



SUSTAINABLE FIBRE ALLIANCE

SFA Certification for 2021





## INTRODUCTION

The SFA Cashmere Standard is a voluntary standard that addresses the welfare of goats and ensures that cashmere fibre is processed without the use of harmful chemicals, ensures efficient use of energy and water, and maintains a safe and fair working environment at the primary processing sites (scouring and dehairing).

At the heart of the SFA Cashmere Standard is the Cashmere Goat Welfare Code of Practice (CoP), jointly developed with the International Cooperation Committee on Animal Welfare ([ICCAW](#)), and the Clean Fibre Processing CoP.

This document provides an overview of the SFA Cashmere Standard supply chain certification.



# SFA CASHMERE STANDARD CERTIFICATION

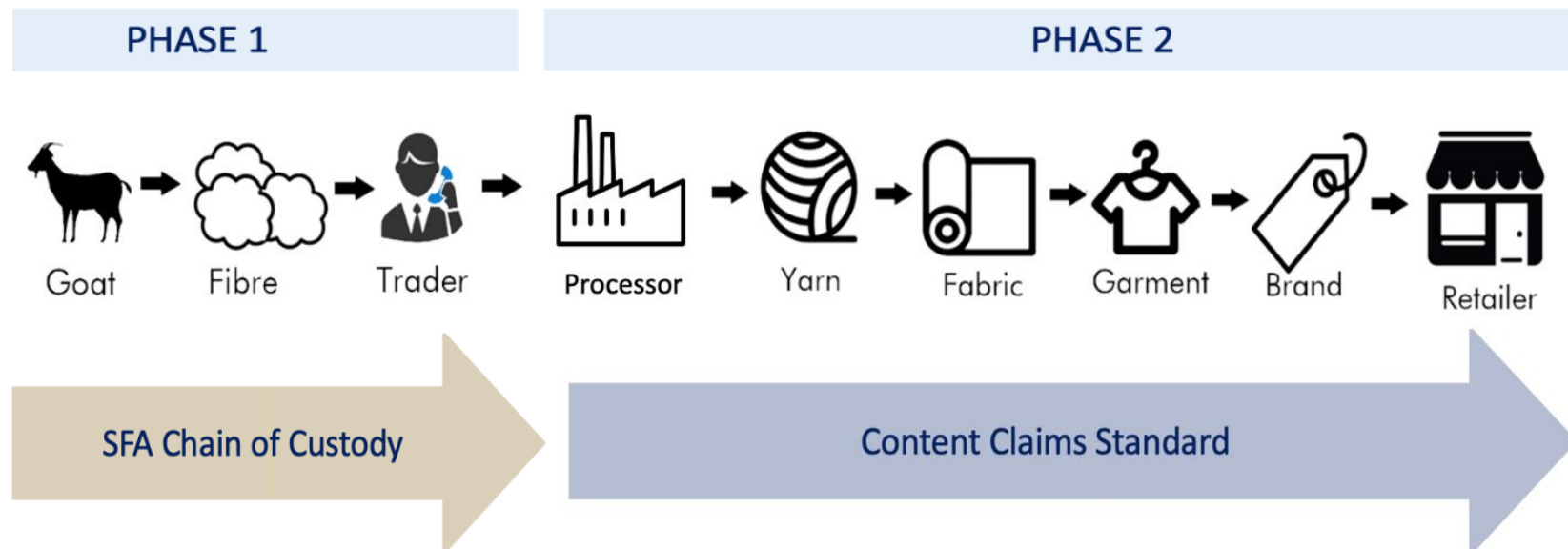
The SFA Cashmere Standard requires all sites to be certified (except for Traders), beginning with the cashmere farms through to the seller in the final business to business transaction.

**FARMS** are certified by the Cashmere Goat Welfare Code of Practice (CoP) of the joint SFAxICCAW Cashmere Standard.

**TRADERS** are **not** required to be certified by the Content Claims Standard for the 2021 pilot, but they must be registered with the SFA and must have paid the participation fee. Traders must comply with the SFA Chain of Custody Guidelines.

**PRIMARY PROCESSING** stages (scouring and dehairing) of participating companies need to be certified by the SFA's Clean Fibre Processing CoP. For the pilot year, this is not a requirement at the start of the project. Clean Fibre Processing CoP will be implemented in **late 2021**.

Primary processing and subsequent stages of the cashmere supply chain are required to be certified against the requirements of the Textile Exchange (TE)'s Content Claim Standard (CCS), up to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.



