

Ermenegildo Zegna Group

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

(as adopted on May 17th, 2023)

INDEX

- 1. VISION..... 3**
- 2. POLICY PURPOSE..... 4**
- 3. SCOPE OF APPLICATION 4**
- 4. GOVERNANCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE POLICY 4**
- 5. ANIMAL WELFARE POSITIONS AND COMMITMENTS..... 5**
- 5.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES 5**
- 5.2 SOURCED MATERIALS 6**
 - 5.2.1 PRIORITY MATERIALS8
 - 5.2.1.1 BY-PRODUCTS OF FOOD INDUSTRY8
 - 5.2.1.2 NON BY-PRODUCTS OF FOOD INDUSTRY.....10
 - 5.2.2 OTHER MATERIALS11
 - 5.2.3 MATERIALS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION14
 - 5.2.4 MATERIALS TO BE PHASED-OUT15
- 6. SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT 16**
- 7. APPENDIX..... 17**
- 7.1 DEFINITIONS..... 17**
- 7.2 STANDARDS..... 20**

1. VISION

Ermenegildo Zegna N.V and its subsidiaries and affiliates (hereafter the “Ermenegildo Zegna Group” or the “Group”) recognizes its responsibility to the sentient animals from which garments made with animal materials are manufactured, to ensure good animal welfare alongside human rights and environmental protection. The identity of the Group evolves around the use of beautiful high-quality fibres and materials from the natural environment and the Group’s DNA is rooted in the preservation of nature and respect of communities.

The need to preserve nature lies close to the core of the Ermenegildo Zegna Group’s business, and to their choice of mostly natural, but always beautiful, high-quality fibres and materials. Understanding of the fibres and materials and their strengths is rooted in the design and development process, and the business takes great care and pride in sourcing the right beautiful fibres and material from the right sources and suppliers. Through positive and fair relationships with suppliers the Ermenegildo Zegna Group upholds traditions of quality natural fibres and materials, with suppliers delivering efficiency and continuous improvements in the sourcing of their raw materials. The same vision and approach apply to our carefully sourced hides and skins.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is aware of the importance and developments within animal welfare and wildlife conservation and is fully committed to compliance with all applicable national and international laws and regulations. It strictly adheres to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the EU Regulation on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora (EC Regulation No. 338/97).

In order to stand by these commitments to nature and respect, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group aims to only source animal fibres and materials from robust assurance schemes (where these exist), which have measurable metrics and in-built traceability, and also to reduce and refine the selection of animal materials sourced. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group also commits to building knowledge and capacity within its network of stakeholders, suppliers and teams. Furthermore, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group is investigating non-animal-based materials which could, at some point, reduce and replace some of the high-quality fibres and materials used in our collections.

The Policy should be read together with other relevant policies, including but not limited to the Ermenegildo Zegna Group’s Code of Ethics and Misconduct Reporting Policy.

2. POLICY PURPOSE

This Animal Welfare Policy (the “Policy”) combines the mindset of the Ermenegildo Zegna Group’s founders with current sourcing practices and sets guiding principles for our partners when supplying products made from animal fibers and materials.

Following a holistic approach this Policy aims to improve negative impacts and risks for animal welfare including considerations of environmental and social risks when sourcing specific animal materials.

This Policy serves as a framework to create a better understanding of performance gaps and diligence needs within the Ermenegildo Zegna Group and its supplier network and to document the process of improvement over time.

3. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Policy covers and applies to all entities consolidated in the Ermenegildo Zegna Group on December 31st, 2022 (to the extent still consolidated at the time of the implementation of the policy), involved in the manufacture and/or sale of Ermenegildo Zegna Group’s branded products containing animal materials, and their supply chain partners procuring animal-derived raw materials, semi-finished and finished products¹.

The entities consolidated in the Ermenegildo Zegna Group and supply chain partners must, therefore, be aware of the provisions of this Policy. For this purpose, this Policy is distributed as widely as possible through the internal communication and training channels within the Group and published on the Group's website.

