



02 JUNE 2025

# SFA ANIMAL FIBRE STANDARD

VERSION 1.01



SUSTAINABLE FIBRE ALLIANCE



## Disclaimer

No guarantee, warranty or representation is made as to the accuracy or completeness of the SFA Animal Fibre 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 Animal Fibre Standard is voluntary 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.

## About the SFA

The SFA is a non-profit international organisation working with the animal fibre supply chain, from herders and producers to retailers. Our vision is for a responsible and inclusive global natural fibres sector that safeguards the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment. The SFA Animal Fibre Standard (hereafter, the Standard) is comprised of five main principles: effective management; decent work; biodiversity and land use; goat welfare; and fibre quality improvement.

## About this Standard

The SFA Animal Fibre Standard is the SFA's definition of best practice in the production of animal fibre products. 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 the [SFA Standard Setting Procedure](#). 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.

More information on the qualitative aims of this Standard can be found in the Standard's [Terms of Reference](#).

## Animal fibres covered by this Standard

This Standard covers the following animal fibres/fibre-producing animals:

- Cashmere goats

## References

Other SFA programme documents

- [SFA Chain of Custody Standard](#)
- [SFA Clean Fibre Processing Standard](#)
- [Visual Claims Guide](#)
- [SFA Assurance and Certification Manual](#)
- [SFA Glossary](#)
- [SFA Standard Setting Procedure](#)

SFA web links

- [SFA – Conformity Assessment Bodies](#)
- [SFA Transactions Portal](#)

## Country Guidelines

This Standard is supported by documents that provide country-specific guidance for some animal fibre-producing countries. This guidance is not normative in and of itself, but may repeat, reinforce and/or clarify normative requirements.

These can be found on the [resources page](#) of the SFA website.

## Get Involved

In order to start producing and trading 'SFA Certified' animal fibres, you need to be certified against this Standard dependent on the outcomes of third-party audits. To learn more about the benefits of certification and find out how to get started, we have developed a range of ['Get Certified' guides](#).



## Review of this document

The SFA is responsible for this Standard. Concerns or comments on the design and/or implementation of this Standard or any other part of the SFA programme more broadly should be lodged through the [SFA Open Consultation Portal](#). All concerns will be considered carefully, no later than when formal review of this document is scheduled to begin within five years of the previous major version being published.

## Effective date


All entities not certified against the SFA Animal Fibre Standard v1.0 or one of its predecessors on or after 01/07/2025 who want to make claims regarding the trade of 'SFA Certified' products shall be certified against this version of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard from 01/07/2025.

All entities already certified against the SFA Animal Fibre Standard v1.0 or one of its predecessors on or after 01/07/2025 who want to continue making claims regarding the trade of 'SFA Certified' products shall be certified against this version of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard before the expiry date of their scope certificate that is current as of 01/7/2025.

All entities may choose to seek certification from the publication date of this document.

In this document, the following terms are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions and possibilities or capabilities:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability; and
- “justify” or “justified” means to justify to the entity’s conformity assessment body and infers that the activity being justified is conducted as an exception to the norm.

 *Indicates guidance. Guidance is not normative in and of itself, but may repeat, reinforce and/or clarify normative requirements.*

## Amendment record

Version	Context	Revision	Date
1.0	Replacement of SFA Cashmere Standard v1.1 and its predecessors	See <a href="#">SFA Animal Fibre Standard v1.0 Summary of Changes</a>	01/12/2024
1.01	Clarification of animal welfare requirements	See <a href="#">SFA Animal Fibre Standard v1.01 Summary of Changes</a>	01/06/2025

