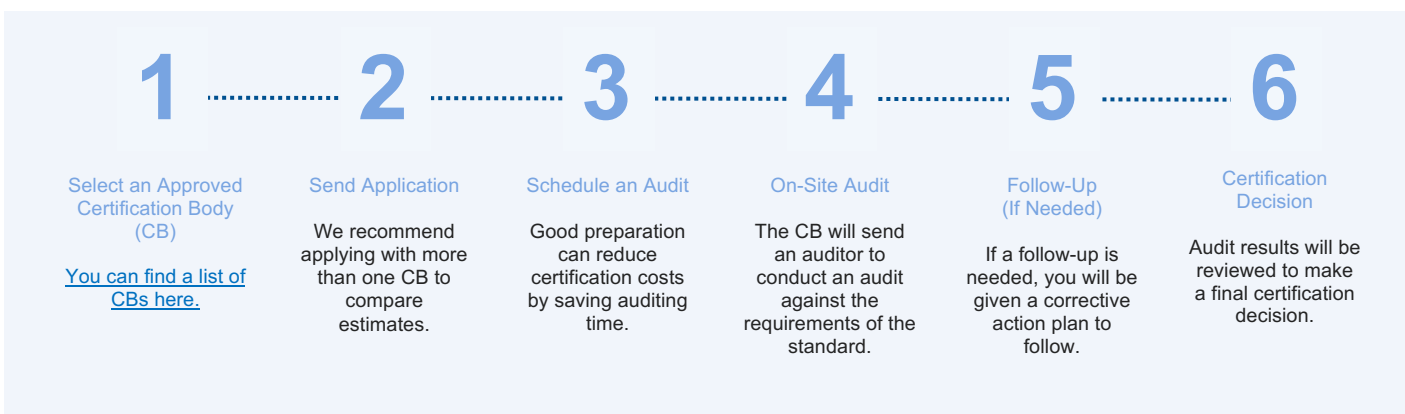
Subsequent stages of the supply chain are certified to the [Content Claim Standard \(CCS\)](#) requirements up to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction. Facilities are certified to the standard, and only shipments of goods accompanied by a [transaction certificate \(TC\)](#) are considered certified.

Communicating Claims

- Before labeling products, make sure to follow all requirements in the [RMS Logo Use and Claims Guide](#).
- All claims must be approved by an authorized certification body.

How to Get Certified

As of March 2020, sites that are already certified to the RWS may add RMS without an on-site audit (remote audit only).



Background of the RMS

The Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) was developed through an open and transparent process led by [Textile Exchange](#) and a multi-stakeholder group which included representatives from across the industry and different sectors, including animal welfare groups, industry organizations, supply chain members, brands, and area experts. All policies and procedures are based on the [ISEAL Best Practices](#), which can be found on our website TextileExchange.org/Integrity.

Textile Exchange has been in existence since 2002 and plays a powerful role within the textile industry to support the understanding and use of sustainable materials and proper verification strategies. While Textile Exchange, has extensive experience in standards development and ownership, we do not engage in any certification activities: all of our focus is on supporting the quality and adoption of its standards.

The staff at Textile Exchange are very accessible, and always ready to provide support to brands or companies interested in the RMS.



Learn More or Get Involved

Contact ResponsibleWool@TextileExchange.org | Visit ResponsibleMohair.org