4. GOVERNANCE, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE POLICY

This Policy has been adopted on May 17th, 2023, by the Group Chief Executive Officer of Ermenegildo Zegna N.V and – given that it applies, as far as applicable, to all of the Group brands – shall be considered as the document of reference for use of animal derived materials, in accordance with local legislations.

¹ In consideration of the very recent closing of the acquisition of Tom Ford International, this Policy will be revised to appropriately extend to Tom Ford International and its subsidiaries.

All Ermenegildo Zegna Group brands through their top management are responsible to ensure the implementation of the Policy, exercising reasonable oversight with respect to its adequacy and effectiveness.

Implementation of the Policy starts at a conceptual design level, where decisions are made on the fibres and material type and sourcing route. Any necessary exceptions need to be justified in an appropriate way and communicated with the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's Sustainability Team.

This Policy is to be reviewed on a seasonal basis in order to incorporate updates, such as legislation and react to scientific knowledge and best practice. Ermenegildo Zegna Group's Sustainability Team develops local monitoring mechanisms in consultation with local Legal and Compliance Functions to ensure the conformity of the Policy to any applicable laws and regulations.

The targets and KPIs set up within this Policy are to be tracked in the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's annual Sustainability Report.

5. ANIMAL WELFARE POSITIONS AND COMMITMENTS

5.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

When using animal derived materials within our collections, our aim is to only use animals that have lived a good life on certified farms and which are ideally not killed primarily for the purpose of textiles they provide or are hunted in a controlled and respectful manner as part of government wildlife management programs, thereby contributing to the maintenance or restoration of the ecological balance. Where animals on certified farms are killed for the purpose of leathers, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group is committed to ensure good animal welfare through application of best available traceable standards on such farms.

The Group recognizes the guiding principles of the "Five Domains" of animal welfare. The "Five Domains" animal welfare assessment model is evolving and the most recent update (September 2020), incorporates how human behavior towards animals has the potential to stimulate welfare-enhancing positive effects or welfare-compromising negative effects.

The Group prohibits the use of cruel handling practices such as mulesing/steining (freeze-branding) for sheep farming for example and advocates the use of humane methods both to obtain animal fibres and for slaughtering animals for leather production. Furthermore, the Group prohibits the use of leather or skin sourced from aborted animals.

The Group excludes altogether the use of certain animal materials such as furs starting in 2023 and is committed to phase out further animal materials which cannot be sourced according to our policy in the near future.

5.2 SOURCED MATERIALS

The following section comprises the scope of animal materials sourced by the Ermenegildo Zegna Group, the country of origin, applicable and acceptable standards.

Within this Policy a three-tier approach is followed, starting off with addressing the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's *priority materials* which are used in high volumes and reflect the overall identity of the Ermenegildo Zegna Group. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group's *other materials* represent materials used mostly in lower volumes. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group's *materials for future consideration* capture materials which are used infrequently, in small volumes.

The chosen standards aim to cover both the material and the country of origin. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group applies internationally recognized standards with following descending priority:

1. Standards that include a chain-of-custody that can demonstrate dedicated animal welfare at a farm level.
2. Organic (preferably) or other farming standards that guarantee a minimum level of animal welfare at farm level.
3. Hunting standards that can ensure a minimum level of control including humane practices within a specified and regulated area/environment.

Overall, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's animal materials can be divided into six categories:

Leather & Skins

The production of leather can potentially have significant negative environmental, social, and animal welfare impacts. Main risks associated with leather relate to animal welfare issues such as husbandry-practices, cruel practices during transport and slaughter and environmental issues such as risk of deforestation due to increased grazing areas. From a brand's perspective the complex nature of the pre-tanning supply chain and current lack of standards and transparency at farm level create further challenges for mitigation. Although leather is seen as a by-product or co-product of the food industry, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group aims to mitigate the issues of the leather industry from farm level.

