

RESPONSIBLE DOWN STANDARD



Version 1.1

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RESPONSIBLE DOWN STANDARD

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GLOSSARY

Assembler

Facility where the down is used in the production of consumer products (eg: jackets, sleeping bags, bedding material).

Audit

A means to verify compliance with a standard.

Farm

Any site where waterfowl are raised for food production or for the production of parent waterfowl.

Certification Body (CB)

An authorized third party carrying out inspection and certification in accordance with the provisions set out in this Standard.

Certified products

Under this standard certified products can be a. waterfowl; b. waterfowl down and feather which is 100% certified and c. blended down, containing a certain percentage of certified down.

Chain of Custody

A system to document and guarantee the path taken by a defined entry material through all stages of transfer and production, to the final product. The chain of custody preserves the identity of the entry material.

Collector

A person or company that collects down and feather from farmers and trades this to other collectors, down traders and/or (pre-)processor. A collector can work independently or under contract by other collectors / (pre-)processors.

Collector based chain

A type of supply chain where the down products are collected from farms by collectors who deliver to either larger collectors or directly to the down traders and/or (pre-)processors.

Down

The fine plumage on a waterfowl that sits under the outer feathers. For simplicity, the term "down" refers to all plumage including feathers and down in this standard. All requirements in the standard are applied to down and feathers.

Force-feeding

Any form of feeding that forces the waterfowl 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 the production of foie gras.

Hatchery

Facility where waterfowl eggs are mechanically or naturally hatched to produce waterfowl.

Live plucking

Any form of removing down and feather from living waterfowl.

Parallel production

Carrying certified and non-certified waterfowl at the same location.

(Pre-)Processor

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Facility where down and feather are (pre-) processed. This may include one or more of the following activities: drying, separation, washing, sorting, blending, lab analysis, (re)-packaging.

Scope Certificate

A document issued by the Certification Body that verifies that a given organization is qualified to produce goods to the standard. To qualify, the organization must be successfully inspected by the Certification Body at least once per year.

Shall

Throughout the standard the term 'shall' means that the requirement is obligatory, it is not optional.

Site

Farm or facility under the scope of this standard.

Slaughter Site

Any place where the waterfowl are killed and the down and feather is removed from the body. The slaughter process can either be executed manually or mechanically at farms, small facilities or large-scale slaughterhouse.

Unannounced audit

Audits carried out by the Certification Body that are outside of the planned annual inspection visits. These visits will be done with little or no advance notification, with a maximum notification of 48 hours allowed.

Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard (TE CCS)

The Content Claim Standard is a chain of custody standard for tracking and verifying the content of one or more specific raw materials in a final product. The CCS is managed by Textile Exchange, a non-profit organization committed to the responsible expansion of textile sustainability across the global textile value chain.

Traceability

The ability to verify the origin of a product by means of documented recorded identification.

Trader

Person or company that trades down.

Transaction Certificate

A document supplied by the Certification Body that verifies that the goods being shipped from one organization to the next conform to the 'Responsibly Sourced Down' Standard. Transaction certificates are issued each time goods change ownership, and details will match invoices and shipping documents. However, there is a possibility for issuing one Transaction Certificate for multiple shipments. Transaction certificate shall be issued by the Certification Body who issued the Scope Certificate.

Warehouse

Location/facility where down and feather are collected and stored.

Waterfowl

Throughout this standard the term waterfowl shall mean domestically raised ducks and geese.

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INTRODUCTION

The down and feather used for insulation in consumer products is sourced from worldwide production and processing supply chains. As a result, retailers and consumers are not informed sufficiently on the origin of the products and the conditions in which they were produced. Recently, this raised concerns on the animal welfare conditions of waterfowl, and the lack of traceability of down and feather products. To ensure that final product claims are accurate, traceability is needed from the source of the down through to the final product.

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, will help to improve the welfare of animals and, at the same time, provide retailers and consumers alike with greater confidence in responsible sourcing.

A major outdoor apparel, equipment and footwear brand, The North Face (TNF) has taken the initiative to develop a standard with the aim of seeking a holistic, sustainable solution for responsibly sourced and traceable down.

To achieve this, TNF worked with Control Union (CU) to do an in-depth supply chain evaluation to determine whether a certification standard is achievable. This evaluation resulted in the creation of the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) which applies to the whole down supply chain from "Hatchling to Jacket". Control Union worked with The North Face and Textile Exchange (TE) to write the standard along with stakeholder input from supply chain members, farmers, brands, industry experts and animal welfare organizations.

The North Face gifted the ownership of the standard to Textile Exchange (TE) upon its completion. This provides a resource to the entire industry with the goal of improving the welfare of animals and increasing the traceability of down on a global level. It also ensures the future maintenance and integrity of the standard.

PURPOSE

The goals of the Responsible Down Standard are to provide the industry with the best possible tool to ensure that down does not come from animals that have been subjected to any unnecessary harm and to institute a traceability system to validate the source of the material.

SCOPE

The scope of the standard shall include the entire supply chain of waterfowl down, from hatchling through to the assemblers producing the final TNF products, without geographical limitation. The standard applies to both blended and 100% certified products.

