



Sustainable Fibre Alliance
Cashmere Standard - CONSULTATION
2022

About this standard

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) Cashmere standard defines management practices, decent work, biodiversity, goat welfare and fibre quality. This is a live document and SFA reserves that right to amend it based on developing needs and emerging best practices. The official language of the SFA is English, clarifications of translations should refer to the English original for confirmation. Please ensure you have the latest version of this standard. The SFA website will always display the current standard.

Disclaimer

No guarantee, warranty or representation is made as to the accuracy or completeness of the SFA Cashmere Standard and other documents or information sources referenced in it. Compliance with the standard is not intended to, nor does it, replace, contravene or otherwise alter the requirements of any applicable global, national, state or local governmental statutes, laws, regulations, ordinances or other requirements. Compliance with the standard is voluntary for non-members and is neither intended to, nor does it, create, establish or recognise any legally enforceable obligations or rights against the SFA and/ or its members or stakeholders. Non-members shall have no legal cause of action against the SFA and/or its members or stakeholders for failing to comply with the standard.

Feedback, complaints & disputes

We welcome feedback on the cashmere standard. Contact us via email: info@sustainablefibre.org. Any complaints relating to non-conformance with the standard, SFA members or the SFA's own policies, processes and procedures can be submitted through the SFA complaints and disputes resolution procedure at [Resources | SFA \(sustainablefibre.org\)](#)

About the SFA Cashmere standard

The SFA is a non-profit international organisation working with the cashmere supply chain, from herders to retailers. Our vision is a future where cashmere is produced in a way that minimises environmental impact, safeguards herder livelihoods and meets high welfare standards. Most importantly, SFA compliance can reduce risks and vulnerabilities in a company's supply chain.

Scope

The SFA Cashmere Standard covers the most significant sustainability issues associated with cashmere production and explains the intended outcomes achieved through their adoption. The Standard can be applied at a global level. Evaluation and certification of producers against the cashmere standard must use an approved set of indicators adapted to national, regional or local conditions. The SFA distinguishes between different types of cashmere production systems in recognition of the differences in the location, production methods and workforces they use. The 'Producer' is the term chosen to define the unit of licensing and can be either an individual herder, a Producer Organisation (PO) (a group of herder households), or a large farm.

Why is the standard being reviewed?

SFA published codes of practice for animal husbandry, rangeland stewardship, and clean fibre processing, which have been rolled out and applied in stages in Mongolia and China since 2018. The pilot projects and application of these codes of practice have enabled a deeper understanding of the critical issues in cashmere production and supply, and the management systems needed to record, verify and track them.

In 2022, the SFA is proposing consolidating these three codes of practice into one global standard the **SFA Cashmere Standard** – impact-oriented, global standard to avoid a proliferation of similar, but slightly differing codes of practice in different regions, and to integrate decent work, management and fibre quality principles to better address a wider scope of relevant issues to cashmere production, herder livelihoods and align with SFA's 2030 strategy.

How to use this document

We invite anyone to provide feedback on the content and structure of the proposed SFA Cashmere Standard, to enable a balance of stakeholder perspectives from across the supply-chain, from varying locations, sectors, and perspectives.

Online Feedback form: you can feedback on all aspects of the standard, or specific parts of the standard via our online form: [here](#)

Email: Alternatively, you can provide feedback or specific comments by providing your input in the comment column below and sending this and any other supporting documents by email: standards@sustainablefibre.org.

Management indicators

1. Plans and procedures				
Desired outcome: Producers have a clear strategy and set of protocols to safeguard the welfare of their animals, and to demonstrate compliance to the cashmere standard.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		1.1	SFA members must comply with all applicable law and regulations in the jurisdictions in which they operate.	
		1.2	There must be procedures in place to maintain animal welfare.	
		1.3	Producers must understand the requirements of SFA Cashmere standard.	
		1.4	Herders or workers must be made aware of SFA Cashmere standard provisions that are relevant to their role.	
		1.5	All contracted workers that come to perform work involving animals shall be made aware of the SFA Cashmere standard provisions that are relevant to their role.	
		1.6	The SFA member must provide full access to the farm and/or operations that fall under their certification scope to the certification body or their representatives.	
		1.7	The SFA member must provide the information required to assess the status of compliance with SFA Cashmere standard that fall under their certification scope to the certification body or their representatives.	

