



**TextileExchange**  
Creating Material Change

# Standards Commitment Guide

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*Making Commitments to Textile Exchange Standards*

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# Introduction

## About Textile Exchange Standards

Textile Exchange Standards work to support the integrity of product claims by providing verification from an independent third-party. All our standards have been developed through a multi-stakeholder approach to address gaps in current industry standards.

## About this Guide

This guide has been developed to provide practical support for organizations wishing to make commitments to one or more Textile Exchange Standard.

It provides guidance and instruction on making public commitments, registering claims, in addition to communicating about and reporting progress toward those goals.



# About Standards Commitments

## What is a Standards Commitment?

A commitment is made by a company that is working towards sourcing certified materials, and or building a supply chain that is certified to Textile Exchange Standard(s).

Companies making commitments to one or more Standard are responsible for outlining clear goals and timelines for achieving them, with accountability to Textile Exchange through annual reporting on progress.

In many cases, committed companies are not at the point in their sourcing programs where they can buy and sell fully certified products and therefore do not yet qualify to make an assured product-related claim. Therefore, they through registering a commitment to a Standard, they may make other claims about the work they are doing.

## Communicating about Commitments

When an organization makes a formal commitment to a Standard, they are encouraged to share this publicly with their community and the industry at large. This is considered a **Commitment Claim**.

You can find more information about making commitment claims and other statements about Textile Exchange Standards in our [Standards Claims Policy](#).



# Getting Started

So, you want to make a commitment to a Textile Exchange Standard? Great! Below are the steps to making commitments and how you can start talking about it with your community and work towards your goal.



Make a Commitment  
& Set Targets

Register your  
Commitment

Share your  
Commitment

Report Progress  
Updates



# 1 Make a Commitment & Set Targets

Work with all of your internal and external stakeholders and make a firm commitment to the relevant Textile Exchange Standard(s).

Some of the benefits of making a commitment are:

- Having internal buy-in from all parts of your organization.
- Having a public commitment for where you are going will give you a level of defense against any activism.
- Your supply chain will be better able to meet your needs when they clearly understand your expectations and are part of setting realistic timelines.



**TIP:** Internal buy-in is a key factor to success. Educate your colleagues about the standard: use the tools available on our website, attend webinars or training events, or ask Textile Exchange for support.

# 1 Make a Commitment & Set Targets

Your targets should be:

## Realistic

Take into account the lead times to get earlier parts of the supply chain certified, and for certified material to move through the supply chain. Some fibers and materials have naturally longer supply chains.

## Relevant

Demonstrate how certified materials connect to the broader sustainability targets of your company. This connects back to the considerations of “why” you are making these goals.

## Meaningful

Volume is how you can drive change in the industry and demonstrate to both producers and consumers that you are serious about sustainability and responsible production.

**TIP:** Unless you are only using very small volumes, it will take time to convert all your products to certified. Therefore, it's a good idea to set a timeline for reaching your conversion target, e.g. 25% in year 1, 50% in year 2, 75% in year 3, and 100% in year 4.

# 1 Make a Commitment & Set Targets

Now that you've decided on making commitment, and you've set your targets and expectations, let's talk about what a commitment actually looks like.

**TIP!** Keep in mind, you will be asked to share this information when filling in the online registration form.

## The Essential Elements of a Commitment:

1. **Your Company's target (%) and for which standard**
2. **Target Year** – when do you plan to achieve this goal?
3. **Base Year** – if you're already on the path, when did you start working towards this goal?
4. **Commitment Type** – is your commitment related to:
  - a) Sourcing certified materials/products? *“Brand ABC commits to source 100% of our down from RDS certified sources by 2023.”*
  - b) Getting your supply chain certified? *“We are committed to achieving OCS certification at 75% of our garment manufacturers by 2025.”*

## 2 Register your Commitment

Go to [TextileExchange.org/Standards/Commitment-Registration-Form](https://TextileExchange.org/Standards/Commitment-Registration-Form) to register your commitment with the following information.

