



# SUSTAINABLE DOWN CERTIFICATIONS

## Global Traceable Down Standard and Responsible Down Standard Certification

The Global Traceable Down Standard (Global TDS) and Responsible Down Standard (RDS) help companies demonstrate that down in garments and other household and commercial products come from a responsible source that respects animal welfare and can be transparently traced.

### DOWN AS A PRODUCT

The global sourcing of down is complicated as down typically comes from the food industry and then goes through multiple cleaning and sorting processes to get to the final product form. In this down supply chain, birds may be force fed to enlarge the liver for foie gras production or even live plucked to get more than one harvest of down from a single bird. Collector based supply chains run the same risk through small holder family farms. Therefore, animal welfare is a critical issue to manage in the down production process.

### THE STANDARDS

NSF certifies to both the Global TDS, developed by NSF International, as well as the RDS. While the overall goal of both standards is to ensure that down comes from a responsible source that respects animal welfare and can be transparently traced, there are some minor differences. NSF can help you identify which service is right for your needs.



### CERTIFICATION PROCESS

1. Contact NSF
2. Scope and Application
3. Pre-Assessment
4. Desk Audit and/or inspection
5. Technical Review
6. Corrective Action and Follow-Up (if necessary)
7. Certification Granted
8. Surveillance Audits
9. Continuous Certification Granted

### THE NSF DIFFERENCE

- > Global footprint and a 75-year mission of protecting public health and the environment
- > Sophisticated technology capabilities (EyeSucceed, TraQtion, NSF Connect, iPulse)
- > Responsive team with a single point of contact for account management and support
- > Not only is NSF International a fully accredited certification body for the Global TDS, our own Standards group led the collaborative, open process to write it.



|  | Global Traceable Down Standard (Global TDS)   | Responsible Down Standard (RDS)  |
|--|---|--|
| Considers animal welfare, including non-force feeding and non-live plucking.   | Yes   | Yes  |
| Respect for the <a href="#">Five Freedoms</a> of animal welfare: freedom from hunger and thirst; from discomfort; from pain, injury or disease; to express normal behavior; and from fear and distress | Yes   | Yes  |
| Can be used for home goods and clothing  | Yes   | Yes  |
| Includes education and training on animal welfare and traceability requirements at each level of the supply chain  | Yes   | Yes  |
| Covers both industrialized supply chains in the food sector, and collector-based supply chains involved with multi-family farms.   | Yes   | Yes  |
| Timing   | Certification period is three years, and after initial certification two annual surveillance audits are required in the three-year period; recertification includes a document review and on-site audit | Certification is renewed annually, and a certificate is valued for a maximum of 14 months before expiration; a follow-up audit must be carried out to confirm continued compliance |
| Allows for on-product labeling   | Only products with 100% certified down may use the Global TDS logo on merchandise   | Only products with 100% certified down and feathers carry the RDS logo   |
| Highest-level farm certified   | Parent farm to finished product   | Hatchling to finished product  |
| Parent farms   | Parent farm certification is required   | Parent farm certification is optional; if RDS down is collected from a parent farm, the entire farm is subject to RDS certification  |
| Defines traceability requirements, from parent farm to factory, to ensure that compliant down is the only down material used in finished, certified goods.   | Yes   | Yes (through the CCS)  |

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