

## **Certification Widget – RDS**

### **RDS (Version 3.0)**

- The Responsible Down Standard (RDS V3.0) is an international, voluntary standard that addresses animal welfare in the duck and geese supply chain and chain of custody of down and feather material from certified farms to the final product.
- The standard has been developed through a joint effort between Control Union, Textile Exchange and The North Face. The standard first time launched in 2014 and the latest version (3.0) has launched in July, 2019.
- The Responsible Down Standard (RDS) aims to ensure that down and feathers come from animals that have not been subjected to unnecessary harm and
- Ensure a strong chain of custody for certified materials as they move through the supply chain.
- The final certified content in a product shall contain at least 5% RDS certified material (Down/Feather/Geese). While blending of RDS certified material with conventional material of the same type, is not allowed, if it is to be labelled as per the RDS Labelling & Logo Usage Guidelines.

### **Who can be certified –**

- The RDS requires all sites to be certified, beginning at the farm and slaughterhouse through to the seller in the final business-to-business transaction.
- Farms and slaughterhouses are certified to strict animal welfare requirements.
- Subsequent stages of the down supply chain are required to be certified against the requirements of the Content Claim Standard (CCS) up to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction. Facilities are certified to the standard, and each shipment of goods must be accompanied by a transaction certificate (TC).
- When requesting RDS certified products, a TC will ensure that the down and feather material came from certified farms.

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### How to Get Certified –



- The facility that processes both certified and non-certified materials on the same equipment. There must be a pause between certified and non-certified material to ensure that machines can be cleaned.
- All shipments that contain RDS-certified material should be properly identified. It should be closed to ensure that materials cannot easily be swapped.
- There should be corresponding identification listed in purchase documents and the transaction certificate that allows the buyer of the material to identify the material.
- Certified and non-certified material may be shipped in the same container, as long as there is sufficient identification attached to the RDS-certified products in a way that does not allow the identification to be easily moved to other products

### Labelling and Claim Guide –

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

RDS	Maximum %	Minimum
RDS Raw Material Percentage	100%	5%
Label to be used	 <p>RDS Certified</p>	Not Allowed

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RDS	Maximum %	Minimum
Restrictions	Blending of RDS certified material with conventional material of the same type (e. g. blending of certified down material with conventional down material)	None

### 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 –

→ RDS units need a functioning and comprehensible system for documenting and identifying RDS goods.

→ Written procedures and working instructions must be in place to ensure the integrity and identity of RDS products. Wherever parallel production of certified and noncertified products has to be labelled at all steps through your facility to avoid contamination. This includes full production at each step.

→ The operator has to keep full documentation of quantity, origin and flow of goods. Supplier certificates, waybills, reception notes, processing records, storage books, annual volume reconciliation, TCs and invoices have to be kept. All these records have to refer to the RDS condition of the product. All records need to be retained for a minimum of at least 5 years.

→ RDS 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.

→ Transport routes and transport means must be documented.

### Labelling –

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- When an RDS 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).
- 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).
- The final certified content in a product shall contain at least 5% RDS certified material (Down/Feather). While blending of RDS certified material with conventional material of the same type, is not allowed.

### **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 RDS fibres, as well as such which purchase RDS goods must receive and maintain transaction certificates (=TCs, certificates of inspection), for the whole quantity purchased (per RDS criteria). As long as goods will be labelled and sold as RDS, 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.