



Sustainable Fibre Alliance
SFA Cashmere Standard v 1.1
January 2023

About this standard

The Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) Cashmere standard defines best practice for cashmere production including effective management, decent work, biodiversity, goat welfare and fibre quality improvement. This is a normative document and the SFA reserves the right to amend it based on developing needs and emerging best practices, as defined in SFA's Standard Setting Procedures (SCS-036-02.2-EN). 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 valid 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 SFA Cashmere 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. Users 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 SFA 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 \(sustainablefibre.org\)](#) or by sending an email to: standards@sustainablefibre.org detailing the complaint or comment.

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. The SFA Cashmere Standard is comprised of five main principles: effective management; decent work; biodiversity and land use; goat welfare; and fibre quality improvement. The SFA Cashmere Standard provides a holistic approach to cashmere production covering topics such as goat welfare, worker rights, health & safety, land use and biodiversity. The SFA Cashmere Standard can help to reduce risks in the cashmere supply chain enabling producers to engage with best practices, continually improve their performance and provide third party assurance to stakeholders.

Vision

The SFA’s vision is for all cashmere to be produced in a way that minimises environmental impact, safeguards herder livelihoods and meets high welfare standards.

Mission

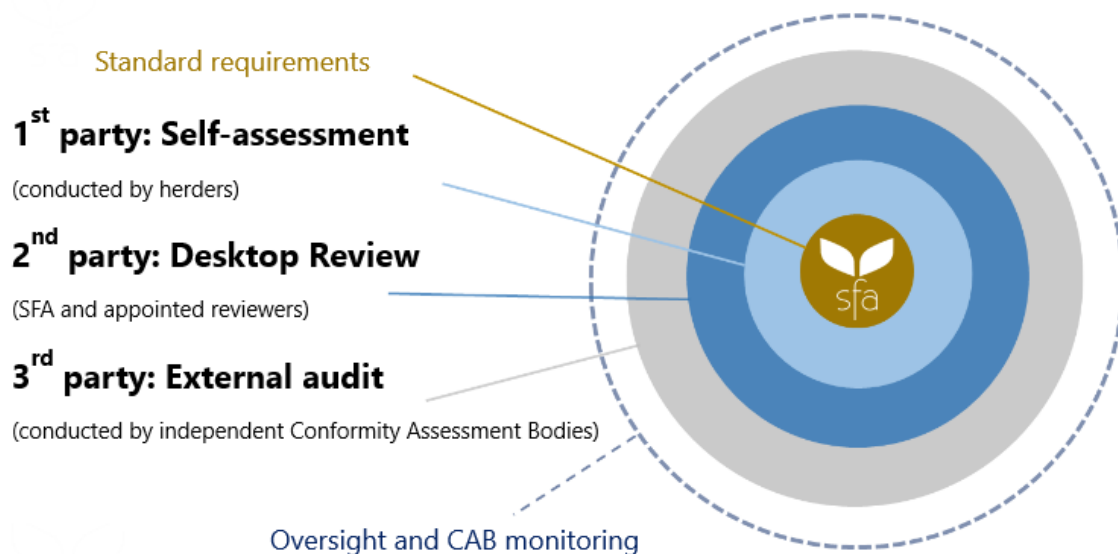
The SFA mission is to ensure the long-term viability of the cashmere sector by promoting the SFA Cashmere Standard and encouraging the adoption of responsible production practices.

Scope

The SFA Cashmere Standard covers the most significant sustainability issues associated with cashmere production and outlines the intended outcomes achieved through the adoption of the standard’s requirements. The Standard can be applied at a global level. Assessment and certification of herders against the 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.

For further clarification on the scope and applicability of the standard, please refer to the Country Guidance document/s (www.sustainablefibre.org/resources).

