



RESPONSIBLE WOOL STANDARD

WHAT IS THE RESPONSIBLE WOOL STANDARD (RWS)?

The RWS is a voluntary global standard that addresses the welfare of sheep and land management practices, providing brands with a key differentiation and complete traceability of the wool. The goals of the RWS are:

- > To provide an industry tool to identify best farm practices;
- > Ensure wool is from responsibly treated sheep;
- > Confirm that farms follow enhanced land management methods that protect soil health, biodiversity and native species.

The standard includes requirements for animal welfare that must be met for farms to be certified. Criteria are designed to support the Five Freedoms for animal welfare under human control. These include:



NSF International, an independent, third-party certification body, audits each stage in the supply chain to confirm that all requirements of the standard are met.

BENEFITS OF CERTIFICATION

Certification to the RWS ensures that wool from certified farms is properly identified and tracked from farm to final product. RWS-certified wool in your products satisfies customer expectations for animal welfare and can provide risk management for your brand.



Through farm and chain of custody audits, RWS certified wool assures that the products customers buy are from animals that were ethically treated. Farmers gain a market advantage by validating their operations respect animal welfare and that they pursue best practices in animal and farm management.

To comply with the RWS, participating farms are audited annually to animal welfare and land management criteria. Once certified, wool moves from these farms into the rest of the supply chain. Each supply chain site must be audited to the chain of custody requirements in the Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard (CCS).



REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS FOR THE WOOL SUPPLY CHAIN



CERTIFIED PRODUCT

The RWS requires all sites that handle the wool from farms through the final business to business transactions, including brands to retailers, be certified to the relevant modules. Retailers to consumers are not required to be certified.

Products may contain 100% certified wool or blends ranging from 5% to 99% certified wool. Only products containing 100% certified wool can be labeled with the RWS logo.

Get the benefits of certified wool to validate and highlight your commitment to best practices in animal welfare and land stewardship. As a manufacturer or retailer, protect and differentiate your brand and reduce risks by validating your supply chain is certified to the most responsible wool standard in the marketplace.

NSF QUALIFICATIONS

NSF audit teams are qualified and trained in their relevant areas of inspection. Our farm auditors have extensive on farm experience with sheep.

The NSF team has inspection experience in diverse production systems worldwide encompassing:

- > Intensive lowland systems
- > Extensive hill farming systems
- > Pedigree and commercial flocks
- > Traditional breeder to finishing farms
- > Feedlots

Inspections include all elements of production, including lambing, adoption, tailing, castration and shearing.

Grassland management is an integral part of animal health and welfare and as such, practices including re-seeding, sward quality, rejuvenation and managing soil nutrients are topics which must be well understood by auditors. NSF auditor teams have extensive background and experience with different regions and the types of environments where sheep are ranched.

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789 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 USA | www.nsf.sustainability.org