Wool & Hair

Wool and hair are produced from animals for the main purpose of textile industry. Depending on the species involved, the animals are held in vast farm-like systems requiring pastures for moving herds. Main issues relate to cruel herding and handling practices such as mulesing and steining/freeze-branding. Further environmental risks include poor land management leading to overgrazing and land degradation.

Exotic Leather

Exotic leather from several species is part of the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's product portfolio. The material is derived from reptiles that are either farmed or hunted. Main animal welfare issues relate to poor farming practices such as farms located outside the natural environment, animals kept in confined spaces and not according to their natural habitat. Risks from hunting wild animals include cruel practices and lack of control which could lead to endangered species in certain areas. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is committed to only source exotic leather which is certified to ensure endangered species are not being harmed and animal welfare practices are followed.

Feather & Down

Down feathers refer to the soft layer of feathers close to the skin of duck or goose. Risks from intensive farm production may include cruel practices such as live plucking, forced feeding for foie gras production, bill trimming and overall poor animal husbandry.

Silk

Silk is produced from silkworms that are grown on mulberry leaves. Most commonly the cocoons are boiled to extract the protein fibres leaving the silkworm to die. Currently, insects are not classified as sentient beings. Therefore, high use of chemicals and water during the production processes are regarded as the highest risk of the silk value chain.

Accessories

Further animal derived materials which are used in accessories comprise horn, bone and mother of pearl. Bones and horn are mainly derived from cattle, whereas mother of pearl refers to the nacre that coats a pearl and is mostly sourced from oysters. Risks associated with mother of pearl relate to the environmentally critical practice of sea dredging which leads to loss of undersea habitats. Bones and horn are difficult to trace and poor animal welfare on a farming level cannot be ruled out.

5.2.1 PRIORITY MATERIALS

5.2.1.1 BY-PRODUCTS OF FOOD INDUSTRY

To protect animals and wildlife where available, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group uses hides, which are by-products of the food industry, from calf, cattle, deer, goat and sheep. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is aware that there are challenges with its current reliance on LWG certification to cover their needs from an animal welfare perspective and is looking into how to ensure welfare and transparency before animals reach the tannery, including close monitoring of the latest industry developments.

Calf leather is mainly used in the shoe and accessories product section. The material is sourced from LWG certified tanneries who are considered long term partners. The Group commits to only sourcing leather from Silver or Gold certified tanneries from 2025 onwards, and to exploring the data received from these tanneries to enable prioritization of where to start understanding farm level certification and initiating farm-level engagement.

Deer leather is also mainly used to produce shoes and accessories. The leather is sourced from deer hunted in North America in a controlled manner as part of government wildlife management programs. Deer management seeks to maximize the benefits of this resource while being mindful of the human and ecological concerns associated with abundant deer populations.

Materials (Country of origin)	Recommended Standards	Targets/KPIs
Cattle, Calf (Serbia, France, Germany, Poland, Netherlands, New Zealand)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leather Working Group (LWG). 2. The Italian Institute of Quality Certification for the Leather Sector (ICEC) 3. Regenerative Organic Certified, Certified Humane, Pasture for Life Certification 	<p>By 2025, 100% cattle, calf leather used must be sourced from LWG certified tanneries, with a rating of Silver or Gold only.</p> <p>Documented traceability to specific slaughterhouse.</p> <p>Introduction of minimum requirements of animal welfare through organic farming standards at farm level by 2025.</p>
Deer (Canada, USA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LWG 2. ICEC 3. Certified Humane, North America – Wild Fur Standard 	<p>By 2026, 100% deer leather used must be sourced from deer hunted in a controlled and respectful manner as part of wildlife management programs.</p> <p>The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is also committed to investigate further early-stage standards which can improve the sourcing of deer leather.</p>
Shearling (Europe, North America)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LWG 2. ICEC 3. Regenerative Organic Certified, Certified Humane, Pasture for Life Certification 	<p>By 2025, 100% shearling leather used must be sourced from LWG certified tanneries, with a rating of Silver or Gold only.</p> <p>Documented traceability to specific slaughterhouse.</p> <p>Introduction of minimum requirements of animal welfare through organic farming standards at farm level by 2025.</p>

