Introducing the Responsible Down Standard

Media Kit
What is the RDS?

• The RDS ensures that the down in a product does not come from birds that have been live-plucked or force-fed, and that their welfare has been protected from the time they were hatchlings to when they are slaughtered.

• Independent, professional certification bodies inspect each part of the supply chain: farms, collectors, slaughterhouses, down processors, sewing factories and distribution centers on an annual basis.

• Every time a product with RDS down changes ownership, a certificate (called a Transaction Certificate) is required, to track the material from the source to the final product.

• The RDS ensures that any final product (for example, a jacket or sleeping bag) that comes with an RDS certification claim was made with RDS down.
### PRINCIPLE 1: PROHIBITION OF FORCE-FEEDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nr.</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>GUIDANCE</th>
<th>LEVEL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F1.1</td>
<td>There shall be no force-feeding of geese to be sold under certification at the farm.</td>
<td>Force-feeding: Any form of feeding that forces the geese to eat more than it wants/needs. In particular, this refers to manual intervention using mechanical equipment (tubes) to increase the fat content of the liver for foie gras production.</td>
<td>CRITICAL MAJOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F1.2</td>
<td>The farm shall not source animals under certification which were force-fed and shall not outsource animals under certification for force-feeding.</td>
<td>Outsourcing: in certain countries there are farms (also called stations) where geese are kept only for the period of force-feeding. During this period geese are not owned by the force-feeding facility rather they are there only for the process of 'force feeding'. If certified geese get force-fed in any stage of their life, they automatically lose certification. Force-feeding of animals under certification may not happen on the farms, nor be outsourced to any other facility/location.</td>
<td>CRITICAL MAJOR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REQUIREMENT:
Exact description of what must be met or what is prohibited.

### GUIDANCE:
Additional information:
- WHAT is compliance?
- Exceptions
- Reference to definitions

### LEVEL:
- Critical Major
- Major
- Minor
- Recommendation
Scope of the RDS

1. From "hatchling to finished product"
- Global supply chain from hatchling through to final garment assembly: hatcheries*, farms, collectors, slaughter, processing, finished goods manufacturing, traders, transport
- Parent farms will be audited when they are a source of down or feathers

2. An optional set of requirements will address parent farms.
- The requirements will include milestones towards full inclusion of parent farms
- Set milestones for including parent farms in future versions
- Set a mechanism to identify brands or companies certifying to the parent farms

3. Applicable for industrialized and small farm - collector based channels

© 2015
4. Blended and 100% certified products may use the RDS, only products with 100% certified down may use the logo on consumer-facing products.
- Blended labeling can be used to allow brand-level public communication for overall volumes, and on B2B products and documents
- Blended labeling cannot be used on any consumer-facing products, regardless of their certification status
- No restrictions on other materials in the product
- No reference to the RDS Blended logo or claims allowed on any products being sold to consumers

5. 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
Who is behind the RDS?

- Textile Exchange is a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating sustainable practices in the textile industry.
- The RDS was written by Textile Exchange, Control Union (a certification body), and The North Face.
- An International Working Group comprised of industry members, animal welfare organizations, and supply chain members worked to revise the standard.
- Textile Exchange owns and maintains the standard. We ensure the standard remains the best possible option to ensure the ethical treatment of ducks and geese behind the production of down.
RDS International Working Group

Steering Committee

Advisory Group

Technical Group

© 2015
Who is Textile Exchange?

Textile Exchange (TE) is a global nonprofit organization that works closely with our members along the entire textile supply chain to minimize the adverse environmental and social effects that the $1.7 trillion textile industry creates.

VISION

We envision a global textile industry that protects and restores the environment and enhances lives.

MISSION

Textile Exchange inspires and equips people to accelerate sustainable practices in the textile value chain. We focus on minimizing the harmful impacts of the global textile industry and maximizing its positive effects.

© 2015
3rd Party body accredits the Certification Body to ISO and Textile Exchange requirements to ensure that the CB is qualified and ethical.

Content:

What is the role of TE?

- Accreditation Body
- Certification Bodies
- Standard
- Certified Company
- Certified Products

Accreditation Requirements

Information sharing

TE develops, owns and administers the standard. TE does not do any certification activities, but does keep record of the certified companies, supplied by the certification bodies.

The certification body has the only formal relationship with the certified company. They handle certification to the requirements of the TE standard.
What makes the RDS special?

- Multi-stakeholder Development Process
- Established Standard
- Independent Governance
- Transparency
- Global Scale
- Quality

© 2015
What are people saying?

Adam Mott, Director of Sustainability, The North Face: “We are excited to see such rapid adoption of the standard through the commitment of brands and suppliers inside and outside of our industry.

Nina Jamal, International Farm Animals Campaigner at FOUR PAWS: “We welcome the efforts made through the RDS to achieve higher animal welfare safeguards and full supply chain traceability within the down industry. The RDS has been successful in driving transparency and adoption of traceability across the down supply chain. Our hope is for the standard to continue evolving in order to provide the highest possible guarantees that live-plucking and force-feeding are fully excluded from the down supply chain.”

Daniel Uretsky of Allied Down & Feather: “By adopting industry-wide standards [such as RDS] every brand does not have to reinvent the wheel on their own, but rather rely on us to work with the third parties to follow the standards set for the industry.”
There have been more than 55 unique articles so far, generating a total of 138.4 million impressions.

In addition, there have been 23 radio interviews.
Over 70 brands have initiated certification of their supply chains to the RDS.

Over 1200 sites have been certified to date, in Eastern Europe, China and Taiwan.

Over 500 million birds were present on RDS certified farms in 2015.
Please feel free to use the materials contained in this media kit for your purposes. We are happy to answer any additional questions you may have: Integrity@TextileExchange.org.
You can learn more about the Responsible Down Standard and the down industry by visiting our website just for you!
Go to http://responsibledown.org.

Quick links:
RDS Impact- http://responsibledown.org/impact/
Find RDS – http://responsibledown.org/find-responsible-down-standard/
About us - http://responsibledown.org/about-us/
Information for Brands

If you are interested in using the RDS in your own products, you can learn more about the Responsible Down Standard by visiting our website:
http://responsibledown.org/for-business/

Quick links:
Find certified companies
http://responsibledown.org/for-business/find-certified-companies/
Tools and Support
http://responsibledown.org/for-business/tools-and-support/
How to get certified
http://responsibledown.org/for-business/certification/
Brand Toolkit

© 2015
If you are interested in becoming certified to the RDS in your own products, you can learn more about the Responsible Down Standard by visiting our website: http://responsibledown.org/for-business/

Quick links:
Tools and Support
http://responsibledown.org/for-business/tools-and-support/
How to get certified
http://responsibledown.org/for-business/certification/
Supplier Toolkit
Thank you!

Responsible Down Standard

Integrity@TextileExchange.org

Media Kit