

The TE Responsible Down Standard

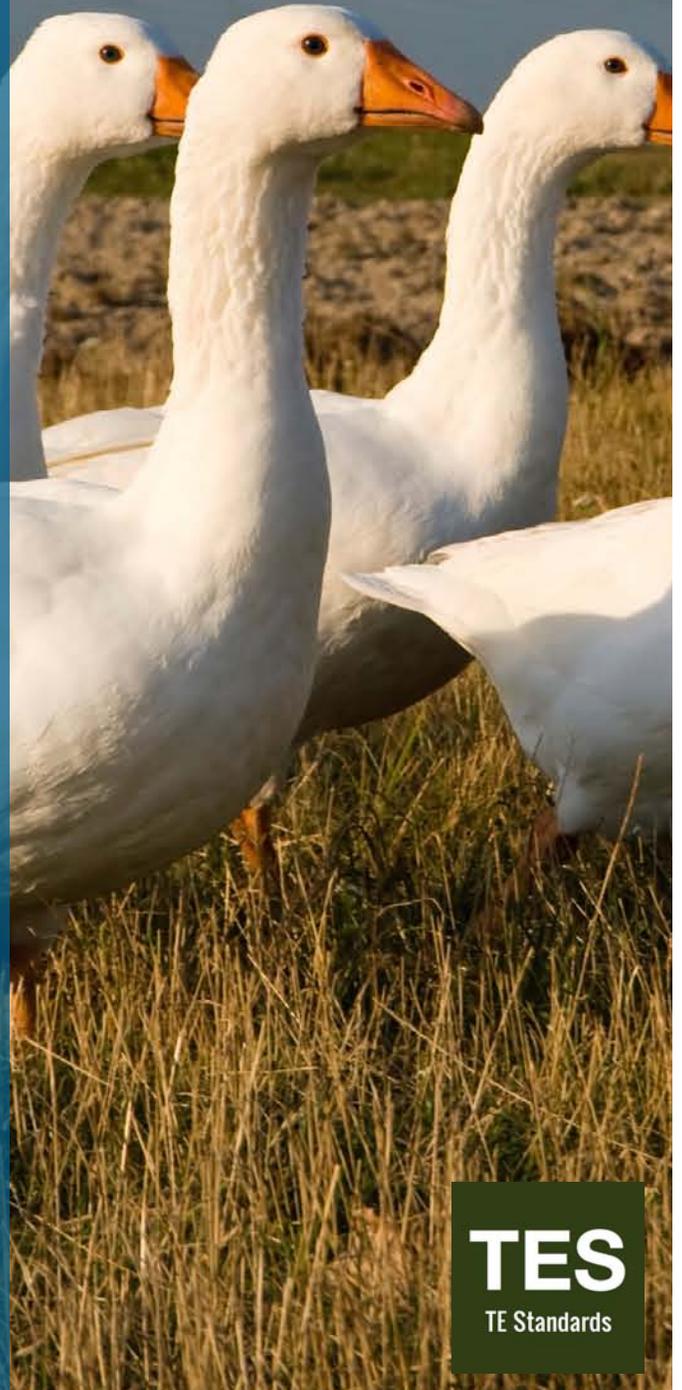
Source down you can be proud of



Down and feathers are sourced and processed from global supply chains, and retailers and consumers rarely know the origin of these materials or the conditions in which they were produced. This lack of transparency raises concerns about animal welfare issues affecting geese and ducks. To ensure the welfare of the waterfowl and to make accurate product claims, effective animal management requirements and a strong chain of custody are needed from the source of the down through to the final product.

The Responsible Down Standard (RDS) delivers independent, third-party assessment of all aspects of animal rearing and handling, as well as traceability from the source of the down through to the final product. The goal of the RDS is to provide confidence to retailers and consumers that their purchase is helping to protect and improve the welfare of the ducks and geese involved.

Developed over 15 months of intensive research, field visits and audits, the RDS is independently owned by Textile Exchange, and certified through professional third-party certification bodies. It reflects the input of animal welfare groups, supply chain members and brands, and is already proving to be a powerful tool in influencing industry practices around the globe.



TES
TE Standards

What does the RDS do?

- ✓ Prohibits force feeding
- ✓ Prohibits live plucking
- ✓ Ensures animal welfare
- ✓ Applies to both ducks and geese
- ✓ Provides chain of custody through the TE Content Claim Standard, from hatchling to final product
- ✓ Works for all types of supply chains around the globe
- ✓ Allow for accurate product claims
- ✓ Provides a logo to help consumers make the right choice



RDS "Rapid Review"

The RDS is currently undergoing a revision process to incorporate the additional information coming out of the certification audits, and to bring together a wider group of stakeholders to even better reflect the interests of the industry. This group includes representatives from other down standards and certifiers, down industry associations, outdoor industry associations, home and bedding companies, sustainable materials experts, and of course supply chain members.

For more information, please see textileexchange.org/RDS

Get Involved

Interested in sourcing RDS down or feathers?

- To find certified down contact Integrity@TextileExchange for suppliers that may be able to supply you with RDS down right away
- To begin certification of your own down supply chain, contact Gyorgyi Acs <gacs@controlunion.com>
- Visit www.textileexchange.org/RDS for information on roles, responsibilities and tips for an effective certification strategy
- To stay updated on the activities of the International Working Group as they review and revise the standard, as well as submit your own ideas, visit www.textileexchange.org/RDS