5.2.1.2 NON BY-PRODUCTS OF FOOD INDUSTRY

Where it does use materials derived from animals in its products, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group complies with national and international requirements and aims to use available certification standards.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group uses exclusively mulesing-free **wool** when it purchases raw greasy wool. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group intends to extend the mulesing-free wool to wools purchased in form of yarns and fabrics according to the same commitments on traceability and lower-impact raw materials already communicated in 2022, i.e., reaching at least 50% of traceable and lower-impact raw materials by 2026. For example, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group has a long association with Australian wool farmers, dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. Since 2019, the wool acquired by the Group through the Schneider Group is certified to the “Authentico” scheme.

Since 2022, the main internal manufacturers of **cashmere** fabrics are certified by the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) as is the cashmere being sourced from external suppliers, meaning that raw materials meet both transparency and traceability requirements while maintaining good animal welfare.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is currently using **silk** from China from uncertified sources. Based on the lack of sentience, there are no known animal welfare risks when using silk.

Materials		
(Country of origin)	Recommended Standards	Targets/KPIs
Wool (Australia, New Zealand)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authentico by Schneider Group 2. RWS, Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), ZQ Merino, Sustainawool Gold or Green 3. Global Animal Partnership, Certified Humane, Pasture for Life Certification, Regenerative Organic Certified 	By 2026, >50% wool used must be sourced from internationally recognized standards ensuring animal welfare and sustainable land management.
Cashmere (Mongolia, China)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) 4. Authentico 	By 2026, >50% cashmere used must be sourced from internationally recognized standards ensuring animal welfare and sustainable land management.

5.2.2 OTHER MATERIALS

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group’s *other materials* represent materials used in lower volumes. For some of these materials dedicated and internationally recognized standards exist. However, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group has not yet applied all the existing standards to the respective materials and is investigating sourcing from certified sources. In the absence of specific standards, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group is considering some minimum standards to ensure animal welfare.

Leather & Fibres

As with other leather products, **sheep** and **goat** leather is mainly used in the shoes and accessories product section. The material is sourced from LWG certified tanneries who are considered long-lasting partners. Currently, follow up on animal welfare at farm-level is not performed. Based on trusted relationships, farm-level engagement and certification is to be initiated.

For mohair and alpaca, the Ermenegildo Zegna Group is investigating the standards developed by Textile Exchange to ensure good animal welfare and traceability of the fibres. For Vicuña a new standard is being developed by our trusted partner Schneider Group as part of the Authentico scheme. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is exploring the availability of this standard (and equivalent ones when available) for the materials used in its collections.

Down and feather are to be covered by Responsible Down Standard and if not available by Downpass to ensure a minimum level of traceability and animal welfare.

Materials (Country of origin)	Recommended Standards	Targets/KPIs
Sheep & Goat (Australia, South America, North Africa, Spain)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leather Working Group 2. ICEC 3. Regenerative Organic Certified, Certified Humane, Pasture for Life Certification 	<p>By 2025, 100% sheep & goat leather used must be sourced from LWG certified tanneries, with a rating of Silver or Gold only.</p> <p>Documented traceability to specific slaughterhouse.</p> <p>Introduction of minimum requirements of organic farming at farm level by 2025</p>
Mohair (South Africa, USA, Turkey)	Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)	By 2026, 50% mohair must be sourced from RMS certified suppliers or equivalent.
Alpaca (Peru, USA)	Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)	By 2026, 30% alpaca must be sourced from RAS certified suppliers or equivalent.
Vicuña (Peru)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authentico (when available) or similar 2. CITES for traceability 	Investigate in sourcing options for Authentico certified Vicuna
Down & Feathers (China, Poland, Hungary)	Responsible Down Standard (RDS), Downpass	By 2025, 100% down feathers must only be sourced from RDS, Downpass certified sources or equivalent.