CERTIFICATION

Independent third party audits and certification shall be applied to the whole supply chain. At least once per year, a full physical audit will be carried out at each site in the chain to safeguard integrity (with the exception of small farmer groups, see module 4.).

The auditors of the Certification Body shall have access to all sites, as well as the relevant documentation and records under the scope of certification.

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The Certification Body has the right to carry out unannounced audits. Certificates issued will be valid for a maximum period of 14 months. Before expiration of the certificate, a follow up audit has to be carried out to confirm continuous compliance.

Certified sites can be farms, hatcheries, slaughter facilities, down collectors, (pre-)processors, warehouses, traders and assemblers. It is also possible that a site has two or more of the above activities in its scope.

A farm can apply as an individual farmer or as a small farmer group (SFG). To apply as a SFG, the conditions as set out under Module 4 shall be met.

The standard consists of 5 modules:

1. Farm module
2. Slaughter module
3. Transport module
4. Small Farmer Group module (SFG)
5. Chain of Custody Module (Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard - TE CCS)
www.textileexchange.org/CCS

Module 5 consists of the requirements written in the Content Claim Standard (CCS) standard of Textile Exchange. The Content Claim Standard is a chain of custody standard for tracking and verifying the content of one or more specific raw materials in a final product.

The guidance related to the CCS requirements are specified for down and feathers to clarify how they are applicable to this specific supply chain. Module 5 only applies for the 'down and feather' based portions in the supply chain, in which the use of Transaction Certificates (TC's) is obligatory. For the 'waterfowl' based components TC's are not obligatory as specific Chain of Custody requirements are embedded in modules 1 and 4.

Note that the modules will be applied to the sites based on the activities being performed. The modules that may be included in the scope of the audit and certification for each type of facility are specified below.

Farms must comply with the requirements of the following modules as they apply to the operations:

- Farm module
- Small Farmer Group
- Transport module
- Slaughter module

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Hatcheries must comply with the requirements of the following modules as they apply to the operations:

- Farm module
- Transport module

Slaughter Sites must comply with the requirements of the following modules as they apply to the operations:

- Slaughter module
- Transport module
- Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard module

Collectors, (Pre-)Processors, Traders, Warehouses and Assemblers must comply with the following module as they apply to the operations:

- Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard (TE CCS) module

During the application process by a site to request certification, it will be determined which of the above module(s) have to be included in the scope of the audit.

Farm, slaughter, transport and hatchery module shall apply to live animals and consist of animal welfare requirements on top of the traceability requirements.

TE CCS requirements shall ensure that certified down materials are identified and traceable through the whole chain. In case of blending with non-certified down, the TE CCS module provides full chain of custody in order to make a content claim on the blended down.

Requirement Types

There are four types of requirements in the standard: 'CRITICAL MAJOR', 'MAJOR', 'MINOR' and 'RECOMMENDATION'.

CRITICAL MAJOR requirements are the most important and they must all be met during the audit to achieve and/or maintain certification. If non-compliance to any of the CRITICAL MAJOR requirements is found, the certificate of the site shall be immediately suspended and the supply chain will be informed. No down will qualify as certified until the corrections are made and verified. In the case of an initial audit, the site's request for certification shall be denied. If a site does not correct its CRITICAL MAJOR non-compliances within 6 months, they must re-apply for certification.

MAJOR requirements must also be met to achieve certification. If non-compliance to any major requirements is found, the site has 60 days to prove compliance to the satisfaction of the Certification Body. During this time, the down can still be sold under certification (except in the case of an initial audit) If the site fails to correct major non-compliances within 60 days after the audit, the certificate shall be suspended and the supply chain informed.

MINOR requirements are important, therefore all minor requirements shall be fully audited by the Certification Body. In this first version of the standard, 50% of these must be met for certification. If less than 50% of the MINOR requirements are met, the site will have up to 60 days to demonstrate compliance to a minimum level of 50% of the minor

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requirements. Note that, at the discretion of the Certification Body, a plan of action may be accepted to demonstrate compliance.

For all levels of requirements, initial certifications are not given until the non-compliances identified by the Certification Body have been corrected and verified.

RECOMMENDATIONS are not required to be met in order to receive certification. They serve as guidance and are recommended based on best practices in the industry, and may be integrated as requirements in future versions of the standard. All recommendations shall be fully audited and recorded by the Certification Body, but do not have any effect on the certification status of the site.

The standard is rigorous and also designed to allow for continuous improvement as the industry evolves. Upon the transfer of ownership of the standard to Textile Exchange, they will initiate a rapid review process to be completed within 6-12 months, after which the standard will be reviewed on a regular basis with the interval not exceeding 3 years. This process will be used to adjust requirements and determine whether the percentage and/or level of requirements needed to achieve compliance shall be changed or not.

REFERENCES

The following documents are part of the Responsible Down Standard and are fully binding. All can be found at www.TextileExchange.org/RDS.

Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard (TE CCS)

Textile Exchange Content Claim Standard Implementation Manual

Responsible Down Standard Labeling Guide

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1. FARM MODULE

This module shall apply to farms. A farm is defined as any site where waterfowl are raised for food production or for the production of parent waterfowl

| PRINCIPLE 1: PROHIBITION OF FORCE-FEEDING | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------|
| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| F1.1 | There shall be no force-feeding of waterfowl to be sold under certification at the farm. | Force-feeding: Any form of feeding that forces the waterfowl 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. | CRITICAL MAJOR |
| F1.2 | The farm shall not source animals under certification which were force-fed and shall not outsource animals under certification for force-feeding. | Outsourcing: in certain countries there are farms (also called stations) where waterfowl are kept only for the period of force-feeding. During this period waterfowl are not owned by the force-feeding facility rather they are there only for the process of 'force feeding'. If certified waterfowl 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.) | CRITICAL MAJOR |

| PRINCIPLE 2: PROHIBITION OF LIVE-PLUCKING | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------|
| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| F2.1 | There shall be no live-plucking of down and feather of waterfowl to be sold under certification at the farm. | Live plucking: Any form of removing down and feather from living waterfowl. Forced or assisted molting is prohibited. | CRITICAL MAJOR |

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| | | All down shall come from waterfowl that were raised for food. | |
| F2.2 | The farm shall not source animals under certification which were ever live plucked and shall not outsource animals under certification for live-plucking. | | CRITICAL MAJOR |

PRINCIPLE 3: COMPLIANCE TO LOCAL LEGISLATION

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|------|---|----------|-------|
| F3.1 | The farm shall comply with local legislation on animal welfare. | | MAJOR |

PRINCIPLE 4: PROHIBITION OF PARALLEL PRODUCTION

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|-------|
| F4.1 | Parallel production is not allowed. | <p>Parallel Production: Carrying certified and non-certified waterfowl at the same location. Parallel production is not allowed except in the following cases</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grey and white geese that are easily visually distinguished; 2. Geese and duck that are easily visually distinguished <p>In these cases it is possible for the farm to have certified waterfowl of one color or species, and non-certified waterfowl of the other color or species. All documentation must refer to the color and</p> | MAJOR |

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| | | species of waterfowl or down that are being claimed as certified. Furthermore members of small farmer group cannot keep certified and non-certified waterfowl at the same farm (regardless if they are visually easily identifiable or not). | |
|--|--|--|--|

| PRINCIPLE 5: FEED AND WATER | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| F5.1 | Waterfowl shall be provided with a supply of clean, fresh and safe drinking water at all times. | <p>Water shall be provided at all times in such a way that animals can drink without undue competition (drinking space allowance per waterfowl; sufficient number of drinking points and water flow rate).</p> <p>An automatic refill system is preferred. If watering is done manually, it should be done and checked on a regular basis (minimum 2 times a day).</p> | MAJOR |
| F5.2 | Waterfowl shall be provided with sufficient food to meet their nutritional needs and maintain them in good condition. | <p>Feed to be available during daylight hours, ad libitum feeding regime (feed is continuously available for the animal), feed to be provided at all times in such a way that animals can eat and drink without undue competition (sufficient feeder space allowance per waterfowl), equal spread of feeding facilities giving waterfowl enough space when eating and drinking.</p> | MAJOR |
| F5.3 | A written feeding plan shall be available guaranteeing that the nutritional requirements of the waterfowl are being met | | RECOMMENDATION |

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| PRINCIPLE 6: HOUSING, STOCKING DENSITY AND OUTDOOR ACCESS | | | |
|---|--|---|----------------|
| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| F6.1 | Female waterfowl that are in lay must be provided with nesting areas that provide a partially enclosed area for egg-laying and each nest area must contain friable nesting material. | Space and comfort shall be provided to waterfowl. It is recommended to have at least one nest box for every four birds. | MINOR |
| F6.2 | Nesting areas must be dark, weatherproof and dry. | Nesting areas for waterfowl must be dry relative to nesting habit of the breed. | RECOMMENDATION |
| F6.3 | Waterfowl shall have access to housing or a shelter protecting them from extreme weather conditions. | Extreme weather conditions such as winds, sleet, heavy snows and sun in climatic regions where this might negatively impact their welfare. Roof and ceiling shall be in good condition and be waterproof. Waterproof walls to be available if outside shelter. There shall be possibilities to set walls in case of bad weather. | MINOR |
| F6.4 | Housing must be located away from areas of (potential) run off. | Run off: water running to housing. | MINOR |
| F6.5 | Shelters and housing (incl. nesting areas) must be well ventilated and allow fresh air to enter. | The house or shelter must be managed to eliminate ammonia and mold. | MINOR |
| F6.6 | Shelters and housing must allow natural light to enter. | | MINOR |
| F6.7 | Waterfowl shall not be kept under continuous lighting or kept in permanent darkness. | A minimum of eight hours of darkness at night and eight hours of light during the day is recommended to be provided. | MINOR |
| F6.8 | If artificial light is used, it must be distributed evenly. | Uniform pattern of lighting. | RECOMMENDATION |

