



31 MARCH 2025

STATEMENT OF INTENT

SFA ANIMAL FIBRE STANDARD CAMELID SCOPE

SUSTAINABLE FIBRE ALLIANCE



WHY A CAMELID SCOPE?

Background

Camelids are crucial to pastoral communities globally and play an essential role in their cultures, food security, economies, and livelihoods. From the Andean highlands to the semi-arid landscapes of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, camelids contribute to the resilience of indigenous peoples in the face of climate change by continuing to produce fibre and food even in extreme weather conditions.

Despite the socio-economic importance of camelids, there is currently no standard that attempts to define the responsible production of camelid fibres and other commodities. As part of the International Year of Camelids in 2024, the SFA began developing an expansion to the [SFA Animal Fibre Standard](#) (hereafter, the Standard or AFS) that would make it fit for assessing the production of fibres from camelids.

Way forward

[Version 1.0](#) of the AFS was published in December 2024. In considering a camelid scope, the SFA will not consider any fundamental changes to the requirements of the AFS, except where they relate to adapting the standard to make it appropriate for camelids; it is not the aim of this work to revisit issues discussed in the recent review of the AFS.

Read [here](#) for more information on the previous review.

Scope in practice

It is essential that this work does not affect existing certificates. Entities will have separate scope certificates for each animal fibre they produce.



WHAT IS BEING CONSIDERED?

New requirements specific to camelids

There are differences within the husbandry of different species of camelids and between camelids and other fibre-producing animals. New requirements may be needed to meet these distinctions, particularly to protect animal welfare. The SFA has no preconceptions on what these should include and will consider all suggestions made by stakeholders.

Adapting current requirements

Where a requirement could be differentially applied to different fibre-producing animals, the AFS uses guidance to specify how those requirements should be applied.

Taking advice on other animal fibres

There are other animal fibres (specifically horse and yak) for which there are currently no global standards. We will also take advice from stakeholders on how to incorporate these animal fibres into the Standard, for consideration in future reviews of the AFS.

Changes to the SFA Chain of Custody

Currently, the SFA Chain of Custody Standard only applies to cashmere. The Standard will need minor changes to accommodate all other animal fibres.

We will also consider removing the clause that exempts brands and retailers from needing certification to make claims. This would mean that the whole 'SFA Certified' cashmere supply chain, from producer to final seller, is third-party assured. We also expect it would create greater top-down demand for 'SFA Certified' fibre, activating the [SFA Theory of Change](#).



FAQS

How long would we have to prepare?

Enough time will be given for certificate-holding herders and farmers to adjust how they produce 'SFA Certified' cashmere. All 'SFA Certified' cashmere producers following old requirements will still count as 'SFA Certified'. You will have a chance to give feedback on any proposed timelines.

What isn't changing?

The scope will remain global and continue to focus on effective management, decent work, and protection of the environment. In considering a camelid scope, the SFA will not consider any fundamental changes to the requirements of the AFS, except where they relate to adapting the standard to make it appropriate for camelids; it is not the aim of this work to revisit issues discussed in the recent review of the AFS.

How are decisions made?

Decisions are made by the SFA Standard System Improvement Committee (SSIC), based on recommendations made by the SFA Secretariat. The SFA Board retains the right to veto decisions made by the SSIC. All decisions are announced and justified through the SFA website.

For more information on this and more see the [SFA Standard Setting Procedure](#).

Contact and comments

We welcome and encourage feedback at all stages of this process. Please send any questions/comments regarding this plan through our [Open Consultation Portal](#), noting that all feedback will be anonymised and published online.





FORWARD PLAN

Development

Consultation on intent and draft revised standard, if any

We seek fairness and inclusiveness through consultation. Our goal is for all stakeholders to provide feedback and be heard. In this, we aim to secure strategic insight, build consensus and earn credibility.

To this end, stakeholders will have until **28 April 2025** to comment on this statement of intent, which they can do through our [Open Consultation Portal](#). Following this, a draft revised standard will be developed and made available for public consultation over a 60-day period running from early July to early September 2025. We will also seek input from CABs to ensure that any new Standard is credible/works in practice. Special focus will be towards overcoming language barriers to receive feedback from traditionally underrepresented stakeholders.

Publication

We aim to complete this review by early January 2026. Before then, stakeholders can expect any new Standard with all supporting guidance, summaries and training materials, and a document that outlines the feedback we received from stakeholders and how it was considered. Translations of key documents will follow.

Effective dates and transition timelines

Entities with cashmere goats and camelids will not be required to seek certification for both fibres; it is up to the entity to decide which animal fibre types they wish to be certified against¹. This means that the operations of existing certificates should be unaffected, unless the certificate holder chooses to expand the scope of their certificate to include camelids. For this reason, there will be no effective date as it would be irrelevant. Entities seeking assessment of their camel fibre producing operations may do so at their convenience.

1. This policy may change in future versions of the AFS, but is, for now, out of the scope of this work as it would mean this work impacts existing certificates, which we want to avoid.