Exotic Leather & Accessories

Currently **alligators** are sourced from suppliers located in US, ICFA certified.

Crocodiles are sourced from wild-hunted animals in Australia, which is closely monitored by the Government. All materials are certified by CITES to exclude any risk to endangered species in certain areas. Sourcing from farmed sources is being evaluated.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group understands that traceability schemes for **accessories** such as horn are needed in order to mitigate risks of poor animal welfare. Until then, the materials should not be sourced from countries with high risk of traceability and animal handling issues. Mother of pearl is mainly sourced from farmed oysters from Australia. Based on the lack of sentience, there are no known animal welfare risks when using mother of pearl. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group is currently evaluating future sourcing options which may include organic farming certifications.

Materials (Country of origin)	Recommended Standards	Targets/KPIs
Alligator (USA) Crocodile (Australia, Africa) Caiman (South America)	1. International Crocodilian Farmers Association (ICFA) 2. CITES for traceability, Wildlife Certified	By 2025, 100% alligator, crocodile and caiman materials must be sourced from ICFA certified suppliers. No exotic leathers are to be sourced from farms outside of their natural environment.
Horn (India)	1. Leather Working Group/ ICEC 2. Organic farming standards (refer to cattle section)	Introduce a tracing scheme for accessories. Exclude sourcing from countries with risk of poor animal welfare standards on farming level. By 2027, >50% materials must be sourced from organic certified farms.
Mother of Pearl (Australia)	None currently available	Sourcing of pearl from farmed oysters only, requiring suppliers to provide information on farming practices

5.2.3 MATERIALS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group's *materials for future consideration* capture materials for which the current level of knowledge within the industry is an ongoing process and needs to be monitored in order to evaluate up the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's own performance.

Hair and wool derived from **horse, camel and llama** are also not covered through a dedicated certification scheme. Future considerations include research and collaboration on potential standard development and investigation of traceability schemes with suppliers. The Ermenegildo Zegna Group will work with supplying collectors to improve traceability to establish core supply chains, where implementation of their animal welfare policy will have the greatest impact. Where animal materials are sourced from countries where animal welfare legislation is weak and assurance schemes are not available, the first step to implementing our animal welfare policy is to conduct assessments of the supply chains in these high-risk countries, to establish the nature and diversity of farming methods (through desk top review and supplier visits). This will allow to identify where commitments are most at risk and an action plan will be drawn up to mitigate these risks.

Materials (Country of origin)	Recommended Standards	Targets
Horsehair (China)	None, local organic farming standards (as minimum standard)	Introduce a tracing scheme for horsehair. Establish a program of completing supply chain mapping. By 2027, >50% of materials must be sourced from organic certified farms.
Camel (Mongolia, China)	None available	Work with supply chain until 2027 to find solutions to ensure welfare. Establish a program of completing supply chain mapping. If welfare cannot be guaranteed this material will be phased out.
Llama (Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina)	No separate standard, yet similar to Alpaca species	Monitor industry development for potential standard development.

5.2.4 MATERIALS TO BE PHASED-OUT

Exotics

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group has initiated to phase out some exotic leather such as Ostrich, by 2025 due to quality and traceability issues. Sourcing materials derived from snakes and lizards have already been discontinued by the Group.

Fur

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group stands by its fur-free commitment and has discontinued use of Angora and has initiated phasing out of species such as Beaver, Rabbit, and Hare until 2025.

Leather

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group has initiated the phase out of leather sourcing from certain species such as buffalo, kangaroo, and baby lamb by 2025 resulting from traceability issues and the Group's approach of animal welfare and ethical sourcing.

Others

Wool and hair derived from Yaks will also be phased out of Zegna's range of materials by 2023. Due to traceability challenges the Ermenegildo Zegna Group is also phasing out the use of bone.