Assurance



There are three main steps to SFA certification against the SFA Cashmere standard:

1. Conduct a self-assessment against the applicable criteria and indicators of the SFA Cashmere Standard. This will enable users of the standard to ascertain their current level of compliance, identify areas of improvement or development and ensure that they are prepared to undergo third party audit.
2. The self-assessment documents are reviewed by a body separate from the producer being assessed (for example, SFA staff, a standards committee, or another stakeholder body authorised by SFA to conduct these second party reviews).
3. Undergo a third-party audit where standard users will be visited by an independent third-party auditor from one of the SFA approved Conformity Assessment Body (CAB). They will conduct on-site verification of compliance against the SFA Cashmere Standard, looking to verify that the applicable criteria and indicators for the standard user are being followed. The CAB will issue an audit report once they have completed the audit, and if successful, the CAB will issue certification against the SFA Cashmere Standard.
4. Review and re-certification. SFA Cashmere Standard certificates are valid for 1 year. When the certification period comes to an end, the standard user should review their self-assessment to ensure continued compliance against the SFA Cashmere Standard which is valid at the time and undergo another third-party audit. This audit scope will differ, speaking to different herders, staff, visiting different sites to previous/initial audit and reviewing different records (where applicable).

Please refer to the Assurance Manual for comprehensive instruction and guidance on the assurance processes (www.sustainablefibre.org/resources).

SFA Cashmere Standard development

This version of the SFA Cashmere Standard was developed through a formal process, following the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards. The process, which included comprehensive and transparent consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, was overseen by the SFAs Standard System Improvement Committee (SSIC). The SFA is sincerely grateful for the time, expertise and valuable input of the SSIC members, as well as the many individuals and organisations who contributed to the SFA Cashmere Standard through consultation and public comment.

At the SFA, we strive to ensure that our standards are relevant, practical, applicable and will lead to positive outcomes and impacts to those who use or are affected by our standards. The SFA will carry out a formal review of the SFA Cashmere Standard by 2028 (five years after publication of this version) or earlier, if required. Recommendations or suggestions for amendments or clarifications can be submitted at any time by emailing: standards@sustainablefibre.org; the SFA will record these for consideration in the next formal review process, or, should the comment identify a critical issue with the current standard, could trigger a full or partial standard revision. (See SFA's Standard Setting Procedures). The SFA will continue to work with stakeholders and members to ensure that the SFA Cashmere Standard is both appropriate and achievable, and that it continues to address key sustainability challenges.

Status

This version of the SFA Cashmere Standard was approved by the SFA SSIC on 13 December 2022, and which applies from date of publication. This 2023 version is the outcome of a formal revision and adaptation of the SFA's herder-level codes of practice: the Animal Husbandry Code of Practice, the Rangeland Stewardship Code of Practice and the SFA x ICCAW Cashmere Goat Welfare Code of Practice.

This 2023 version supersedes all previous cashmere production and herder-level codes of practice. The SFA has established a transition period to enable users of the SFA Cashmere Standard that are already in preparation or certified against applicable codes of practice to meet pre-existing planning and certification deadlines. All existing codes of practice certifications will remain in place, and users do not need to get recertified until their current certificates expire.

Version: 1.0

Release date: 20/01/2023

Previous version: N/A

Changes from previous version: N/A

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of any SFA standards document, this can be done at reasonable cost by emailing: info@sustainablefibre.org

Effective Management Indicators

Plans and procedures		
Desired outcome: Producers have a clear strategy and set of protocols to safeguard their livelihoods and the welfare of their goats, and to demonstrate compliance to the SFA Cashmere Standard.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
1.Plans and procedures	1.1	Producers must comply with applicable law and regulations in the jurisdictions in which they operate.
	1.2	Producers must understand the requirements of the SFA Cashmere Standard.
	1.3	Producers and any contracted workers must be aware of the SFA Cashmere Standard criteria that are applicable to them.
	1.4	Steps must be taken to mitigate livelihood and goat welfare risks.
	1.5	Producers must provide full access to the rangeland and/or operations that fall under their certification scope to the certification body or their representatives.
	1.6	Producers must provide the information required to assess the status of compliance with the SFA Cashmere Standard that fall under their certification scope to the certification body or their representatives.
	1.7	Producers must be SFA Certified at the time the SFA Certified fibre is sold.
	1.8	Producers must ensure that SFA Certified fibre is kept separate from non-certified fibre.
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.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
2.The Producer must develop and implement a Continuous Improvement Plan.	2.1	Producers must monitor performance and progress against indicators as identified in their Continuous Improvement Plan.
	2.2	Producers must apply learning to their activities to enable progress against identified improvement indicators.
Desired outcome: The workforce is competent and well-trained and competent in the production of cashmere and mitigating associated sustainability and welfare risks.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
3.Producers and contracted workers receive regular and targeted training on best practices to comply with	3.1	The workforce must be trained or experienced and competent in handling goats, and must possess and practice the ability, knowledge, and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the herd.
	3.2	A training plan must identify the key sustainability issues to be addressed and how the training will be delivered to SFA producers and workers.

