

RWS Update Meeting

July 5 2018

Agenda

- News and updates
- The RWS Supply Chain
- Supply news
- US Task Group
- Calibration
- Revision plans
- Press release
- Events
- Exhibitor offer

News and updates

Past Events:

- Outdoor Show, Friedrichshafen
- Workshop in Prato
- Workshop at Pitti Filati, Florence

Training:

4 – Part RWS Brand Training Webinar Mini-Series

View the recordings by clicking the links below.

[Part 1 – Commitments & Targets, April 12, 2018](#)

[Part 2 – Labeling & Product Claims, April 19, 2018](#)

[Part 3 – Working with the RWS Supply Chain, April 26, 2018](#)

[Part 4 – Supply Chain Certification & Post Production Options, May 3, 2018](#)

The RWS Supply Chain

New updates being made to our website to provide information on the wool supply chain and to feature RWS certified farms and companies. This is in addition to the certified sites listings.

Action: *Let us know if you want to be included on the new supplier profile page of the website*

Supply news

Supply Updates:

BKB South Africa has created a digitized audit process for the RWS and will aim to have 200 wool producers certified this year which should add approximately 2.5m kg to the market. There has been

a great knock on affect to the implantation of the BKB system which has improved the BKB service levels to their clients

Fox and Lillie Australia will soon have the largest Australian RWS Farm Group that can supply the following RWS certified wool – greasy wool, scoured wool, carbonised wool, wool tops and open wool tops. Fox & Lillie is very keen to work with brands to build RWS certified wool into their product supply chains and assist brands to develop provenance marketing stories

Lanas Trinidad Uruguay have a good supply of RWS certified wool top already and constantly on the look out for new customers

Wools of New Zealand have some exciting projects in the pipeline with European customers

We have new certified sites being registered so be sure to keep checking back into the RWS web site for the updates

Supply key messages:

All the suppliers have committed to creating a wool grower base for certified wool and many are still not receiving strong commitments from brands to source this wool.

The increase in the global wool price has been an issue for brand adoption of the RWS. It is not the RWS that has increased the price of wool. The price of conventional wool has soared within the last two years. The RWS does not add significant cost.

With increased volumes and commitments from the brands the price of RWS certified wool will only come down.

Be aware of the seasonality of wool in some regions and work with your supply chain for forecasting especially at the wool grower level.

Textile Exchange staff and representatives attend many industry events and trade shows in order to keep raising brand awareness. Be sure to reach out to Textile Exchange if you would like to organise a time to meet with any of our team during one of these events.

If you have any questions relating to the wool supply chain do not hesitate to reach out to us so we can point you in the right direction.

US Task Group

We are planning to set up a task group focusing on growing the adoption of the RWS in North America and supporting the development of US supply chains. An initial call will be held in August

Action: *To register an interest in getting involved, contact: responsiblewool@textileexchange.org*

Calibration

A common challenge in achieving supply chain certification is the time it can take to arrange an audit. The manual guidance below may be relevant in those instances where processing needs to start before the audit has taken place.

Content Claim Standard (RWS Supply Chain Scope)

A3.3c Organizations producing CCS Product must hold a valid SC at the time of production in order for products to be considered Certified.

MANUAL GUIDANCE:

CBs may allow their contracted, first-time certification client Organizations to begin processing of CCS Product before the On-Site Audit occurs.

A contract shall already be in place between the CB and client. The Organization shall demonstrate documented control over the product during this period. The Organization shall be made aware that if the audit is failed, the product shall not be considered Certified. Product may not be sold or shipped until certification is achieved.

Textile Exchange must be notified of each of these occurrences.

Another key calibration point relates to adding additional standards scope. The guidance below has been issued to all Textile Exchange certification bodies.

Supply Chain Certification: Adding an additional standard scope

A company (i.e. any site from spinner to retailer) has already been certified to a TE standard or to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) – and still holds a valid scope certificate – and wishes to add CCS, OCS, RCS, RDS, or RWS to their certification scope.

That same responsible certification body – that issued the original scope certificate and is authorized to perform TE certifications – may perform a remote audit to determine compliance with the new scope in place of the On-Site Audit. The certification body may still decide to perform an On-Site audit if they determine there is a possibility of high-risk.

On-Site audits shall occur together for all scopes during the next annual audit cycle and thereafter.

Revision plans

The revision of the RWS will be initiated at the RWS Roundtable meeting in Milan in October.

The review process looks at a standards relevance, effectiveness as well as any external circumstances have changed to the point where change is required. The revision process will also work to align the RWS with strategic developments at TE in creating an animal welfare framework.

Two key aspects related to the scope of the standard are also going to be addressed in the revision.

Herding scope:

- Current version of the RWS only applies to farmed sheep.
- Supply chain mapping and studies underway to look at different farming systems.
- Field research in India.

Action: *If you are interested in learning more about the herding scope project please contact responsiblewool@textileexchange.org*

Mohair Scope:

The initial development of the RWS established a long term aim for the standard to add additional scopes for e.g. Mohair, yak, alpaca etc. The Terms of Reference for the revision of the RWS will revisit this.

Action: *If you are interested in being kept informed on developments specially related to mohair please contact responsiblewool@textileexchange.org*

Brand questions:

As part of the preparations for the revision we will be seeking feedback from different stakeholders. The first target group are brands and retailers.

Press release

Plans for a joint press release highlighting:

- RWS certified products on the market/due to be launched
- Commitments
- Targets

Action: *If you would like to be included in this, please contact responsiblewool@textileexchange.org.*

Events

Upcoming events include:

- Outdoor Retailer, July, 2018
- Malmo, Sweden, 18 September 2018
- RWS Roundtable meeting, Milan, 22 October 2018
- Textile Exchange Conference (wool session on the agenda), 23-24 October

Please contact responsiblewool@textileexchange.org if you would like more detail on any of these events. There are no webinars currently scheduled but we are open to requests!

Exhibitor offer

We are delighted to be able to provide RWS Certified suppliers with a special reduced rate for exhibiting at the Textile Exchange of \$800 instead of \$3,000. For more information, please contact celeste@textileexchange.org