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| F6.9 | Housing and shelters shall have solid floors and an area available that provides dry footing. | Well drained floors. Existing mesh or slatted flooring areas may be covered to create the equivalent of a solid surface. | MINOR |
| F6.10 | In housing dry, mold-free bedding shall be continuously available to waterfowl. | Regular cleaning schedule. | MINOR |
| F6.11 | Waterfowl shall not be kept in close confinement or in wire mesh cages, except for vaccination or other justified temporary reasons. | | MINOR |
| F6.12 | If a facility is depopulated, bedding must be removed and the housing completely cleaned before restocking. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F6.13 | Waterfowl shall have sufficient space indoor and outdoor to enable them without competition to 1. move freely 2. stand 3. turn around 4. stretch their wings 5.run | | MINOR |
| F6.14 | Waterfowl shall have free outside access as early on in life as possible dependent on weather conditions. | Sufficient number of exits, waterfowl shall be able to see the exits. | MINOR |
| F6.15 | Outdoor area shall have sufficient space that is consistently dry. | The waterfowl shall not be forced to stand in water or mud. | MINOR |
| F6.16 | Waterfowl shall have access to water for behavioral needs. | The water shall be deep enough to be able to swim without the feet touching the bottom of the water. | RECOMMENDATION |

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| F6.17 | Water for behavioral needs shall be kept clean and free of contamination. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F6.18 | A written plan for emergency situations (eg. fire, power or water cut off, flood, snow storm, feeding system breakdown, transport vehicle breakdown) shall be available to care for the waterfowl. | Examples: Emergency power supply source, fire plan with escape routes, fire extinguisher. | RECOMMENDATION |
| F6.19 | Temperature shall be controlled in the housing of goslings. | At day one, temperature should be at body temperature of goslings. After 20 days this should be adjusted to outside temperature during daytime. | MINOR |

| PRINCIPLE 7: HEALTH | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|----------------|
| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| F7.1 | A documented veterinary health plan (VHP) shall be developed in consultation with a veterinarian. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F7.2 | The VHP shall have sufficient and detailed measures promoting positive animal welfare. | <p>The following shall be included in the VHP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of illness or injury rather than treating disease • Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress • Lameness and other leg problems • Abnormal behavioral activities • Parasitic infections • Climatic conditions • Vaccinations and other methods to cope with diseases | RECOMMENDATION |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition • Environmental conditions, such as manure management and run-off • Ranging and foraging area management • Exclusion of predators and controls of rats and mice • Euthanasia • Tolerance limits for mortality and follow up actions in case one exceeds the limit | |
| F7.3 | The measures described in the VHP shall be followed by the farm personnel. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F7.4 | A veterinarian shall pay regular visits at the farm to check on the health condition of waterfowl. If the veterinarian observes any waterfowl is not in a state of well-being sufficient and immediate measures shall be taken. | Veterinarian shall visit at least once in each growing season. Members of smallholder farmer groups can be excluded from this requirement at the discretion of the certification body. | MINOR |
| F7.5 | Results of veterinary visits and follow up actions if necessary shall be recorded. | Members of smallholder farmer groups might be excluded from this requirement. | RECOMMENDATION |
| F7.6 | The farmer should behave as a good caregiver, by checking the well-being of the waterfowl at least twice a day | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F7.7 | Any sick or injured bird shall be treated immediately to minimize pain and distress. Withholding treatment in order to preserve a bird or flock's eligibility for market is prohibited. | | MINOR |
| F7.8 | A safe place, which is free of competition, shall be provided for | | RECOMMENDATION |

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| | sick and/or injured animals to recover. | | |
| F7.9 | Growth hormones shall not be applied. | | MINOR |
| F7.10 | Surgical procedures, if any shall be carried out by a veterinarian. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F7.11 | Waterfowl having pain or injury from which they are unlikely to recover shall be immediately and humanely euthanized in a way which renders the waterfowl immediately insensitive to pain. | Methodology for euthanasia (a swift, humane method) shall be known by personnel. | MINOR |
| F7.12 | Records on administration of veterinary medicinal products or any intervention, mortality rate, number of limping, injured and euthanized waterfowl (reasons and methodology) shall be maintained for at least five years. | | RECOMMENDATION |

PRINCIPLE 8: HYGIENE, PEST AND PREDATOR CONTROL

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|------|---|--|----------------|
| F8.1 | Accommodation for waterfowl shall be regularly and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according a cleaning policy. | At a minimum cleaning shall happen between flocks. | MINOR |
| F8.2 | Appropriate hand washing facilities and toilets shall be available for all personnel working on or visiting the farm. | | RECOMMENDATION |

