



TEKLA

Preferred Materials and Standards
Tekla © 2024

Contents

3	About preferred materials and standards
4-5	Preferred materials and standards table
6	Sourcing priorities
7	Tekla material targets
8	Evaluating standards and certifications

About preferred materials and standards

Our preferred materials and standards are defined as having less environmental and/or social impact in comparison to conventional materials. The classification table of our preferred materials and standards has been guided by data from the Higg Material Sustainability Index (MSI), where it is available, as well as the materials and standards the Textile Exchange classifies as preferred.

The Higg MSI is a cradle-to-gate material assessment tool using a life-cycle assessment (LCA) approach to evaluate the environmental impacts of materials used in the apparel footwear and home textile industries. The Higg MSI takes the best available LCA data on different materials and production processes and uses it to give materials an MSI score across five key environmental impact indicators, such as water scarcity or global warming potential. It was developed by the Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) to help brands and designers make better and more informed design and sourcing decisions.

The Textile Exchange is a global nonprofit that creates leaders in the preferred fibre and materials industry. They work to build a community to collectively accomplish what no individual or company can do alone. They have developed a suite of leading industry standards, and collect and publish critical industry data and insights that enable brands and retailers to measure, manage and track their use of preferred fibres and materials.

	Preferred*	Better than most	Avoid	Never
Cotton	Recycled cotton (GRS) Organic cotton (GOTS)	BCI cotton and other cotton initiatives listed in the Textile Exchange's 2025 Sustainable Cotton Challenge (includes REEL cotton)	Conventional cotton	Cotton from Xinjiang China
Linen	Recycled linen (GRS) Organic linen (GOTS) European Flax-certified linen Masters of Linen-certified Linen REEL Linen**	Conventional linen		
Wool & other animal fibres	Recycled wool (GRS) Responsible Wool Standard (RWS) Organic wool, can include merino (GOTS) ZQ Merino ** ZQRX Merino ** Recycled mohair (GRS)** Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS)** Recycled cashmere (GRS)** The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS)** Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA)** Recycled alpaca (GRS) ** Responsible Alpaca Standard (RAS)** Recycled		Conventional wool Conventional animal fibres	Mulesed wool and/or wool with no animal welfare standards or traceability. Other animal fibres with no animal welfare standards or traceability.
Down	Recycled down (GRS)** Responsible Down Standard (RDS)** Downpass-certified down**			Down with no animal welfare standards or traceability.

* All preferred materials must adhere to an adequate standard, verified with certification.

** No Higg MSI LCA data available, guidance taken from Textile Exchange Preferred Fibres and Materials report.

Sourcing priorities

Materials

Recycled vs. virgin fibres: Recycled fibres should always be prioritised over virgin fibres wherever possible, i.e. wherever we do not face too many limitations on quality, look, feel and durability. This recognises the lower greenhouse gas footprint of recycled fibres alongside their importance in the transition to a circular economy. This is significant when looking at animal fibres.

Standards

All preferred materials must adhere to an adequate standard, verified with certification.

For all recycled materials, certification to the Global Recycled Standards (GRS) is prioritised over the Recycled Claim Standard (RCS), because GRS has more rigorous environmental, social and chemical requirements throughout the supply chain.

For all virgin and organic fibres, certification to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is prioritised over the Organic Content Standard (OCS), because GOTS has more rigorous, environmental, social and chemical requirements throughout the supply chain.

Tekla material targets

Use 100% preferred fibres and materials in all core and seasonal products by 2025.

In the case of products with blends, if the product's composition contains majority preferred materials we classify the product as meeting our preferred criteria.

Evaluating standards and certifications

All preferred materials must be verified with a certification to ensure the integrity of material claims and to better mitigate against greenwashing. Wherever possible, these should be verified by a third party and cover social and animal welfare requirements, as well as environmental requirements. When evaluating how responsible a standard is, we take the following into consideration:

Does the standard have social as well as environmental requirements? And where applicable, animal welfare requirements?

Does the standard require a chain of custody, and how much of the supply chain does this cover?

Does the standard require third-party verification for certification?

Does the standard work with stakeholder engagement? And has it been developed with the input of suppliers and experts as well as brands and retailers?