the SFA Cashmere Standard requirements.	3.3	Training materials are available on the SFA Cashmere Standard requirements, with a focus on key sustainability issues and best practices for the local context and are disseminated to the workforce in the local language.
	3.4	The workforce must participate in health and safety training in a form and language they can understand, including: <ul 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' rights 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.
	3.5	Producers must monitor the level of adoption of best practices promoted through the training and evaluate the content and delivery of training materials on a regular basis to improve their effectiveness.
Desired outcome: Producers are capable of collecting and reporting complete and accurate data and information about their activities to the SFA. Management indicators ensure that progress against fibre production criteria is monitored and assessed, and that field-level data is accurately maintained and systematically reported.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
4. The Producer operates an effective data management system.	4.1	Producers must collect and maintain accurate and complete data on their organisation/farm and its members on an annual basis, sooner if required.
	4.2	Records must be kept for a minimum of 10 years.

Decent Work Indicators

Desired outcome: There are good practices regarding fair hiring, which are free of discrimination and intimidation and directly combat risk factors for forced labour.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
5. Producers operate good hiring practices and ensure there is no forced labour.	5.1	Engagement in, or support of, the use of forced or compulsory labour, as defined in ILO Convention 29, is prohibited.
	5.2	All employees and contracted workers must understand their contract of employment.
	5.3	Working additional hours or overtime must be completely voluntary.
Desired outcome: Children are protected from exploitation, not engaged in dangerous work, and able to participate fully in formal education.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
6. Producers ensure that there is no child labour, in accordance with ILO Convention 182.	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 182 and Recommendation 190.
	6.2	Children safely learn how to herd livestock from their family by engaging in age-appropriate activities outside of school hours and lessons.
Desired outcome: Workers are treated fairly and respectfully, and environments are harmonious, motivating and productive.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
7. Producers ensure that work environments are respectful, free from discrimination, workers harassment and abuse and that can speak out about concerns.	7.1	Discrimination, as defined in ILO Convention 111, is prohibited.
	7.2	Harassment, verbal abuse, or physical abuse of any kind at any time are prohibited.
	7.3	Corruption, extortion and/or bribery of workers or families are prohibited.
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.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
8. Producers observe the principles of equal pay for equal work.	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.

Desired outcome: Herding activities have minimal negative impact on local communities and indigenous peoples.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
9. Producers respect local communities and indigenous peoples.	9.1	Producers must acknowledge and adhere to legal rights of local 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.
Desired outcome: The health of workers is not negatively impacted by their work environment.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
10. Producers provide access to safe sanitation and water facilities and ensure that work environments are not detrimental to human health.	10.1	Potentially hazardous work situations must be clearly identified, and unnecessary risks eliminated.
	10.2	An inventory of hazardous substances must be maintained. Safety data sheets (or equivalent) shall be accessible wherever hazardous substances are used and their associated risks must be clearly and actively communicated to all employees who work with them.
	10.3	Machinery must have clear instructions on safe use, be maintained and stored to limit hazards.
	10.4	Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be provided at no cost to the worker.
	10.5	Safe and accessible potable and washing water facilities must be available.
	10.6	Workplaces must provide and maintain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sanitary facilities for eating and storing food. b) Clean and hygienic washing and toilet facilities commensurate with the number and gender of employees. c) Fire safety equipment and alarms. d) Clearly marked, unlocked and unblocked emergency exits and escape routes. e) Access to adequate power supply and emergency lighting. f) Childcare and breastfeeding facilities in accordance with applicable law. Suitable conditions for pregnant or nursing women, or alternative working arrangements to avoid unsuitable workplaces.
	10.7	Workers have the right and responsibility to stop work or refuse to work in hazardous situations. Workers must alert those who are working in hazardous situations to an imminent risk. All risks must be reported to a relevant person as soon as possible.