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| F8.3 | An effective written policy on control of visitors, vehicles and materials shall be available, known by the responsible personnel and implemented. | The site should have a biosecurity plan for preventing the transfer of disease between farms. | RECOMMENDATION |
| F8.4 | Foot brush/disinfectant or barrier footwear systems shall be provided at the entrance of the farm. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F8.5 | No farm cats, dogs and other pets shall be present in the waterfowl housing and shelter. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| F8.6 | Appropriate measures shall be taken to protect waterfowl from predators. | | MINOR |

| PRINCIPLE 9: HANDLING AND MANAGEMENT OF WATERFOWL | | | |
|---|---|--|-------|
| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| F9.1 | Responsible personnel shall be trained on good practices for handling of waterfowl. Training records shall be kept for at least five years. | | MINOR |
| F9.2 | The following physical alterations are prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - De-clawing - Hole punching - Wing clipping - Trimming of feathers - Castration - Bill trimming/de-beaking | Trimming of large feathers is allowed if feathers become broken or damaged. | MINOR |
| F9.3 | Measures shall be taken to minimize fighting and/or feather pecking by other waterfowl and | Flock size (too many waterfowl in one flock), dirty environment, nutritional problems might affect | MINOR |

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| | other negative behaviors. | <p>the occurrence of negative behaviors.</p> <p>If the capacity of a barn is more than 3000, a separation wall should be high enough that waterfowl are not able to see each other. Reducing the flock size is mainly done to reduce the effect of panic in case of a hazard (e.g. when a fox manages to enter a barn, this can result in all waterfowl fly into each other). The bigger the group, the higher the risk of harm to the waterfowl because they are covered by other waterfowl. Secondly, a smaller flock size can help to reduce competition for feed and water.</p> | |
| F9.4 | Goslings shall be not be thrown or dumped. | They shall be placed gently from a height of not more than 12 in (30.5 cm) or lower | MINOR |

PRINCIPLE 10: TRACEABILITY, IDENTIFICATION AND SEGREGATION

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|-------|--|--|-------|
| F10.1 | The farmer shall maintain up-to-date procedures to ensure that all waterfowl over 3 days of age, arriving at the farm as certified, come from certified sources. Procedures on the reception, inspection and the appointment of responsible personnel shall be included. | <p>Procedure on reception check shall require responsible personnel to check invoices and transport documents. Procedure shall be kept current to reflect the present situation.</p> <p>Furthermore a visual check (on color and quality if possible, to determine that there was no live-plucking) shall be required to verify compliance. Results of the visual check shall be documented indicating date and quantity of checked animals and signed by the responsible person. This requirement is not mandatory for the members of a small farmer group.</p> | MAJOR |

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| F10.2 | It shall be demonstrated that all incoming waterfowl arriving to the facility as certified originate from a certified source. | Copy of the scope certificate of the supplier, clear identification of the certified waterfowl in the shipping and sales documents, reference to lot numbers shall be available. | CRITICAL MAJOR |
| F10.3 | Records on incoming and outgoing waterfowl shall be kept and maintained for 5 years. | Number of waterfowl and date of arrival and leave. Not applicable for members of smallholder farmer group. | MAJOR |

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2. SLAUGHTER MODULE

This module shall apply to any site where slaughtering occurs.

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|-----|---|---|----------------|
| S1 | The site shall comply with local legislation on animal welfare. | | MAJOR |
| S2 | Personnel responsible for unloading, stunning and killing shall be trained. | Personnel shall understand how to minimize stress and suffering of the waterfowl. | MINOR |
| S3 | Training records shall be kept for at least five years. | | MINOR |
| S3 | After arriving at the slaughter site, waterfowl shall be handled with care and as minimally as possible. | | MINOR |
| S4 | Waterfowl shall be unloaded and slaughtered within two hours. | | MINOR |
| S5 | In an industrialized slaughterhouse, waterfowl shall be unloaded in a dimly lit room preventing stress and fear as much as possible. In case of open air slaughtering, other stress reducing measures shall be implemented. | <p>In any type of slaughter site, steps should be taken to prevent waterfowl from seeing other waterfowl get killed. This requirement is fulfilled if sufficient measures are taken to minimize stress of waterfowl from arriving to the slaughter site up to the moment of killing.</p> <p>The following stress reducing methods shall be applied: planned arrival time at the slaughter facility so birds do not have to wait for long periods on transport vehicles; careful loading and</p> | RECOMMENDATION |

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| | | unloading of birds; handling birds one at a time; minimizing the time between inversion and stunning; adjusting the water-bath height to fit the size of the birds. | |
| S6 | In an industrialized slaughterhouse, waterfowl shall be killed immediately after stunning. | Available best practice shall be utilized. | MINOR |
| S7 | If electrical stunning applied; when using a 50 Hz AC frequency stun setting, a minimum of 130 mA per bird should be applied. | | RECOMMENDATION |

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3. TRANSPORT MODULE

This module shall apply to any site transporting animals including farms and slaughter sites.

For slaughter sites, the TE CCS module applies as well.