## THE CONTENT CLAIM STANDARD OF TEXTILE EXCHANGE

The [Content Claim Standard](#) is a chain of custody standard by [Textile Exchange](#) (TE) that verifies the amount of a given raw material in a product. It forms the chain of custody requirements for all TE standards, and is also the basis for the chain of custody in the SFA Standard.



## CHAIN OF CUSTODY

The aim of Chain of Custody (CoC) is to track the movement of raw material from accredited farms through the supply chain up to the final product and to enable verification of associated claims. This is done through Scope Certificates (SC) and Transaction Certificates (TC).

The SFA's Cashmere Standard Chain of Custody will trace the certified cashmere through **Phase 1** (from Producers to Processors).

### The SFA Cashmere Standard Chain of Custody Requires the Following:

- Mixing of certified and non-certified fibre is not permitted until the **spinning stage**, after which the exact content of certified and non-certified fibre shall be documented.
- Anywhere between 33% and 100% Certified cashmere in the total cashmere content or at least 5% of Certified cashmere in the final product, whichever is higher, is permitted as long as the exact content is recorded and included in the final product claim.

*Two options are available for the mixing of certified and non-certified fibre, as long as the exact content of certified fibre is recorded and included in the final product claim: 1) Producing yarn with at least 33% certified content and creating final garments using this minimum 33% certified content yarn only; and 2) Producing yarn with 100% certified content and mixing this with non-certified yarn, ensuring the final garment contains at least 33% of this 100% certified content yarn.*

**EXAMPLE 1 :** A 100% cashmere scarf: at least 33% must be SFA x ICCAW Certified cashmere.

**EXAMPLE 2:** A scarf of 95% wool and 5% cashmere: 5% all must be SFA x ICCAW Certified cashmere.

**EXAMPLE 3:** A scarf of 20% cotton and 80% cashmere: at least 27% (33% of 80%) must be SFA x ICCAW Certified cashmere.

**EXAMPLE 4:** A scarf of 70% silk and 30% cashmere: at least 10% (33% of 30%) must be SFA x ICCAW Certified cashmere.

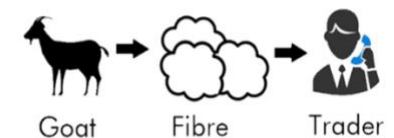
## PHASE 1: SFA CHAIN OF CUSTODY

### How to register the transaction and obtain a Transaction Certificate (TC) for Phase 1

- The company is responsible for the input of transaction details of the raw fibre purchase into the SFA's CoC online system.  
*(i.e. transactions corresponding to purchases from farmers either directly or through the fibre agents, as well as the purchases from the independent trader)*
- The company must ensure that all required details of the transaction are filled out in each transaction receipt.  
*(i.e. date of transaction, name of entities and SFA-ICCAW unique ID numbers for both the seller and buyer, the fibre volume, etc.) and be signed and dated by both the seller (the trader) and by the buyer (the manufacturer)*
- If raw fibre is purchased through the fibre agent, the company must obtain all transaction receipts of transactions between farmers and fibre agent. The images/e-copies of receipts shall be attached to the online transaction form as evidence along with the Excel sheet of transaction records.
- The transaction details must be entered by the company into the SFA's CoC online system through the link provided by the SFA.
- The SFA will verify the transaction and issue the Transaction Certificate to the relevant parties.

The SFA Cashmere Standard Chain of Custody will trace the certified cashmere through **Phase 1** (from Producers to Processors)

#### PHASE 1



SFA Chain of Custody



Textile Exchange's  
Content Claim  
Standard for SFA  
Certified Cashmere  
will start from  
processing onwards -  
from **Phase 2**.

Facilities are certified  
to the standard, and  
each shipment of  
goods must be  
accompanied by a  
transaction certificate  
as well.

#### PHASE 2



Content Claims Standard

## PHASE 2: TE CONTENT CLAIM STANDARD

### How to comply with the Content Claim Standard (CCS)

The Content Claim Standard is based on three principles: Product identification, Product Segregation and Volume Reconciliation.