		1.8	The Producer must be SFA Cashmere standard certified at the time the SFA fibre is sold.	
		1.9	The Producer must ensure that SFA Cashmere standard fibre is kept separate from non-SFA Cashmere standard fibre.	
2. Continuous improvement				
Desired outcome: An inclusive, efficient approach to more sustainable cashmere production through continuous improvement, with the potential to reach a large number of producers globally and enable transformational change.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		2.1	The Producer must monitor performance and progress against mandatory and improvement Indicators through the collection of the SFA Cashmere Standard Results Indicators.	
		2.2	Herders must apply learning to their activities to enable compliance with the mandatory indicators and progress against improvement indicators.	
		2.3	Non-compliance with SFA Cashmere Standard mandatory indicators must be identified and corrective actions must be planned and enforced.	

3. Training				
Desired outcome: Management indicators ensure that the workforce undergoes ongoing training, that noncompliance risks are identified and remediated.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		3.1	The workforce must be trained or experienced and competent in handling animals, and must possess and practice the ability, knowledge, and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals.	
		3.2	A training plan for the workforce must identify the key sustainability issues to be addressed.	
		3.3	The workforce must participate in training on sustainability practices.	
		3.4	The workforce must participate in training for workplace health and safety in a form and language they can understand. This will include training and information on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific role-related health and safety hazards and controls. 2. Appropriate action in the event of an accident or emergency. 3. Fire safety and emergency procedures. 4. First-aid training for designated employee representatives. 5. Workers' right and responsibility to stop work or refuse to work in situations with uncontrolled hazards, and to immediately 	

			flag these situations to those at imminent risk and to management.	
4. Data Management				
Desired outcome: Management indicators ensure that progress against fibre production criteria is monitored and assessed, and that field-level data is accurately maintained and systematically reported.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		4.1	The Producer must collect and maintain accurate and complete data on the organisation in the format required by the SFA, which must be updated on an annual basis, sooner if required.	
		4.2	Records must be kept for a minimum of 10 years.	

Decent Work indicators

5. Hiring practices				
Desired outcome: There are good practices regarding fair hiring, which is free of discrimination and intimidation and directly combats risk factors for forced labour.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		5.1	The producer or processor must operate in accordance with local /national laws and ensure fair hiring practices.	
		5.2	The farm must not engage in or support the use of forced or compulsory labour,	

			including prison labour, as defined in ILO Convention 29.	
		5.3	The farm must ensure all employees understand their contract of employment.	
6. Child labour				
Desired outcome: Children are protected from exploitation, not engaged in dangerous work, and able to participate fully in formal education.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		6.1	Workers under the age of 18 must not be engaged in the worst forms of child labour or hazardous child labour, as defined in ILO Convention No. 182 and Recommendation No. 190.	
		6.2	Children can safely learn farming from their family members by engaging in age-appropriate activities outside of school hours and lessons.	
7. Working Conditions & Conduct				
Desired outcome: Workers work in a respectful environment, free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, and abuse. Workers are enabled to speak out and have their concerns addressed in a clear, timely, and courteous manner.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		7.1	Discrimination, as defined in ILO Convention No. 111, is prohibited.	
		7.2	Harassment, verbal abuse, or physical abuse of any kind at any time is prohibited.	
		7.3	Corruption, extortion and/or bribery of workers or families are prohibited.	