Biodiversity & Land Use Indicators

Biodiversity		
Desired outcome: Management of rangelands to conserve and enhance biodiversity is planned.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
11. Producers understand the value of natural resources and how to protect them.	11.1	Producers must understand the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) importance of natural resources (soil, water, and biodiversity) for their rangelands and their communities. b) how their activities affect soil health, water, and biodiversity and how these relate to each other. c) the activities they can undertake to conserve and improve natural resources on their rangelands.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
12. Grazing management maintains soil health, prevents degradation of pasture and minimises competition with wildlife.	12.1	Grazing pastures, including reserve pastures, must be identified and a schedule of seasonal grazing movements between pastures agreed upon by producers.
	12.2	Stocking rates must 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 must be implemented to improve palatable grazing resources for livestock and wildlife populations, including maximising plant diversity and cover.
	12.4	Locally relevant practices must be implemented to minimise soil compaction and erosion and minimise the loss of soil organic matter.
	12.5	Livestock-free zones must be established in areas important for the conservation of wildlife populations.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
13. Biodiversity and natural habitats are conserved and enhanced.	13.1	Measures must be implemented to protect water courses and wetlands.
	13.2	Natural habitats and biodiversity must be conserved, and steps 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, animals etc.
	13.4	Degraded areas must be identified, and steps taken to restore them over time.
	13.5	Locally relevant practices must 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 must be maintained.
	13.7	Locally relevant practices must be implemented to minimise the risk of dog predation and harassment of wildlife.

	13.8	Locally relevant practices must be implemented to minimise the risk of communicable diseases being contracted from wildlife.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
14. 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 must be implemented.
	14.3	Practices must be implemented to effectively manage changing weather patterns due to climate change.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
15. Producers 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, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) low toxicity active ingredients are preferred. b) they are applied in a way to mitigate resistance. c) their use must comply with requirements of criterion 13 – ‘Biodiversity and natural habitats are conserved and enhanced’.
	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.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
16. Producers ensure the protection and enhancement of natural resources	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 members of the producer organisation.

through a comprehensive Rangeland Management Plan (RMP).	16.3	The RMP must consider the use of the rangeland by herders that are not members of the producer organisation.
	16.4	The RMP must include a timeline for implementing its components.
	16.5	The RMP must include an annual monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plan.
	16.6	The RMP must be communicated to all herders within the Producer Organisation.

Goat Welfare Indicators

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.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
17. Goats 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	Where applicable, goats must have access to materials to browse, such as shrubs and bushes.
	17.10	Where applicable, goats must have access to natural grazing pasture for as much of the year as possible, 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.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
18. Goats 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.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
19. Feeding equipment is 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.

Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
20. Goats have daily access to long fibre.	20.1	Where applicable, the majority of goats' nutrition must come from grazing and browsing.
	20.2	The proportion of roughage in the diet should be sufficient for goats to ruminate.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator Comment
21. Goats have access to safe and comfortable shelter, housing or pens to protect from discomfort or injury.	21.1	Shelters and fencing (where applicable) must be designed, constructed, maintained and cleaned to prevent injury, infection, escape and attack from predators.
	21.2	Housing / shelters must be well ventilated and provide natural light.
	21.3	If artificial lighting is used in housing / shelters, there must be a period of low-level lighting during the day to promote resting behaviour.
	21.4	If artificial lighting is used in housing / shelters, its use must not exceed 16hrs in a single 24hr period.
	21.5	Housing / shelters must have access to bedding or a suitable flooring which is dry, maintained at an appropriate level of cleanliness, is sufficient to lie down and avoids discomfort.
	21.6	The flooring for housed goats must provide good traction. Where possible, housed animals should not be kept on a slatted floor.
	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 as required.
	21.9	Housing / shelters must provide a minimum space that allows goats to move and rest.
	21.10	Goats in farming systems must have access to an exercise area that is at least 2.5x times larger than their usual housing / shelter.
	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 heavily pregnant, weak, sick, injured or disabled goats.

Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
22. Goats must be handled and treated humanely in a manner that does not cause pain and 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 subject to abuse or 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.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
23. Goats must be routinely monitored for signs of sickness, disease, injury or abnormal behaviour and immediate action taken when a problem is identified.	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 observation, immediate treatment, care, feeding and, when necessary, kept in a separate pen.
	23.4	Measures must be taken to prevent and control parasitic infections.
	23.5	Goat hooves must be checked at a minimum of twice a year, sooner if required, and trimmed as required to prevent lameness.
	23.6	Newly acquired goats must be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days from all other animals, avoiding complete isolation. They can only be fully integrated to the herd after they are confirmed as disease-free.
	23.7	Medical treatments must only be administered to goats in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommendations, and after qualified veterinary advice (if required).
	23.8	Treatment records for goats should be kept or accessible if not kept by the herder 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.
	23.9	Medical or biological waste, including unused or expired medications and equipment, must be disposed of safely and responsibly.
	23.10	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.

	23.11	Farms must have a written welfare plan. The plan should be reviewed at least annually, sooner if required.
	23.12	Mortality rates must be monitored for all animals and action taken if mortality rates exceed expected levels.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
24. Goats experience positive social interactions with the environment, other animals and humans to maintain psychological well-being.	24.1	Goats must be kept in stable groups of familiar conspecifics, with opportunity for bonding and other affiliative interactions.
	24.2	Kids must not be weaned until they are a minimum age or a percentage of their adult weight.
	24.3	Breeding bucks must not be separated from other goats outside of the breeding season.
	24.4	Goats must have access to environmental enrichment that encourage exploratory, foraging and play behaviours.
	24.5	Goats must only be kept in isolation under exceptional circumstances.
	24.6	Newborns must be given opportunity to bond with the herd.
	25.7	Goats must experience positive interactions with humans that build trust and promote calmness, confidence and compliant responsiveness within the herd.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
25. Breeding strategy shall address welfare issues and suitability for the type of environment in which the goats are raised.	25.1	Breeding selection of goats must consider goat health, welfare traits and suitability for the environment.
	25.2	Artificial insemination practices must be carried out by competent personnel and follow 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	Breeding records should be kept and tagged.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
26. 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 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	All kids must receive sufficient colostrum, whether by natural methods or manual assistance, within 24 hours of birth, with the first feed occurring within 2 hours of birth.

	26.5	Kids that are unable to suckle sufficiently must be fed manually or fostered and have milk in their diet for a minimum timeframe.
	26.6	Fresh fibrous food must be available for kids from an appropriate age.
	26.7	Producers 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	Producers must identify and monitor the prevalence of problems occurring during pregnancy and birthing and take action if expected levels are exceeded.
	26.11	Prior to the kidding season, adequate supplies of colostrum must be available in case of emergency.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
27. Injurious husbandry procedures are limited to strict welfare needs.	27.1	Castration must only be carried out when absolutely necessary from a herd management and welfare perspective.
	27.2	Where possible, castration must be carried out before kids reach 8 weeks of age.
	27.3	Castration must only be carried out under suitable conditions by competent personnel, using methods that minimise pain and suffering, and include post-operative hygiene, observation and care.
	27.4	De-scenting, disbudding, dehorning, and removal of goat wattles are strictly prohibited.
	27.5	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.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
28. Euthanasia is conducted in a safe and humane manner that minimises 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 euthanised using a method that causes a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress.
	28.3	Euthanasia must only be carried out by competent and trained personnel who use appropriate, well-maintained equipment.
	28.4	Goats must be stunned prior to euthanasia using appropriate methods and equipment, which follow best practice.

