Responsible Down Standard
International Working Group

January 10, 2018
Anti-Trust Guidelines

- Do not agree or discuss how each of the Participants will price their own goods or related products;
- Do not agree to allocate certain geographic markets (i.e., territories) or product markets (i.e., types of products) among each other;
- Do not discuss or agree to the cost or method of pricing products manufactured or sold by each other or otherwise direct each other’s business activities that are outside the scope of the IWG;
- Do not compare cost information that is confidential, such as labor cost, manufacturing costs or other variables affecting pricing;
- Do not agree among yourselves to not do business with certain vendors (potential “boycott”) or otherwise pressure other competitors or vendors to comply with certain pricing or cost policies;
- The IWG should not share with each other or discuss confidential, competitive information for individual Participants or any information that might affect the Participants’ own day to day business decisions related to cost, price or output of their own products. For example, this confidential competitive information may include: price lists or pricing plans, volume, rebate or refund programs, discount policies, credit policies, advertising credits or program allowances, slotting allowances, product cost variables or profit margins, customer lists or specific complaints, supplier contract terms, current or future marketing plans, bidding plans, purchasing plans, planning strategies, capital improvement plans, terms of sale or other contract terms, or competition in the sale or manufacture of competing products;
- The IWG should not facilitate agreements or coordination among Participants for the prices they charge for the products they manufacture or sell or other collusive conduct, including market allocation or refusals to deal with suppliers or customers, or organize boycotts against other manufacturers or retailers; and
- The IWG should not publish or share any information that would be suggestive or conclusory as to how any individual Participant should deal with individual contracting or other third party issues
- Participants may discuss or share non-confidential, publicly available information or data
Chatham House Rules

When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the **Chatham House Rule**, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.
Introduction

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SCOPE OF THE RDS
Geography
Certificate Holders

Certified Units by Region

- Europe
- North America
- Asia
Certified Farms

Asia: Around 2040 farms were certified to the RDS in 2016. In Asia there is a wide range of farm sizes.

Europe: Around 1040 farms certified to the RDS in 2016, on average smaller farms than in Asia. There are also several certified regions in Eastern Europe under the small farmer group module.
Geography

“The standard is intended for application in any region where ducks and geese are raised, as well as any region where down and feather materials may be collected. The standard shall not include any criteria that de facto excludes any region.”
Structure of the Standard
Theory of Change

INDUSTRY

BRANDS

RESPONSIBLE DOWN

Industry Engagement

Government Engagement

Best Practices

Financial support, influence, consumer engagement

Stories, metrics and KPIs, impacts

“Safe” supply

Demand

Engagement

Data, recognition, reduced risk
Pass/Fail
Continuous Improvement

Best Practices
Structure of the Standard

Currently:
• A pass/fail standard

Other options:
• A continuous improvement standard, with incentives to move toward best practice in a variety of areas.
• Use a risk assessment and use the results to adjust application of criteria and requirements.
Parent Farms

Graylag Gosling (Anser Anser) Resting Under Parent's Wing, Pusztaszer, Hungary
Parent Farms - optional

Current Scope: “hatchling to finished product”
• Parent farms to be audited when they are a source of down or feathers

Optional Parent Farm Certification:
• The optional Parent Farm Module includes milestones towards full inclusion of parent farms.
• Allows brands to communicate this to consumers.

Possible Additions
• Set milestones for including parent farms in future versions
• Set a mechanism to identify brands or companies certifying to the parent farms
• Applicable for industrial and small farm, collector-based channels.
Parent Farms – risk-based

• Introduce a set of indicators that identify supply chains where parent farm certification is recommended or required. These indicators may include:
  – Regions or species where live-plucking at the parent farm is more likely or most likely to occur.
  – Regions, species, or business models where it is possible to identify parent farms, and also possible to hold them accountable for audit results.
Parent Farms - required

• Auditing of industrial supply chains starts at the parent farm, whether or not the parent bird down is used in products. This certification may be communicated to the consumer in some form.
Animal Welfare

Holistic animal welfare - beyond prohibition of force-feeding and live plucking:
• Freedom from hunger or thirst
• Freedom from discomfort
• Freedom from pain, injury or disease
• Freedom to express (most) normal behavior
• Freedom from fear and distress
Social Responsibility
Social Responsibility

• Currently, there are no social criteria on the farms or processing stages of the RDS.
• Should social criteria be introduced on the farms?
• Should social criteria be introduced in manufacturing?
Environmental/Chemical

• Should environmental impacts on the farm be addressed by the Responsible Down Standard?
• Should environmental or chemical impacts in manufacturing be addressed by the Responsible Down Standard?
Reminders

- Participating Members: submit signed RDS IWG Charter
- Submit Feedback via the Feedback Form
- Review Work Plan, sign up for task groups
THANK YOU!