6. SUPPLIER ENGAGEMENT

In order to ensure transparency and traceability of Ermenegildo Zegna Group's materials and targets in regard of animal welfare, close collaboration with the established partnerships within the value chain is necessary to "hand down" knowledge and diligence. Existing partners will be trained and educated on the targets and values set by the Ermenegildo Zegna Group's Animal Welfare Policy. In a next step, these values are to be implemented on a farm level. The introduction of this policy is also part of the onboarding process of new suppliers.

The Ermenegildo Zegna Group regularly requests its suppliers to provide proof of compliance with the standards and regulations they adhere to. To begin with this includes a technical data sheet summarizing the details of the processes involved to produce the subject material.

7. APPENDIX

7.1 DEFINITIONS

Five Domains Model

The Five Domains Model now provides an explicit means to effectively and systematically evaluate the animal welfare implications of a wide range of human–animal interactions.

Situations where human–animal interactions may have negative welfare impacts include: when animals have had little or no prior human contact, when human presence adds to already threatening circumstances, when human actions are directly unpleasant, threatening and/or noxious, when humans' prior actions are remembered as being aversive or noxious and when the actions of bonded humans cause unintended harms. In contrast, situations where human–animal interactions may have positive welfare impacts include: when the companionable presence of humans provides company and feelings of safety, when humans provide preferred foods, tactile contacts and/or training reinforcements, when humans participate in enjoyable routine activities or in engaging variable activities, when the presence of familiar humans is calming in threatening circumstances and when humans act to end periods of deprivation, inhibition or harm.

Practical translation of the Five Domains Model into General Welfare Aims.

General Welfare Aims	Focusing Welfare Targets	Provisions
Good Nutrition	To minimise thirst and hunger and enable eating to be a pleasurable experience.	By providing ready access to fresh water and a species-appropriate diet to maintain full health and vigor ^[a] .
Good Physical Environment	To minimise discomfort and exposure to adverse environmental conditions and to promote physical comfort.	By providing appropriate outdoor access and suitable shelter against adverse weather conditions ^[b] , and/or housing with different functional areas ^[c] , comfortable resting areas, and good air quality.
Good Health	To minimise pain ^[d] , disease, and other discomforts and to promote the pleasures of vigour, strength, robustness and harmonious physical activity.	By preventing or rapidly diagnosing and treating diseases and injuries, and by stimulating, among others, proper muscle tone, natural body posture, cardiorespiratory function, and digestive system processes.
Appropriate Behavioral Interactions	To minimise threats and unpleasant restrictions on behavior and movement, and to promote engagement in rewarding activities.	By providing sufficient space, conspecific company ^[e] , human interactions that are adapted to the individual needs and appropriately varied conditions ^[f] to allow for species-specific behavioral expression
Positive mental experiences	To promote the experience of various forms of comfort, pleasure, interest, confidence, and a sense of control.	By providing safe and species-appropriate environmental, conspecific, and human interactive opportunities to have pleasurable experiences.

Fur

According to Four Paws, fur is defined as any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal's fur. "Animal" includes, but is not limited to mink, fox, rabbit, karakul lamb and raccoon dog. "Fur" shall not include 1) such skins as are, or are to be, converted into leather or which in processing have, or shall have, the hair, fleece, or fur fiber completely removed, 2) materials clipped, shorn, or combed from animals, fleece, sheepskin, shearling, 3) leather or hair attached to skin that is typically used as leather e.g. cowhide with hair attached, 4) synthetic materials intended to look like fur.

7.2 STANDARDS

Leather

Leather Working Group

The LWG has introduced an auditing protocol for tanneries. This covers raw material traceability, environmental managements systems, restricted substances, energy consumption, water usage, air and noise emissions, waste management, and effluent treatment. Relating to their level of performance tanneries are assigned bronze, silver or gold level. Animal welfare is not considered during the auditing process. Currently, the LWG are evaluating steps to introduce a roadmap to traceability back to farm level.

