

# GLOBAL RECYCLED STANDARD



The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) is a voluntary product standard for tracking and verifying the content of recycled materials in a final product. The standard applies to the full supply chain and addresses traceability, environmental principles, social requirements, chemical content and labeling. The GRS covers processing, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, trading and distribution of all products made with a minimum of 20% recycled material. It also sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices, and chemical restrictions. The standard is intended to support companies looking to verify the recycled content of their products as well as responsible social, environmental and chemical practices in the production of these products.

Although the GRS is owned by Textile Exchange, the range of products is not limited to textiles and can include any type of product containing recycled content materials.

Material collection and material concentration processes are not required to be certified to the GRS. However sites that are not run by individuals are to be documented as a part of the application process and agree to be inspected by NSF International, as the certification body, on a random basis.



\*(non individual collectors and concentrators)

Organizations involved in recycling, production and trade of GRS products are subject to GRS certification. Each type of organization has different paperwork requirements (as identified in the graphic above).

- > The Reclaimed Material Declaration Form acts as a guarantee that materials listed and sold to another organization in the supply chain are reclaimed materials that would have otherwise gone into the waste stream.
- > The Transaction Certificate identifies the parties involved, country of dispatch, facility identification and specific materials and weight of materials included in a transfer of ownership. Production and trading organizations must also declare the pre- and post-consumer recycled content of the materials.



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The Global Recycled Standard also requires certified organizations to be in compliance with the Content Claim Standard, a chain of custody guideline. This chain of custody requirement makes the paperwork transfer an important aspect of the standard to verify the actual recycled content of a final product.

The GRS also includes social, environmental and chemical criteria to verify responsible practices in the production of certified product. The social criteria of the standard require organizational policies that:

<b>PROHIBIT</b>	Forced, bonded, indentured, prison or child labor
	Discrimination, harassment and abuse of workers
<b>PROTECT</b>	Freedom of association and provides recognition of the right to collective bargaining
	Health and safety of workers
<b>PROVIDE</b>	Wages, benefits and terms of employment that meet or exceed legal minimums
	Working hours that comply with national laws, benchmark industry standards or relevant international standards

For environmental criteria, organizations:

<b>MUST HAVE</b>	>	An environmental management system (EMS) that meets criteria outlined in the standard
<b>MUST HAVE</b>	>	A chemical management system (CMS) that meets criteria defined in the standard
<b>MUST MONITOR</b>	>	Energy and water use
	>	Wastewater/effluent
	>	Emissions to Air
	>	Waste Management

The standard addresses only the use and management of chemicals in the manufacturing of GRS products.

<b>RESTRICT</b>	Substances classified as dangerous to human health and/or to the environment by REACH under Substances of Very High Concern (SVAC)
<b>RESTRICT</b>	Substances (and mixtures classified with particular hazard codes or risk phases identified in Table A of the standard) w/ established health or environmental concerns
<b>RESTRICT</b>	Substances substances that do not comply with the Manufacturer’s Restricted Substance List (MRSL) from ZDHC (roadmaptozero.com)

The GRS provides risk management for all aspects of the supply chain but is particularly important for brands and manufacturers that are making recycled content claims to their customers. With GRS certification, you can communicate to customers your commitment to truth in materials and support for a circular economy that reduces waste by using it to make new products.

Contact [sustainability@nsf.org](mailto:sustainability@nsf.org) for more information.

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