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
|-----|--|---|----------------|
| T1 | Transport shall comply with local legislation on animal welfare. | | MAJOR |
| T2 | Planning of transport shall ensure that waterfowl reach their destination as soon as possible, but in any case in a maximum of 8 hours. | Transport shall never take longer than 8 hours. Dependent on the local possibilities direct route shall be used, with no unnecessary stops to further decrease transport time. | MINOR |
| T3 | Waterfowl shall be transported in a vehicle that provides sufficient ventilation and protection from wind, rain, snow and thermal stress. | Waterfowl should not be transported during severe weather conditions unless enough protection is provided. | MINOR |
| T4 | Waterfowl shall not be overcrowded during transport. | Based on average weight of waterfowl, the amount of waterfowl per container should be determined before transport. | MINOR |
| T5 | Transportation vehicle shall be cleaned and dried prior to loading the waterfowl. | | RECOMMENDATION |
| T6 | Records of transport related mortality must be kept for each shipment of waterfowl unloaded for slaughter. Records shall be kept for five years. | Maximum limits for "dead-on-arrival" (DOA) birds shall be established. | RECOMMENDATION |

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4. SMALL FARMER GROUP MODULE

This module applies to defined geographical regions that includes smallholder farmers that have less than 100 waterfowl each.

It is unrealistic for every individual smallholder farmer to undertake a yearly audit by a Certification Body, therefore the standard allows for a group of smallholder farmers located in a defined geographical region to be audited as a single unit. Each group of farms is classified as a single unit, called a Small Farmer Group (SFG).

This is a collector based supply chain where the down is collected from small farms by collectors who either deliver to larger collectors or directly to the down traders and/or (pre)processors. The smallholder farms are typically family farms raising waterfowl for home consumption, but may have up to 100 waterfowl that are sold or traded in local markets.

There are numerous smallholder farms with homogenous production methods under the area of one collector. Therefore, the smallholder farmer group certification shall be based on certifying the waterfowl raised by all the smallholder farms in a number of villages in a defined geographical area.

The Small Farmer Group Module requires the identification and participation of local down collectors and veterinarians responsible for their respective regions. Both of these parties will be interviewed and audited and provide documentation as described in the requirements below.

The third party Certification Body shall verify the effectiveness and practices of the Small Farmer Group system through a yearly on-site audit including the following:

- Interviewing the collectors and veterinarians
- Assessing the documentation of the collectors and veterinarians
- Conducting visits to a certain amount of farmers and villages, as described below.

The number of villages and farmers to be audited by the third party Certification Body shall be based on the following guidelines:

- 50% of the villages in the defined geographical area shall be visited annually
- In each village, 5 farms shall be audited.

The Certification Body reserves the right to adjust the number of visits based on the result of its risk assessment, documentation review and interviews with collectors and veterinarians.

| Nr. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
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| G1 | The small farmer group shall consist of a homogeneous group of members with regard to their agricultural production, geographical | Smallholder farmers shall have no more than 100 waterfowl at one time and be located in one defined geographical area. The defined | MAJOR |

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| | location and economic situation. | geographical area shall be identified with a list of villages. | |
| G2 | <p>The following documentation on the small farmer group shall be available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of villages • registered veterinarian • collector(s) • estimated number and type of waterfowl per village • statements from veterinarian as listed below under G4 • statements from collectors as listed below under G6 • quantity and type of down and feather products delivered by collectors | Villages, veterinarians and collectors shall have unique identification code. | MAJOR |
| G3 | Registered veterinarians and collectors shall have access to and be knowledgeable on the standard. | The standard must be available in a language understandable for the collectors and the veterinarian. | MAJOR |
| G4 | Registered veterinarians shall provide an annual statement on animal welfare practices compliant with this standard. | The statement shall include description on sourcing of waterfowl. If farmers source waterfowl over 3 days old from outside of the region, the sourcing hatchery and/or region shall be certified as well. | MAJOR |
| G5 | <p>Collectors shall provide documentation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • villages they source down and feather from • quantity of down delivered. | | MAJOR |
| G6 | <p>Collectors shall meet the following requirements and sign a statement undertaking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that they only deliver down and feather under certification from the villages in the small farmer group. | | MAJOR |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • down and feather under certification shall be separated and identified. • that they report as soon as possible to the certificate holder any practices non-compliant to this standard. | | |
| G7 | The certificate owner shall have procedures indicating actions to be taken in instances of non-compliance with the standard, sanctions and exclusion of members. | | MAJOR |
| G8 | During farm visits by the Certification Body the findings of the Certification Body shall not significantly differ from the statements of the veterinarian and the documentation of the small farmer group. | During the farm visits the Certification Body shall get the impression of a well-functioning small farmer group. | CRITICAL MAJOR |

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5. TEXTILE EXCHANGE CONTENT CLAIM STANDARD (TE CCS)

This module shall apply to slaughter facilities, collectors, (pre-)processors, warehouses, traders and assemblers.

In order to ensure full chain of custody for certified down, the Responsible Down Standard requires compliance with the requirements of the Content Claim Standard whereby the Claimed Material is defined as Certified Responsible Down.

