

RDS Revision IWG Call | Thursday, June 26

RDS Structure:

Critical Major, Major, Minor, and Recommendations.

- Nothing critical to animal welfare will be in the minor or recommendation categories
- The Recommendations are to introduce items of interest, they may develop into requirements in the future.

Audits and Certifications:

- 4-eye principle – the inspector that visits the site is not ultimately responsible for the certification decision.
- Allied Feather and Down Lite have been issued certificates for RDS, and more audits are currently underway for the initial version of the standard.
- Brand and Supplier Toolkits are available online: <http://textileexchange.org/RDS>

Standard Development:

- Our standard development process comes from ISEAL, which is a great organization that builds best practices around standard setting.
- The TE Standard Setting and Revision Process is a public document that is available online. This will be the guiding document for our work on this standard. It's still currently in draft form until we get more reviews from external parties. Even in the draft form, we will follow this document.
- The TE Standard Development and Revision Participation Model
 - o Steering Committee expectations:
 - Key decision making group
 - Monthly calls, maybe a bit more or less frequently at times, depending on the process.
 - At least 50% participation in the calls; may nominate a replacement
 - o Technical Group expectations:
 - The work of the standard rewriting
 - Field research, standard revisions, research into best practices, writing and review of all standard requirements
 - TE: ensure the process follows ISEAL guidelines, administration of the group, etc.
 - o Advisory Group:
 - Available when a specific area of expertise is needed
 - Some may be called more than others
 - All calls will be open to the Advisory Group
 - If we have calls with too many people (resulting in too much or too little discussion), the calls may be limited to a smaller group
 - o Decision Making Process

- To be an industry standard, it really must represent the position of the industry, this is the role of the IWG.
- We will make every effort to maintain consensus

Terms of Reference

RDS Objectives:

- Other suggestions for objectives to the standard welcome

RDS Scope:

- (in reference to point #1) I have a comment about the first objective (to not exclude the inclusion of parent farms in the review process :)... would propose: does not source down from a supply chain where animals are live-plucked or force-fed...

RDS Needs Justification:

- There are many standards from brands that are really strong standards; but having an industry-wide standard is more useful for supply chains, third-party certifications are trustworthy, and accessible by a wide range of companies.

RDS Existing Initiatives:

- Please send any adjustments or corrections to these as they are presented.
- EDFA and RDS Discussions to closely compare the standards, and look into merging the standards if possible, up for discussion by the IWG.

RDS Risk Assessment:

- Calibration of certification bodies is really important; this strengthens the standards.