



Quick Guide to the Recycled Content Standard (RCS) + Global Recycled Standard (GRS)

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 primary goal of the RCS is to increase the use of recycled materials.**

The **Global Recycled Standard (GRS)** is an international, voluntary, full product standard that sets requirements for third-party certification of recycled input, chain of custody, social and environmental practices, and chemical restrictions. **The primary goal of the GRS is to increase use of recycled materials in products and reduce the harmful social, environmental, and chemical impacts of production.**

Objectives of both the RCS and GRS

- Alignment of recycled definitions across multiple applications.
- Track and trace recycled input materials.
- Provide consumers (both brands and end consumers) with a tool to make informed decisions.
- Provide assurance that materials are actually recycled and in a final product.

Objectives specific to the GRS only

- Reduce harmful impact of production on people and the environment.
- Provide assurance that materials in the final product are actually recycled and processed more sustainably.
- Drive innovation in addressing quality issues in the use of recycled materials.



Key Points in the RCS & GRS

Verifying Recycled Material

Materials are verified to meet the ISO definition of recycled. Both pre-consumer and post-consumer material is accepted.

Responsible Production

GRS sites are required to meet strict social and environmental requirements. Chemicals with potential for harm are not permitted to be used on GRS products.

Chain of Custody

Certification ensures that the identity of the recycled material is maintained: from the recycler to the final product.

Credible Certification

A professional, third party certification body audits each stage in the supply chain.

Confident Communication

Products that meet all requirements may be labeled with the RCS or GRS logo.

Stakeholder Engagement

The RCS and GRS are managed with the input of recyclers, suppliers, and brands and retailers from all parts of the globe.

Adoption of the RCS + GRS

- In 2019, **2,499 companies** were certified to the RCS.
- In 2019, **6,809 companies** were certified to the GRS.



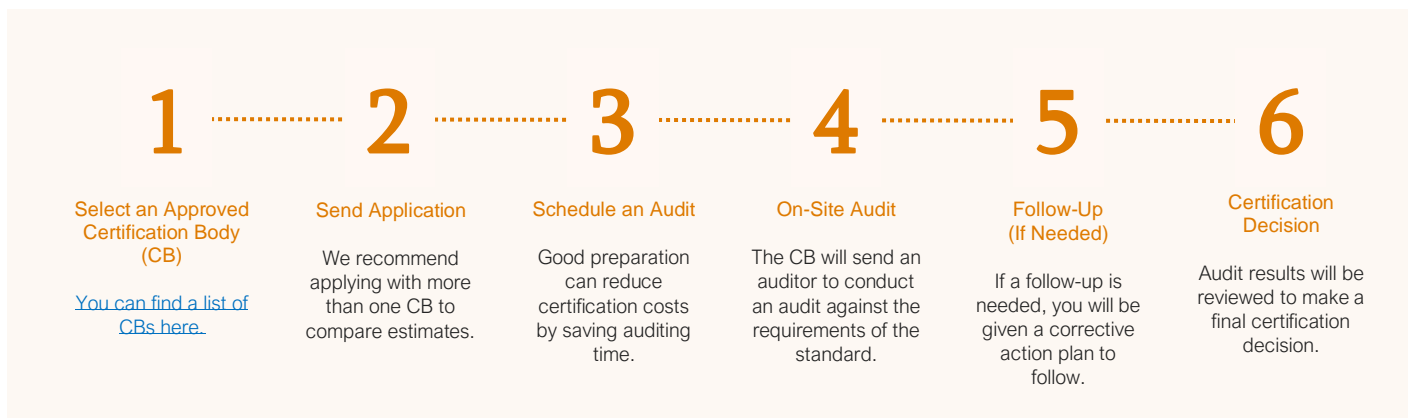
Getting Started

- If you would like to begin sourcing certified recycled material, begin asking your suppliers if they are certified. They should be able to provide you with a scope certificate (SC) of their certification. This is the first step, but does not verify that any particular product is certified.
- Request transaction certificates (TC) from your certified suppliers to verify you are getting certified products. The TC will list the shipment details and include whether the material is pre-consumer or post-consumer recycled.

Communicating Claims

- Before labeling products, make sure to follow all requirements in the [RCS and GRS Logo Use and Claims Guide](#).
- Products must be certified up to the seller in the last business-to-business transaction.
- All claims must be approved by an authorized certification body (CB).

How to Get Certified



Background of the RCS + GRS

The **RCS** and **GRS** were developed through an open and transparent process led by [Textile Exchange](#) and a multi-stakeholder group which included representatives from across the industry and different sectors, including industry organizations, supply chain members, brands, and area experts. All policies and procedures are based on the [ISEAL Best Practices](#), which can be found on our website.

Textile Exchange has been in existence since 2002, and plays a powerful role within the textile industry to support the understanding and use of sustainable materials and proper verification strategies. While Textile Exchange has extensive experience in standards development and ownership, we do not engage in any certification activities: all of our focus is on supporting the quality and adoption of its standards.

The staff at Textile Exchange are very accessible, and always ready to provide support to brands or companies interested in the RCS or GRS.

Learn More or Get Involved

Contact Standards@TextileExchange.org | Visit TextileExchange.org/Integrity/