8. Wages and benefits				
Desired outcome: Workers receive payment in a transparent and consistent manner that is non-discriminatory and provides for appropriate rest and leave for the worker.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		8.1	Workers must receive wages that comply with local legal minimum wages or collectively bargained wages, whichever is higher.	
		8.2	Equal pay for equal work must be provided for all workers regardless of gender, work status, religion, political affiliation, nationality, age, or other factors.	
9. Communities				
Desired outcome: Farm activities respect the rights of and have minimal negative impact on communities.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		9.1	Farms must acknowledge and adhere to legal rights of communities regarding sites, land, and other resources.	
		9.2	Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be obtained for any activity that may affect the lands, territories, and resources that Indigenous Peoples customarily own, occupy or otherwise use.	

10. Health & Safety				
Desired outcome: Workers work in facilities and environments that are safe and healthy.				
		Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
		10.1	Potentially hazardous work situations must be clearly identified, and unnecessary risks eliminated.	
		10.2	Maintain an inventory of hazardous substances. Safety data sheets (or equivalent) shall be accessible wherever hazardous substances are used and their associated risks shall be clearly and actively communicated to all employees who work with them.	
		10.3	Machinery must have clear instructions on safe use, are maintained and stored to limit hazards.	
		10.4	Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be provided at no cost to the worker.	
		10.5	Provide and maintain workplaces with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safe and accessible potable drinking water. 2. Sanitary facilities for eating and storing food. 3. Clean and hygienic washing and toilet facilities commensurate with the number and gender of employees. 4. Fire safety equipment and alarms. 	

			<p>5. Clearly marked, unlocked and unblocked emergency exits and escape routes.</p> <p>6. Access to adequate power supply and emergency lighting.</p> <p>7. Childcare and breastfeeding facilities in accordance with applicable law.</p> <p>8. Suitable conditions for pregnant or nursing women, or alternative working arrangements to avoid unsuitable workplaces.</p>	
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Natural resource indicators

11. Biodiversity				
Desired outcome: Management of Rangelands to conserve and enhance biodiversity is planned.				
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Herders understand the value of natural resources and how to protect them	11.1	Herders should understand the following: (i) importance of natural resources (soil, water, and biodiversity) for their rangelands and their communities (ii) how their activities affect soil health, water, and biodiversity and how these relate to each other (iii) the activities they can undertake to conserve and improve natural resources on their rangelands	

	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Grazing management maintains soil health, prevents degradation of pasture and minimises competition with wildlife	12.1	Grazing pastures, including reserve pastures, should be identified and a schedule of seasonal grazing movements between pastures is agreed upon by rangeland users.	
		12.2	Stocking rates should be appropriate for the pasture, reflect the importance of native species and take into account land type, pasture quality, seasonal conditions, class of stock and available feed resources.	
		12.3	Locally relevant practices should be implemented to improve grazing resources for livestock and wildlife populations, including maximising plant diversity and cover and reducing the prevalence of unpalatable vegetation.	
		12.4	Locally relevant practices should be implemented to minimise soil compaction and erosion and minimise the loss of soil organic matter.	
		12.5	Livestock-free zones should be established in areas important for the conservation of wildlife populations.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Biodiversity and natural habitats are conserved and enhanced	13.1	Measures must be implemented to protect water courses and wetlands (for example, use of buffer zones and proper storage of fertilisers and chemicals).	

		13.2	Natural habitats and biodiversity must be conserved, and steps must be taken to enhance them over time.	
		13.3	Measures must be taken to avoid unintended introduction of alien species e.g., through the transportation of soil, plant materials, water, etc.	
		13.4	Degraded areas must be identified, and steps are taken to restore them over time.	
		13.5	Locally relevant practices should be implemented to minimise the risk of carnivore predation on livestock.	
		13.6	Corridors or routes used for the migration of wildlife across the farm/rangeland should be maintained.	
		13.7	Locally relevant practices should be implemented to minimise the risk of dog predation and harassment of wildlife.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Water resources are managed to optimise the quality and availability of water for people, livestock and wildlife	14.1	Natural water resources must be identified, and measures are taken to protect them.	
		14.2	Locally relevant practices that minimise sedimentation of water bodies should be implemented.	
		14.3	Practices should be implemented to effectively manage changing rainfall patterns and increasing risk of floods and drought [climate change mitigation].	

