



GLOBAL RECYCLED STANDARD QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: Can the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) be applied to more than textile products?

A: Yes, the GRS can apply to any recycled material used in a finished product.

Q: What is meant by the term “chain of custody” referenced in the standard?

A: A chain of custody identifies a material as it moves through all the steps of a manufacturing process from its origin to end use. In the case of recycled materials, the manufacturing steps involve the collection, concentration, recycling, production and trading of recycled materials. The chain of custody requires maintaining and transferring information about the level of recycled material content in each step. This acts as a monitoring and controlling mechanism throughout the value chain of certified final products.

Q: How do collection, concentration and recycling organizations benefit from the GRS?

A: Recycled materials that meet the GRS requirements can be worth more since the requirements have been independently verified. GRS paperwork should also satisfy requests for recycled materials information even from non-certified organizations.

Q: What happens during “random inspections” as mentioned in the standard and applied to collection and concentration organizations?

A: Inspections (which are only completed at sites that are not run by individuals and require legal authorization) are limited to the verification of this authorization and confirmation of description

of recycled materials. The organization being inspected must make all areas, documents and employees (for interviewing) available.

Q: Why does this standard include requirements for social, environmental and chemical policies and content?

A: The GRS intent is to help companies verify recycled content in their products as well as identify companies in their supply chain with responsible social, environmental and chemical practices.

Q: How is compliance with this standard ensured?

A: The standard includes rigorous requirements to achieve and maintain certification including:

- > Onsite audit and surveillance requirements at all levels of the supply chain
- > Recertification requirements

Q: If I certify to GRS, must I disclose my suppliers?

A: Certification does not require that suppliers be disclosed to the brand and/or retailer. When a product is labeled for GRS, the certification number of the last certified material or product owner must be listed. If the brand/retailer wishes to hide the identity of that supplier, they should become certified so they can list their own certification number.

Q: How is this standard different from the NSF Guideline for recycled content or the Recycled Content Standard?

A: The GRS includes criteria that address social, environmental and chemical practices throughout the supply chain.

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