All Certified Responsible Down entering the supply chain must have a Transaction Certificate (TC) issued by the Certification Body. A TC can include multiple shipments from the same seller to the same buyer. One TC can include up to 100 shipments in a maximum time frame of 3 months.

| PRINCIPLE C1: INPUT VALIDATION | | | |
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| NR. (CCS NR.) | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| C1.0 (CCS 1.1a) | For materials entering the supply chain, there must be a document giving the name and address of the supplier, the quantity and description of the goods, reference to claims being made about the material along with any corresponding verification or certification. | In this case, the outside source will be the large collector or pre-processor. | CRITICAL MAJOR |
| C1.1 (CCS C1.1b) | A transaction certificate confirming that RDS inputs come from a supplier that has been certified to the RDS or an accepted equivalent standard must be available. The organization shall check the supplier invoice and supporting documents to confirm that the date, quantity, blended percentage and material description all conform to the TC. (One batch can be spread over multiple shipments, with a maximum of 100 shipments | Transaction certificate is required from slaughter site to all additional onward processing steps. A TC is needed if goods move from one certified site to another (which are separately owned). It shall state at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seller • Processor (if different entity than 'Seller') • Buyer • Name and address of Certification Body office • Name and address of inspection body office (if different from 'Certification Body') • Corresponding invoice and/or transport document • Identification code | CRITICAL MAJOR |

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| | in up to 3 months per TC: TE CCS TC policy.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity (weight of down and feather product) • Material type (down vs. feather) • Country of dispatch • Name and address of Consignee • Country of destination • Other shipment information (see example TC) • In case the incoming batch is a mixed product, the % of certified down and feather in the batch • Place and date of issue • Stamp of the issuing body and signature of authorized person <p>For down and feather products arriving from a farm, a TC is not needed. However during reception check the responsible personnel shall verify that the down and feather products received are coming from certified source (by checking the scope certificate).</p> | |
| C1.2 (CCS C1.1c) | For goods that are flowing from one production unit to another within the same organization there must be corresponding documentation that references to the previous owner, the quantity of the down and feather, blend percentage, and description of the RDS products being received. | <p>This requirement is applicable if the goods come from a facility which is owned by the same company, without a formal seller-buyer agreement. In that case, a TC is not needed, but documentation of moved goods is necessary. This information should contain at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type and amount of product • Original lot number/identification code • Date • Sender and receiver location/identification | CRITICAL MAJOR |
| C1.3 (CCS C1.1c) | The receiving organization is required to inspect the documents accompanying the input goods. It shall be confirmed that the description, quantity and source described in the document match the goods themselves. The outcome of this inspection must be recorded. If there are any doubts about the validity of | <p>A responsible person must be assigned.</p> <p>The inspection procedures shall assure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That during reception check for the down and feather claimed as 'certified' under the 'Responsible Down Standard' only incoming products for which a transaction certificate issued by the Certification Body | MAJOR |

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| | <p>the incoming goods, the processing of the RDS product may not be started.</p> | <p>for the same program shall be approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supplier invoice, label, transport documents and/or any other relevant accompanying document shall be checked to confirm that all information (date, quantity, blend percentage, material description) conform to the TC. • Closing and packaging to be checked | |
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| PRINCIPLE C2: PROCESS | | | |
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| NR. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| C2.1 (CCS C2.1) | <p>Written procedures must be in place to enable the organization and Certification Body to ensure the integrity and identity of RDS products as they move through production. Companies are required to maintain a documented system plan that describes the processes, including the points of risk and the material flow diagram.</p> | <p>Once certified products are mixed with non-certified products (it becomes a content claim certified product), the new blend shall receive a unique lot number identifying the ingredients in the recipe including the percentages of each ingredient. Administration of the site shall enable the CB to track the source of each ingredient in the recipe (identify how much % is certified in the blend).</p> <p>At each production step there must be documentation that is linked to the incoming goods. (down and feather or RDS products must be clearly identified and tracked as they move through production. This may include, but is not limited to, direct labeling of down and feather or RDS products, machines, storage vessels, or storage areas.)</p> | MAJOR |
| C2.2 (CCS C2.2) | <p>At each production step there must be documentation that is linked to the incoming goods.</p> | <p>Before handlings of the certified goods, it should be confirmed that the goods match with what is described in documentation.</p> | MAJOR |
| C2.3 (CCS C2.3) | <p>Down and feather must be kept separately from non-certified products. RDS products must be separated from other products of the</p> | <p>Separation shall be sufficient to prevent commingling or substitution of the certified products with other down and feather products.</p> | MAJOR |