	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Herders minimise the introduction of hazardous materials into the rangeland environment	15.1	Hazardous materials must not be disposed of on the rangeland unless specifically allowed by law and it is safe to use the affected land for grazing.	
		15.2	Steps must be taken to restore areas damaged by hazardous materials.	
		15.3	Biological, cultural, and physical and other non-chemical methods are prioritised for pest control.	
		15.4	Pesticides must only be used once a certain threshold of pest level is reached, that has potential to cause harm to livestock or the pasture. If pesticides are used, (i) low toxicity active ingredients are preferred (ii) they are applied in a way to mitigate resistance.	
		15.5	Pesticides must not be used if they are subject to any international bans.	
		15.6	Pesticides and other hazardous materials must only be handled by people who are trained in their use, handling, are over 18 years of age and are not pregnant or nursing.	
		15.7	Fertilisers must only be used when there is a demonstrable pasture need.	
		15.8	Fertilisers must only be applied when soil conditions allow uptake of the nutrients.	

			Fertilisers must not be applied to frozen or waterlogged soil.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Herders ensure the protection and enhancement of natural resources through a comprehensive Rangeland Management Plan (RMP).	16.1	The Rangeland Management Plan (RMP) must include a clear description of the rangeland managers, its users, and the legal status of the producer organisation.	
		16.2	The RMP must be developed with input from all herders within the producer organisation.	
		16.3	The RMP must include a timeline for implementing its components.	
		16.4	The RMP must include an annual monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan.	
		16.5	The RMP must consider the use of the rangeland by herders that are not members of the producer organisation.	

Goat welfare indicators

17. Feeding and drinking				
Desired outcome: All goats have access to sufficient forage and feed suited to their nutritional needs according to their breed, physiological stage, and health condition to maintain health and prevent prolonged hunger, and access to water to prevent dehydrating.				
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must have access to adequate nutrition and forage	17.1	Goats must not be fed spoiled or contaminated feed	
		17.2	Access to feeding and water points must be monitored such that all goats can eat and drink safely and without crowding	
		17.3	Goats must not be fed animal-derived products, with permitted exceptions.	
		17.4	Growth hormone promoters or non-therapeutic antibiotics for growth promotion must not be administered to goats	
		17.5	Effective measures must be taken to prevent goats eating poisonous or harmful plants.	
		17.6	Goats must have access to adequate and appropriate nutrition for their needs. If pasture cannot provide adequate sustenance to maintain animal health and bodily condition, then sufficient and appropriate supplementary feed must be provided.	
		17.7	Goats access to feed and water must only be restricted for reasonable management practices.	

		17.8	Any change to goat diet must be introduced gradually to avoid digestive upset.	
		17.9	Goats must have access to materials to browse, such as shrubs and bushes.	
		17.10	Goats must have access to natural grazing pasture unless adverse weather conditions would negatively impact their welfare.	
		17.11	A written Feeding Management Plan should be in place, with permitted exceptions.	
		17.12	Any purchased or externally sourced feed or feed additives must have a "pollution-free" certification.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must have access to sufficient, clean and fresh water	18.1	Goats must have access to clean, safe drinking water each day, with the ability to drink their fill at least every 12 hours.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Feeding equipment must be kept clean and uncontaminated	19.1	Feeding and drinking equipment, including that used in the artificial rearing of kids, must be kept clean and well maintained.	

	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must have daily access to long fibre	20.1	The majority of goats' nutrition should come from grazing and browsing.	
		20.2	The proportion of roughage in the diet should be sufficient for goats to ruminate.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must have access to safe and comfortable shelter, housing or pens to protect from discomfort or injury.	21.1	Goat shelters and fencing (where applicable) must be designed, constructed, maintained and cleaned to prevent injury, infection and escape.	
		21.2	Goat housing / shelter must provide natural light and be well ventilated.	
		21.3	If artificial lighting is used in goat housing / shelter, there must be a period of low-level lighting during the day to promote resting behaviour.	
		21.4	If artificial lighting is used in goat housing / shelter its use must not exceed 16hrs in a single 24hr period.	
		21.5	Housed goats must have access to bedding, which is dry and sufficient to lie down and avoid discomfort.	
		21.6	The flooring for housed animals must provide good traction. All housed animals should not be kept on a slatted floor where possible.	