Institute of Quality Certification for the Leather Sector (ICEC)

ICEC has prepared two leather traceability certification variants, each applicable to farmed or wild species and to split leather:

1. “Products system in tanneries”: includes in the analysis a wide range of products. The traceability of the hides upstream of the tannery is mapped, traceability checks of the production phases of these hides in the tannery are not included;
2. “Single products in tanneries”: includes the analysis of a single product or a single homogeneous products. The traceability of the skins upstream of the tannery is mapped. In this case, verification of the traceability of the production phases of these skins in the tannery is included.

The relative rating of both schemes specifies the degree of traceability of the raw materials upstream of the tannery. In March 2022 ICEC published a model of risk analysis to include Animal Welfare upstream of tannery supply chains. Starting from traceability data collection according to TS 410/412 a risk analysis calculation is updated annually following each traceability audit. Tanneries are not obligated to share this information with brands and customers.

Leather Impact Accelerator

The LIA was hosted in 2021 to bridge the gaps in transparency in the leather supply chain and to provide more immediate solutions to support farmers to improve their practices to more animal welfare. LIA is not a standard but a benchmarking program that recognizes and rewards best practices in the value chain. Brands can use LIA to support best practices in the leather value chain and make credible claims about their actions.

Exotic Leather

South African Ostrich Business Chamber (SAOBC)

The only available best management guidelines for ostrich farming have been generated by SAOBC, so far, no separate third-party certification scheme exists. The best practice guide includes general management processes, resource requirements of caretakers and facilities, correct husbandry, handling, transportation and transparency.

International Crocodylian Farmers Association (ICFA)

All farming activities of ICFA members must be certified within 3 years of joining the association and in order to remain certified annual audits take place. The ICFA covers responsible farming practices and is based on current scientific knowledge. Hosted on a global scale, the framework accommodates various reptile species.

Wool

Responsible Wool Standard (RWS):

The Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) is an international, voluntary standard that addresses animal welfare in sheep farms and chain of custody of wool from certified farms to the final product. Individual sites are certified by independent third-party certification bodies using annual audits & material is tracked from the farm to the final product.

Authentic

This standard developed by the Schneider Group aims to improve growers and farm stewardship. The integrity of the scheme covers animal welfare, land management, social responsibility, transport and traceability. The standard accommodates animal natural fibres such as wool, cashmere and also other fibres such as Alpaca and Vicuna.

Nativa

The Nativa Protocol aims to provide traceability, sustainability and animal welfare in wool production and manufacturing in Argentina, Uruguay, US, NZ and Tasmania. The Nativa Protocol certifies every step of the supply chain. The assessment includes animal welfare, land management and Corporate Social Responsibility.

SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme

Sustainawool is the largest integrity scheme in the wool industry worldwide (over 950 accredited farms). The scheme is based on grower self-declarations with the option of random desktop or on-farm audits. It covers animal welfare/health, traceability, chemical use/storage, social responsibility, wool preparation/shearing, and handling/transport. The scheme identifies different levels of standard (blue, green and gold). Green growers or higher have phased out mulesing completely and may be subject to annual random farm audits.

ZQ

ZQ is an on-farm certification programme established by NZM in 2007 and was the first such programme in the world to require growers to meet strict standards with regard to animal welfare, environmental integrity, social responsibility, fibre quality, and traceability. ZQ is aligned with the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS).

Cashmere

The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS):

The Good Cashmere Standard® (GCS) is an independent standard for sustainable cashmere, developed by the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF), that aims to improve the welfare of cashmere goats, the working conditions of farmers and to protect the environment.

Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) Cashmere Standard:

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance is a global multi-stakeholder initiative with a mission to ensure the long-term viability of the cashmere sector. The SFA's Sustainable Cashmere Standard consists of three Voluntary Standards and a Chain of Custody programme that work together to achieve the SFA's goals to improve social and environmental performance in the production of cashmere. The Cashmere Standard is based on extensive research and consultation with herder cooperatives, national government, industry experts and conservationists. Following ISEAL best practice guidelines, the codes of practice are refined and improved through a process of ongoing development, monitoring and evaluation.