	28.5	If the goat is going to be used as food, drug withdrawal prior to euthanasia must follow veterinary instructions to ensure any medication, treatment or injection content is no longer present in the goat's body.
	28.6	Goat carcasses are removed promptly and disposed of hygienically in a designated disposal zone or area.
	28.7	Diseased carcasses must not be fed to other animals.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
29. Other working animals are treated humanely.	29.1	Working animals must be properly trained as to not cause injury, distress, or pain 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 and have access to suitable shelter / protection during adverse weather conditions.
	29.9	A suitable first-aid kit for working animals must be accessible at all times.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
30. Fibre harvesting methods must be appropriate to the production setting and weather conditions.	30.1	The method of fibre harvesting must be appropriate to the production system.
	30.2	When using the combing method, fibre must only be harvested when it begins to shed naturally.
	30.3	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 adverse weather conditions arise.
	30.4	Measures must be taken to ensure goats do not suffer from cold weather after their fibre has been harvested.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
31. Fibre harvesting methods must minimise discomfort and risk of injury.	31.1	Fibre harvesting must only be carried out by competent personnel, using appropriate techniques and well-maintained equipment that minimises discomfort and risk of injury to the goat.
	31.2	Goats' access to food must be restricted prior to fibre harvesting.

	31.3	Goats must be gradually desensitised to the combing or shearing process from a young age.
	31.4	Goats must only be restrained during fibre harvesting using best practice approaches that do not restrict blood circulation or cause distress or injury.
	31.5	Goats must not be left unsupervised whilst under temporary restraint.
	31.6	Producers must monitor the injuries obtained during fibre harvesting and take appropriate steps to improve fibre harvesting practices.
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
32. Handling and transportation must avoid distress, illness and injury.	32.1	Goats must be fit for transport. Goats that are sick, injured, unable to stand unaided, are in the last 2 months of gestation, kids whose umbilical cord has not healed, or are otherwise are at risk during transport must not be transported unless to receive medical treatment.
	32.2	Goats must be protected from heat and cold stress during transport.
	32.3	When goats are moved on foot, this must happen at a pace that does not cause exhaustion or heat stress to the goats.
	32.4	Transport vehicles must have enough space for goats to stand, lie down and without their heads touching the roof (if there is one).
	32.5	Use of electronic prods, electro-immobilisers and similar electronic devices are strictly prohibited.
	32.6	Goats must have access to feed and water within two hours prior to loading for transport.
	32.7	Transport vehicles and loading facilities must be adequately designed, constructed, maintained, cleaned and operated to avoid goat distress and injury.
	32.8	For journeys over 8 hours, goats are provided water, feed, and rest according to their needs.
	32.9	Goats must not be sold for international slaughter.

Fibre Quality Improvement Indicators

Improving fibre quality		
Desired outcome: Over time there is a marked improvement in the average fibre quality of SFA certified fibre.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
33. Producers adopt management practices that maximise fibre quality.	33.1	Breeding selection of goats must consider fibre quality as well as welfare and suitability traits.
	33.2	Locally relevant best practices for fibre quality improvements must be shared between producers through appropriate methods.
	33.3	Producers must adopt a breeding improvement plan to improve fibre quality of their goats.
	33.4	When fibre quality issues are identified, producers must take steps to understand and address them.
	33.5	Producers must review and monitor the quality of their goats' fibre annually, to incorporate learnings and inform their breeding improvement plan.
Fibre management		
Desired outcome: Fibre harvesting, and storage practices maintain fibre quality downstream processing and achieve added value for herders.		
Criterion	Indicator number	Indicator
34. Herders must harvest, manage and store cashmere fibre to minimise contaminants and damage.	34.1	Best practices for the harvest and storage of fibre must be adopted.
	34.2	For a mixed herd, harvested raw fibre must be sorted by colour and by age of the goats.
	34.3	Bags used for the storage and transportation of fibre must not cause contamination of the fibre.