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| | <p>same type. Extra precautions must be taken where waterfowl, down and feather or RDS products are being shipped, stored or produced alongside non-waterfowl down and feather or products of the same type to ensure that no confusion or substitution occurs.</p> | | |
| <p>C2.4 (CCS C1.3)</p> | <p>Calculation of content claim:</p> <p>For each production step, the records must demonstrate the balance between the RDS inputs and the outputs containing the declared final amount of waterfowl, down and feather. All calculations are done based on the weight of the materials.</p> <p>In its simplest form, the equation is:</p> $(A+B)*(1-C) = D$ <p>containing $A/(A+B)$ % of material A</p> <p>A = Amount of waterfowl, down and feather by weight</p> <p>B = Amount of non-waterfowl, down and feather by weight</p> <p>C = Percentage of loss during production</p> <p>D = Amount of final product by weight</p> <p>The calculation must also take into account stock levels and rejected goods. When the properties of the waterfowl, down and feather vary significantly from the other materials, and the variance could lead to significant differences in gain</p> | <p>Below, some specific guidance is given for the different processes:</p> <p>Washing:</p> <p>When input down and feather is washed, the amount of input has to be registered before starting the process. After the process, the amount has to be measured and registered again. The difference has to be registered as production loss.</p> <p>Sorting:</p> <p>When the inputs are sorted (i.e. down and feather are separated and/or down is sorted into different qualities) the amount of input has to be registered before starting the process. At the end of the process, the quantities of feather and each down quality has to be registered. The registered output has to be deducted from the total input. The difference (production loss) has to be registered.</p> <p>Recipe making:</p> <p>When making a recipe of down, the composition of the recipe has to be registered. The quantity used of each input has to be registered in order to calculate the content claim of certified down and feather in the recipe. The used quantities of each input has to be deducted of the storage quantity. The method of recipe making has to be described</p> | <p>CRITICAL MAJOR</p> |

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| | <p>or loss in production between the different materials, the organization must show that they are taking this into consideration in their own calculations, and the CB will check these. The final percentage of gain or loss will be compared to the expected percentage and any differences will be investigated. Deviations of over 5% of the expected amounts will be investigated and may result in a non-conformity assessment.</p> | <p>in a procedure that assures traceability of certified inputs, in order to maintain a content claim. Each production batch of a recipe needs to get a unique lot number, which is also mentioned on the TC when it leaves the facility. In the records, this lot number needs to be linked to the lot number(s) of input materials.</p> | |
| <p>C2.5 (CCS C4)</p> | <p>The storage of products must be managed in order to segregate waterfowl, down and feather and ensure easy identification of lots. Procedures must be in place to prevent commingling or substitution of the waterfowl, down and feather with other materials or products.</p> <p>All warehouses for each production step must be listed and inspected as part of the overall certification process to ensure protection from commingling or confusion with other materials. All other warehouses (e.g.: in transit) must be listed and may be inspected at the discretion of the certifier.</p> | <p>Administration of site shall demonstrate the balance between incoming, outgoing and stored products. Loss shall be taken into account.</p> <p>This shall include updated records on stored products. Example: there is in stock 100 kg lot A (certified) and 70 kg lot B (non-certified). New recipe is made from 30 kg of lot A and 30 kg of lot B. The blend is 60 kg and has 50% certified down content (if no production loss). It is important, that the facility registers deduction from stock and registers that 70 kg left of lot A and 40 kg of lot B.</p> | <p>MAJOR</p> |
| <p>C2.6 CCS C1)</p> | <p>Records of certified goods Records must be maintained to enable the organization and the Certification Body to track the waterfowl, down and feather as it moves through and between the different processing</p> | <p>All the information can be on the copy of the invoice/transport document.</p> <p>Copy of TC to be available.</p> | <p>MAJOR</p> |

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| | <p>operations. Records must be current, complete, accurate, easily auditable and understood, and must be held for at least five years. Transaction certificates (Appendix D2.3) must be used to capture the transfer of goods from one organization to another. Transaction Certificates may only be issued by the Certification Body that has issued the Scope Certificate for the organization.</p> | | |
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| PRINCIPLE C3: OUTPUT | | | |
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| NR. | REQUIREMENT | GUIDANCE | LEVEL |
| C3.1 (CCS C1.2) | <p>Outputs:</p> <p>A transaction certificate that states that the products have been produced according to the RDS standard. Invoices and shipping documents which show that the outgoing products have been sold to a named entity.</p> | <p>There must be one or more personnel who are given responsibility for meeting this requirement.</p> <p>The procedures shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the down products sold as 'certified' under the 'Responsibly Sourced Down program' the seller shall apply for a TC at the CB. • invoice, label and/or accompanying document of the outgoing products shall be checked to confirm that all information (date, quantity, blend percentage, material description) conform to the TC/application of TC. • closing and packaging to be checked | CRITICAL MAJOR |
| C3.2 CCS (C3) | <p>Packaging and Transport</p> <p>The organization shall ensure that the products containing waterfowl, down and feather must be transported to other units, including wholesalers and retailers, only in appropriate</p> | <p>Name of the product and description: type of down (color and fill power)</p> <p>Quantity: weight of the down and feather products.</p> <p>Label or accompanying document shall be undeniably linked with the</p> | MAJOR |

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| <p>packaging, containers or vehicles that are closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal. All shipments of RDS products must have a label stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name and address (city and country) of the producer or, where different, of the owner or seller of the product • the name and address (city and country) of the consignee • the name of the product, including a reference to the waterfowl, down and feather content (expressed as a percentage) of the product being shipped • the name of the transporter • reference to the Responsible Down Standard, the name of the Certification Body and the identification number (project number) of the Certification Body • the lot identification number • quantity of products • date of shipment <p>Alternatively, this information can be presented on an accompanying document, as long as such document can be undeniably linked with</p> | <p>packaging, container or vehicle of the product.</p> | |
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| | the packaging, container or vehicle of the product. | | |
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