Responsible Nomad

Responsible Nomads (RN) Code of Best Herding Practice, is the result of a 19 years long commitment to support Mongolian Nomadic Herder households, their Animals' Welfare and Rangeland recovery and protection. The code is the only valid and official Mongolian Standard on sustainable cashmere production. Within this framework rangeland health as well as proper animal handling is taken into account and herders receive annual trainings.

Sustainable Cashmere Union

The Sustainable Cashmere Union is a local Mongolian association and was founded in 2017 based on local cooperatives and three provinces. The sustainable cashmere certification scheme developed by the Union aims to classify sustainable cashmere production based on ecological, social economic factors. This takes responsible herd handling practices and local communities into account. The certification scheme is verified by a third party, the Sustainable Cashmere Certification Committee. In 2021, the network of the Union was adapted to accommodate baby Yak down.

Mohair

Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)

Textile Exchange launched the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS) with the goal of providing the industry with a tool to recognize the best practices of farmers. This helps ensure that mohair comes from farms that have a progressive approach to managing their land, practice holistic respect for the animal welfare of the goats and respect the Five Freedoms of animal welfare.

Alpaca

Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)

The international voluntary standard “The Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)” by Textile Exchange addresses the animal welfare practices at alpaca farms and ensures that certified farms adopt the Five Freedom animal welfare practices along with land management and social welfare at the farms. The standard also covers the producers by means of a chain of custody content claim certification.

Down

Responsible Down Standard (RDS):

The Responsible Down Standard (RDS) 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.

Downpass 2017:

The DOWNPASS-Standard aims to globally promote the proper raising of geese and ducks kept for farming purposes. This includes the responsible sourcing of feathers and down won as by-product of the meat production.

Farm Animals & Organic Standards

Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS):

The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) defines globally consistent and rigorous criteria for the processing of textiles made from certified organic natural fibres throughout the entire supply chain. These criteria include the controlled organic harvesting of fibres, environmentally friendly and socially responsible production and consistent labelling of products. Compliance with the guidelines is verified throughout the supply chain with regard to the use of chemical additives and the core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Only textiles products, which contain at least 70% organically produced natural fibres may receive GOTS certification. This certification needs to be issued by an independent testing institute.

Regenerative Organic Certified

Certification scheme for farms approved by third-party auditors. The certification represents the highest standard for organic agriculture with stringent requirements for soil health and animal welfare.

Certified Humane

Independent, non-profit certification organization with species specific standards including cattle, goat, sheep, bison and red deer, amongst others.

Pasture for Life Certified

Community of farmers raising produce exclusively on pasture including the wider range of environmental and animal welfare benefits.

Global Animal Partnership

Animal Welfare Standards exist for cattle, bison, sheep and goats amongst others. These ensure an enriched environment, outdoor access, pasture-raised conditions.

Wild Animals

Wild Fur

The Standard ensures sustainability and welfare of all fur-bearing species and protection of endangered species in North America. Harvested fur which is certified under Furmark is verified by third-party protocol and auditing scheme.

CITES

The CITES permit system aims to prevent the trade of endangered species as specified in the three Appendices of the Convention. The national CITES Management Authority issue the permits and certificates. CITES does not cover a full animal welfare certification scheme but traces the origin of animal materials.

Recycled Materials

Global Recycled Standard (GRS):

The Global Recycled Standard (GRS) is an international, voluntary, full product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of Recycled Content, chain of custody, social and environmental practices, and chemical restrictions. The goal of the GRS is to increase use of Recycled materials in products and reduce/eliminate the harm caused by its production.

Recycled Claim Standard (RCS):

Similarly to the Global Recycled Standard, the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) is an international, voluntary standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of Recycled input and chain of custody. The goal of the RCS is to increase the use of Recycled materials.