

## Certification Widget – RCS

### RCS (Version 2.0)

- RCS is a voluntary standard, developed in partnership with Textile Exchange and Outdoor Industry Association's Sustainability Working Group's Materials Traceability Task Force in 2013.
- The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of Recycled materials.
- Aims to verify the presence and amount of recycled material in a final product and tracks the flow of the raw material.
- Uses chain of custody requirements as per Content Claim Standard (CCS V2.0).
- Does not cover the certification of the raw material itself and does not address environmental aspects of processing, chemical and social or legal compliance issues.

### Who can be certified –

- The full supply chain of the recycled fibre from material recycling to traders of finished products can be certified. Retailers can be certified voluntarily.
- Certifiable products must contain at least 5% recycled material. For example, fibre, yarns, fabrics, garments, fashion textile accessories (carried or worn), toys, home textiles, mattresses, bedding products, etc.

### Origin of Raw Materials –



- RCS does not establish additional or own criteria for the reclaimed materials.
- Blending allowed as per the RCS requirements.
- Labelling options according to recycled material used:

### Labelling and Claim Guide –

- Before using the logo, it is mandatory to take the approval of artwork from the certification body.

RCS	Minimum 95% Recycled	5% Recycled
Recycled Raw Material Percentage	Minimum 95%	5-95%
Label Grade	RCS 100	RCS Blended

## Certification Widget – RCS

RCS	Minimum 95% Recycled	5% Recycled
Label to be used	 100% recycled material	 X% recycled material
Restrictions	No mixing of the same material in the conventional form (e. g. Blending of recycled and conventional material)	None

### Segregation & Identification in case of companies which produce both recycled and conventional –

- The operator applying for RCS certification needs to set up a good system for separating and proper identifying RCS products from conventional. This applies to the reception of the raw material, as well as all steps of processing, storage rooms, etc. up to the sale.
- The best separation, of course, is in space: separate warehouses and production lines for RCS.
- However, this may often not be possible; in this case, you can separate in time: RCS goods will be processed at the same machines as conventional but at different times. It then has to be assured that relevant equipment needs to be cleaned systematically before processing RCS goods. The company has to take adequate measures to prevent contamination during transport, storage and production.
- RCS products must be identified and tracked as they move through production.
- This may include, but is not limited to, direct labelling of RCS products, machines, storage vessels or storage areas.
- Labels and signs must be visible and understandable by all workers operating in the area.

### Traceability –

- As a minimum, traceability must be assured one step back and one step forth at each stage of the supply chain.

### **Training of Staff –**

- Workers need to be trained regarding the requirements of the standard.
- The facility must appoint a responsible person for the certification.

### **Record keeping system –**

- RCS units need a functioning and comprehensible system for documenting and identifying RCS goods.
- Written procedures and working instructions must be in place to ensure the integrity and identity of RCS products.
- The operator has to keep full documentation of quantity, origin, and flow of goods, Supplier certificates, waybills, reception notes, processing records, storage books, TCs, annual volume reconciliation, and invoices have to be kept. All these records have to refer to the RCS condition of the product. All records need to be retained for a minimum of at least 5 years.
- RCS units need a good bookkeeping system, allowing for evaluation of quantities of purchased (raw material vs. quantities of the finished product sold) to check mass balance calculations. For each production step, the records must demonstrate the balance between the inputs and the outputs containing the declared final amount of Claimed Material. All calculations are done based on the weight of the materials and must also take into account stock levels and rejected goods.
- Except for open raw material arriving directly from the field, only packed or sealed and labelled products must be accepted for RCS processing; unlabeled products should be returned to the supplier.
- Transport routes and transport means must be documented.

### **Labelling –**

- When an RCS logo is used, a reference to the Certification Body that has certified the goods (e.g., Certification Body's name and/or logo) and a reference to the certified organization (e.g., organization's name and/or certification number) as well as the label grade must be used.
- Brands and retailers may only have logos applied to goods that have been certified to the end of the supply chain (incl. last step of ownership).
- Individual components of a product may be identified as certified to the RCS only in a manner that makes it completely clear that it is only the identified component that contains recycled material, and not the whole product. For example, only the upper of a shoe is made with 100% recycled material.

**Procedure –**

→ Please check GSCS website (<https://gscsintl.com/>) for all relevant standard, procedure and manuals.

**Transaction Certificates –**

- Transaction certificate verifies the goods being shipped from one organization to the next conforming to a given standard.
- Certified entities purchasing raw materials, as well as such which purchase RCS goods must receive and maintain transaction certificates (=TCs, certificates of inspection), for the whole quantity purchased (per RCS criteria). As long as goods will be labelled and sold as RCS, TCs are also obliged for the wholesale (excluded are retailers).
- TCs are issued by the certification body which is in charge of the suppliers' product, based on copies of invoices, packing lists and shipping documents, as well as TCs from previous suppliers. In special cases, TCs can cover several deliveries. The maximum amount of time a single TC may cover is 3 months.