		21.7	Housed goats who are sick, injured, pregnant or young must not be kept on a slatted floor.	
		21.8	Wet manure must be removed from housing / shelters at least once every 24hrs or more frequently, as required.	
		21.9	Goat housing / shelter must provide a minimum space that allows them to move and rest.	
		21.10	When goats are housed for longer than Xhrs, they must have access to additional space to allow natural behaviours.	
		21.11	Goats must have access to effective shelter / windbreaks (natural or artificial) to protect them from adverse weather conditions.	
		21.12	Goats must not be knowingly exposed to potentially toxic chemicals, including paints, wood preservatives, disinfectants or any other toxic product.	
		21.13	Goats must be provided an area that is free from dangerous debris and objects.	
		21.14	Where goats are at risk from predators, measures must be taken to reduce risk of attack and injury.	
		21.15	Facilities should be available to house and/or segregate weak, sick, injured or disabled goats.	
		21.16	Goats in farming systems must have access to an exercise area which: (1) has environmental enrichments to encourage natural behaviour	

			(2) is 2.5x times larger than their usual housing / shelter.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must be handled and treated humanely in a manner that is appropriate to the status of the animal and their specific needs	22.1	Goats must be handled calmly, humanely and without excessive force. Goats must not be mistreated in anyway including as a minimum: kicking, striking, tripping, slamming gates onto, throwing or dropping, dragging or lifting by their coat, tail, horns, ears, head, neck or back legs. Goats must not be chased or struck using whips, sticks, stones, or electric devices.	
		22.2	Handling of kids, pregnant females, injured, lame or sick animals must be done with additional care than that of healthy animals.	
		22.3	Goats must only be tethered or confined to crates following best practice, for long as is necessary and only to address special needs. Tethers and crates must be designed and maintained so as to not cause distress or injury.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must be routinely monitored for signs of sickness, disease, injury or abnormal behaviour and	23.1	Vaccinations (if administered) must be undertaken following veterinary advice.	
		23.2	Goats must be observed at least once in a 24hour period to check for sickness, injury or abnormal behaviour.	
		23.3	Goats that are identified as sick, lame or injured must be given appropriate	

	immediate action taken when a problem is identified.		observation, immediate treatment, care and feeding.		
		23.4	Measures must be taken to prevent and control parasitic infections.		
		23.5	Goat hooves must be checked at a minimum of once a year, sooner if required, and trimmed where necessary to prevent lameness.		
		23.6	Goat marking for the purposes of identification must be performed in accordance with recognised best practice, using well-maintained and fit for purpose tools. Hot-iron branding is strictly prohibited.		
		23.7	Newly acquired goats must be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days from all other animals. They can only be introduced to the herd after they are confirmed as disease-free.		
		23.8	Goats must only be kept in isolation under exceptional circumstances.		
		23.9	Medical treatments must only be administered to goats in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations, and after qualified veterinary advice (if required).		
		23.10	Treatment records for goats should be kept and include at a minimum: a) substance administered (including herbal remedies) and reason for treatment.		

			b) the animal receiving the treatment c) date of treatment	
		23.11	Medical or biological waste, including unused or expired medications and equipment, must be disposed of safely and responsibly.	
		23.12	Herds must be assessed by a qualified veterinarian at least once a year, sooner if required, to review animal welfare and established welfare management plans / procedures.	
		23.13	Farms must have a written welfare plan. The plan should be reviewed at least annually, sooner if required.	
		23.14	Mortality rates must be monitored for all animals and action taken if mortality rates exceed expected levels."	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats must be kept in stable groups according to their age and status.	24.1	Goats are kept in stable groups and mixing of unfamiliar animals is avoided.	
		24.2	The breeding herd is kept separately during the breeding season.	