### Company Information

- Fill in your company and work details

### Standard Commitment Details

- Provide information about the type of commitment you are making and which standard, material, and or production facility it applies to, along with the target percentage and timeframes.

### Sharing Your Commitment

- Share information about your plans to communicate about your commitment and the Standard(s) it applies to.
- Agree to be listed on the Textile Exchange website as a committed brand.

### Terms and Conditions

- Confirm that you have read and understand the Standards Claims Policy and Standards Logo Use Specifications
- Agree to provide updates on your progress towards your goal on an annual basis.
- Agree to the terms and conditions for using the Standards logos, email marketing, etc.



## 2 Register your Commitment

Follow these instructions for providing commitment details in the table (see next page) carefully.

### 1. When filling in the fields, as a guide, add the details you would include in the below commitment claims:

- For certified material sourcing commitments:  
"We commit to source [Target(%)] of our [Material Type] from [Standard Name] certified sources by [Target Year]."
- For supply chain certification (production facilities) commitments:  
"We commit to achieve [Standard Name] certification at [Target (%)] of our [Production Facility Type] by [Target Year]."

*\*\*Please also add Material Type for supply chain certification commitments*

### 2. While OCS, RCS, and GRS may be applied to a variety of fiber and material types, please use the following material types for the following standards:

- RDS: Down or Feathers
- RWS: Wool
- RMS: Mohair
- RAS: Alpaca Fiber

### 3. The Base Year is the year you originally made the commitment to the Standard, if not new in 2021.

### 4. Leave fields blank for standards you are not making a commitment to.

## 2 Register your Commitment

Commitment details go into the table on the registration form.

	Target (%)	Material Type	Production Facility Type	Target Year	Base Year
Organic Content Standard (OCS)	100%	Cotton	garment manufacturer	2025	2020
Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)					
Global Recycled Standard (GRS)					
Responsible Down Standard (RDS)	100%	Down	N/A	2030	2019
Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)					
Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)					
Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)					

# 3 Share your Commitment



## Agree to be listed on the Standards website.

- ✓ During commitment registration, select “Yes” to being listed as a committed brand on our webpage.
- ✓ Share this webpage with your audience to show you have made your commitment public.



## Make a Commitment Claim and use the Standard logo.

- ✓ Read the [Standards Claims Policy](#) carefully and develop language about your commitment.
- ✓ Use the relevant Standard logo(s) provided to you in your confirmation email after registering.
- ✓ Share this claim on your website, in your CSR reports, or get creative and post on social media!



## Further communicate with your audience.

- ✓ Add an Informational Statement about the Standard to accompany your Commitment Claim (see [Standards Claims Policy](#) for more details).
- ✓ Be transparent about where you are, and how long it will take to get to your targets (share progress updates!).
- ✓ Always link back to the relevant Standard webpage so your audience can access further information.

# 4 Report Annual Progress

On a yearly basis, you will be requested to report any progress on your commitment(s) through a new online form provided by Textile Exchange.

Here is some of the information you will be asked to submit:

## **Confirm Company Information**

- Confirm all company information is correct according to our records.

## **Standard Commitment Details**

- Confirm all details associated with your commitment are accurate.
- Provide an update on how far along you are in reaching your target (are you 15% to 100%? 50% to 75%? Even 0% should be recorded).

## **Confirm Website Listing Details**

- If you agreed to be listed on our website, we will ask that you review and confirm that the details for your brand's listing are accurate.





# Additional Resources:

**Textile Exchange Standards Webpages**— visit our webpages to learn more about our Standards, how they are used, and how to work with them. Visit: [www.TextileExchange.org/Standards](http://www.TextileExchange.org/Standards)

**RWS Brand Sourcing Guide** – this guide includes helpful information about making commitments, setting and working towards targets; many of these strategies can be applied across standards.

Download

**Support RAS Supply** – this document outlines the options for brands to support the implementation of the RAS through commitment claims, as well as further communications about financially supporting new initiatives; these opportunities to communicate may be open to brands supporting other initiatives.

Download