#### Product Identification

- Certified products are accurately identified
- Content percentages of claimed materials are accurate

#### Product Segregation

- Certified goods are not mixed with non-certified goods
- Certified goods are stored separately from non-certified goods

#### Volume Reconciliation

- Certified outgoing products match the incoming certified goods
- $(\text{Input}) \pm (\text{production loss}) = (\text{output})$

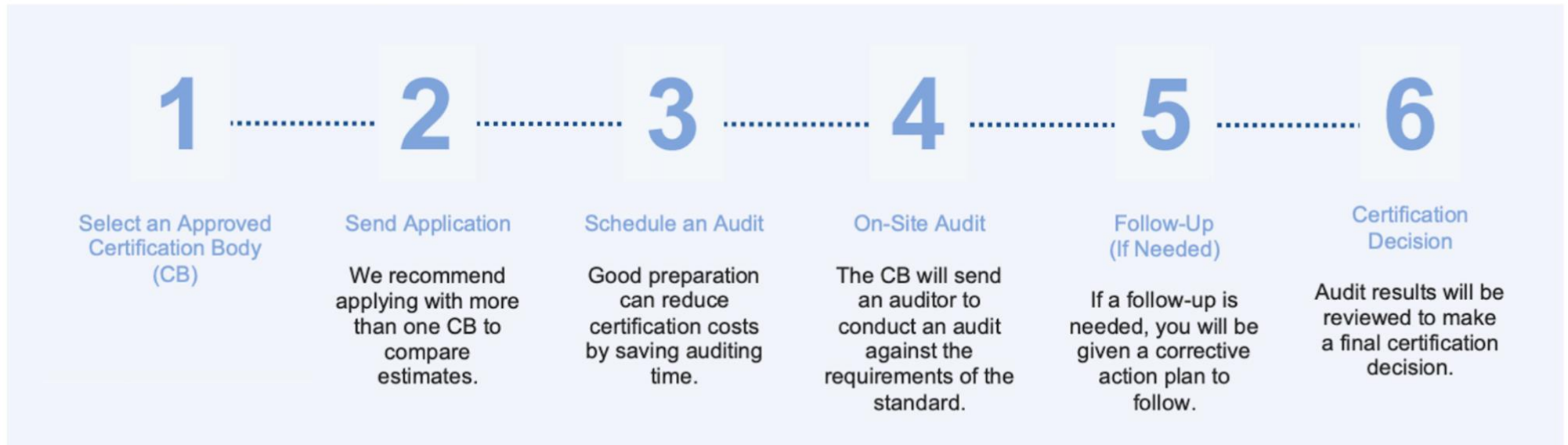
Certification to the CCS verifies that the Chain of Custody principles are followed in each stage of production.

We currently have agreements with the following Certification Bodies:

Control Union - [fcostantini@controlunion.com](mailto:fcostantini@controlunion.com)  
Inditek - [simona.romanoschi@intertek.com](mailto:simona.romanoschi@intertek.com)  
ICEA - [paolo.foglia@icea.bio](mailto:paolo.foglia@icea.bio)



## HOW TO GET CERTIFIED



The Certification Body (CB) is responsible for performing the audits throughout the year and also for issuing Transaction Certificates.

## WHAT ARE SCOPE CERTIFICATES (SC)

After being audited by a Certification Body (and meeting the requirements of the Content Claim Standard) each audited site of the company is issued with a Scope Certificate (SC). This document verifies that the company's site is qualified to produce goods to a given standard. An SFA Cashmere SC is valid for a year and audits are conducted annually.

## WHAT ARE TRANSACTION CERTIFICATES (TC)

Transaction Certificates (TCs) are issued by a certification body and verify that the cashmere being shipped from one company to the next conform to the SFA Cashmere Standard. TCs are issued each time goods change ownership, and details will match invoices and shipping documents. TCs are requested from the Certification Body by the selling company. The TC request will include details of the shipment (i.e. shipping documents, invoices and TCs of certified inputs). The Certification Body will ensure that the company has sufficient certified inputs to produce the order on the TC.

## WHAT DOES IT COST

The pricing structure of the different certification bodies varies, and should be available on their website or by request. In addition to the price structure of the certification body, the cost of certification will also be influenced by the location of the site and the complexity of the site operations.

**Example:** TE gives the following estimate for its [Responsible Wool Standard](#) supply chain scope certification

*"for a simple site should cost in the range of \$1,500 to \$3,000 for the initial inspection (excluding travel), while subsequent inspections will be less".*

## WHERE CAN I GET HELP AND SUPPORT

SFA UK office will be providing guidance and support for the pilot participants.

Please contact [coc@sustainablefibre.org](mailto:coc@sustainablefibre.org) for questions