	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Breeding strategy shall address welfare issues and suitability for the type of environment in which the goats are raised.	25.1	Goat health, welfare traits and suitability for the environment must be included in breeding selection processes.	
		25.2	Artificial insemination practices must be carried out by competent personnel following recognised best practice.	
		25.3	Cloned, genetically engineered or gene-edited goats are prohibited	
		25.4	Goats must not be mated until they are at least a minimum age dependant on their gender.	
		25.5	Minimum breeding intervals for does must be followed.	
		25.6	Herds must have an appropriate gender ratio, dependant on the age of the bucks.	
		25.7	Insemination records should be kept and tagged.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Kidding must be supervised, and timely action taken while keeping disturbances to a minimum.	26.1	Does close to giving birth must be provided with access to shelter.	
		26.2	Newborns must be within sight and sounds of other animals and given opportunity to bond with the herd. Newborns areas must be kept clean and dry with sufficient, appropriate bedding.	
		26.3	When necessary, additional measures must be taken to keep newborns warm.	

		26.4	Newborns must receive their first feed, regardless of method, within two hours of birth. Newborns must receive a sufficient amount of colostrum, regardless of method, within 24hrs of birth.	
		26.5	kids, which are unable to suckle sufficiently are fed manually or fostered and have milk in their diet for a minimum timeframe.	
		26.6	Kids must be provided fibrous food from one week of age.	
		26.7	Herders must be sufficiently familiar with birthing and problems arising during birthing to know when to intervene and when to request assistance.	
		26.8	If C-section is required, it must be carried out by a veterinarian, using appropriate equipment and providing necessary aftercare.	
		26.9	If C-section rates exceed expected levels during a kidding cycle appropriate measure must be taken.	
		26.10	Herders must monitor the prevalence of problems occurring during pregnancy and birthing and take action if it exceeds expected levels.	
		26.11	Prior to kidding season adequate suppliers of colostrum must be available in case of emergency.	
		26.12	Goats must not be weaned until they are a minimum age or a percentage of their adult weight.	

		26.13	Weaned kids must be kept with other kids they are familiar with and separate of their mothers.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Injurious husbandry procedures, including castration, disbudding, dehorning or any other mutilation, shall be based on a welfare risk/benefit analysis rather than as a routine.	27.1	Castration must only be carried out where absolutely necessary and on goats younger than 8 weeks of age.	
		27.2	Castration must only be carried out using methods that minimise pain and suffering, performed under suitable conditions and include post-operation observation and care. Castration must only be carried out by competent persons.	
		27.3	De-scenting, disbudding, dehorning, and removal of goat wattles are strictly prohibited.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Goats to be euthanised must be handled, restrained, and killed in such a manner as to minimise unnecessary pain and distress prior to death.	28.1	Goats must only be euthanised if they are experiencing pain or sickness and have no prospect of recovery, have not responded to treatments or are subject to chronic suffering.	
		28.2	Goats must only be slaughtered by a method that causes minimal stress, pain and results in a rapid loss of consciousness, followed by death without the animal regaining consciousness.	
		28.3	Goat slaughter must only be carried out by competent and trained personnel who use	

			appropriate equipment, that is well maintained.	
		28.4	Goats must be stunned using appropriate methods and equipment, which follow best practice.	
		28.5	Drug withdrawal best practice and manufacturer recommendations must be followed prior to slaughter if the animal is to be used as food.	
		28.6	Goat carcasses must be processed promptly and all remains disposed of hygienically. Diseased carcasses must not fed to other animals.	
		28.7	Goat carcasses are removed promptly and disposed of hygienically.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	All other animals that are kept must be treated humanely.	29.1	Working animals must be properly trained as to not cause injury or distress to other animals.	
		29.2	Working animals must have an adequate supply of food and water every day.	
		29.3	Working animals must receive prompt veterinary care when it is required.	
		29.4	Working animals must be handled in a way that avoids injury, fear and distress.	
		29.5	Working animals must not be continuously tethered or tethered in a way that restricts their breathing. The use of choke chains is strictly prohibited.	
		29.6	Mutilation of working animals is strictly prohibited.	

		29.7	Working animals must receive appropriate vaccination and parasite control.	
		29.8	Working dogs must have a sleeping area that is not on bare concrete or metal.	
		29.9	A suitable first-aid kit for working animals must be accessible at all times.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	The fibre harvesting method must be appropriate to the production setting.	30.1	The method of fibre harvesting must be appropriate to the production systems.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Cashmere fibre must only be harvested when the fibre begins naturally to shed	31.1	When using the combing method, fibre must only be harvested when it begins to shed naturally.	
		31.2	Harvesting fibre outside must only be conducted during suitable weather conditions and when it does not pose a health risk to goats. Fibre harvesting must be suspended if it rains, snows or other adverse conditions.	
		31.3	Measures must be taken to ensure goats do not suffer from cold weather after their fibre has been harvested.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	During fibre harvesting, discomfort to	32.1	Fibre harvesting must only be carried out by competent personnel, using appropriate techniques and well maintained equipment	

	goats must be minimized and injuries avoided or prevented		that minimises discomfort and injuries to the goat.	
		32.2	Goats access to food must be restricted before fibre harvesting.	
		32.3	Goats must only be restrained during fibre harvesting using best practice approaches that do not restrict blood circulation or cause distress or injury.	
		32.4	Goats must not be left unsupervised whilst under temporary restraint.	
		32.5	Herder must monitor the injuries obtained during fibre harvesting and take appropriate steps to improve fibre harvesting practices.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	All goats must be fit for transport	33.1	Goats must be fit for transport. Goats that are sick, injured, unable to stand unaided, are in the last 2 months of gestation or are otherwise are at risk during transport must not be transported unless to receive medical treatment.	
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	On journeys over 8 hours, goats must be provided water, feed, and rest	34.1	For journeys over 8 hours, goats are provided water, feed, and rest according to their needs	

	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Handling and transportation must avoid distress, illness and injury	35.1	Goats must be protected from heat and cold stress during transport.	
		35.2	When goats are moved on foot, this must happen at a pace that does not cause exhaustion or heat stress to the goats.	
		35.3	Transport vehicles must have enough space for goats to stand, lie down and without their heads touching the roof (if there is one).	
		35.4	Use of electronic prods, electro-immobilisers and similar electronic devices are strictly prohibited.	
		35.5	Goats must have access to feed and water within two hours of loading for transport.	
		35.6	Transport vehicles and loading facilities must be adequately designed, constructed, maintained, cleaned and operated to avoid goat distress and injury.	
		35.7	Goat transportation must not exceed 8 hrs.	
		35.8	Goats must not be sold for international slaughter.	

Fibre quality indicators

36. Improving fibre quality				
Desired outcome: Over time there is a marked improvement in the average fibre quality of SFA certified fibre.				
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Herders adopt management practices that maximise fibre quality.	36.1	Breeding selection of animals must consider fibre quality as well as welfare and suitability traits.	
		36.2	Locally relevant best practices for fibre quality improvements must be shared between herders through appropriate methods.	
		36.3	Herders must adopt breeding improvement plans to improve fibre quality of their animals.	
		36.4	Herders must review overall fibre quality at the end of each season and incorporate learnings where appropriate.	
		36.5	When fibre quality issues are identified, herders must take steps to understand and address them.	
		36.6	Producers must monitor the fibre quality of their animals to inform the breeding improvement plan.	

37. Fibre management				
Desired outcome: Fibre harvesting and storage practices maintain fibre quality downstream processing and achieve added value for herders.				
	Criteria	Indicator number	Indicator	Comment
	Herders must harvest, manage and store cashmere fibre to minimise contaminants and damage	37.1	Best practices for the harvest and storage of fibre must be adopted.	
		37.2	For a mixed animal herd, harvested fibre must be sorted by colour and by age.	
		37.3	Bags or sacks constructed from synthetic materials must not be used for the harvest, storage, or transportation of fibre.	