## Scope and certification

### 1. Scope requirements

- 1.1 All entities producing an 'SFA Certified' animal fibre **shall** be certified for that animal fibre against the most recent version of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard, or any of its predecessors that are still in effect, by an approved and accredited third party (i.e. a conformity assessment body; CAB) before they may make claims regarding the sale, labelling and/or processing of 'SFA Certified' products for that animal fibre.
- See the SFA Glossary for the definition of an entity and other terms used in this document.
  - Each certificate shall cover one type of animal fibre (and its associated fibre-producing animal). Where an entity wants to be certified to produce more than one 'SFA Certified' animal fibre, they will need another scope certificate. For more information, see the SFA Assurance and Certification Manual.
- 1.2 Where a requirement of this Standard contradicts law within a national jurisdiction in which the entity operates, the law local to that jurisdiction **shall** take precedence.
- This does not grant exemptions to the entity when they are operating outside of that jurisdiction.
- 1.3 All entities seeking to gain or maintain certification against the requirements of this Standard **shall** be certified against the most recent version of the SFA Chain of Custody Standard or any of its predecessors that are still in effect.
- Products are only 'SFA Certified' when the seller is compliant with the requirements of all relevant Standards.


### 2. Certification requirements

- 2.1 The entity **shall** meet all of the requirements of this Standard.
- Requirements are those defined by 'shall' statements. An entity that meets all of these requirements is considered to be 'SFA Certified'.
- 2.2 The entity **may** meet the improvement indicators defined in this Standard in addition to the requirements of this Standard.
- Improvement indicators are those defined by 'may' statements. An entity that meets all of these requirements in addition to the requirements of this Standard is considered to be 'SFA Certified' and may claim to be meeting 'SFA Best Practice' in animal fibre production.

## Effective Management

### 3. Entity structure

3.1 The entity **shall** have a management office.

 *The entity is the organisation responsible for the scope certificate and ensuring that all operations covered by the scope certificate are compliant with this Standard. The entity could be, for example, a producer co-operative, a buying house, a vertically integrated company or an independent producer operating alone.*

 *This does not need to be a physical office.*


3.2 The entity **shall** have one or more physical sites where 'SFA Certified' products are harvested from the fibre-producing animal.

 *Sites are usually individual farms or herder households.*


3.3 The entity **shall** be a legal entity or person in the country where its management office is based.

3.4 The entity **shall** hold a contract that covers the obligations of the site to meet the requirements of this Standard with all sites covered by the entity's scope certificate.

 *The contract may be written or verbal, but it must be agreed by both parties.*

 *Non-conformities for one of an entity's sites applies to all of the entity's sites meaning that the three-way relationship between the entity, a site and another site is one of mutual obligation and responsibility.*

3.5 The entity **shall** appoint a management representative with overall responsibility for meeting the requirements of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard.

 *This may be the same person responsible for ensuring that the entity meets the requirements of the SFA Chain of Custody Standard.*


3.6 The entity **shall** inform the CAB and the SFA of any change in the identity of the management representative within 20 working days.

 *Informing the SFA is done through [standards@sustainablefibre.org](mailto:standards@sustainablefibre.org).*

### 4. Training

4.1 The entity **shall** ensure that training on the following is offered at least annually to all sites:

- a) The requirements of this Standard and how they apply to entities and sites;
- b) The SFA Country Guidelines for the country in which the site is based;
- c) The requirements of whichever version of the SFA Chain of Custody Standard the entity is certified against.

 *Entities do not need to design and deliver this training themselves; they are only responsible for ensuring that sites are offered opportunities. This may require the entity to arrange opportunities and ensure that these are communicated to sites.*


 *The SFA and its in-country partners offer regular training opportunities.*

4.1.1 This training **shall** be in a language and format that is accessible to sites.












- 4.1.2 The entity **may** ensure that one or more individuals from all of their sites attends this training.

## 5. Hazards



- 5.1 The site **shall** only use and dispose of the following in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines:
- a) machinery;
  - b) medicines;
  -  *This includes vaccinations.*
  - c) pesticides;
  - d) fertilisers;
  - e) any other hazardous substances.
- 5.2 The entity **shall** ensure that the manufacturer's instructions, including any safety data sheets, for pesticides, fertilisers and other hazardous substances are accessible to sites wherever these substances are used.
- 5.2.1 The site **shall** clearly and actively communicate to all workers who use these substances the risks of using these substances according to the manufacturer.

## 6. Entity record keeping and evaluation

- 6.1 The entity **shall** collect and maintain accurate, complete and up-to-date records for the entity and its sites including:
- a) an inventory of the pesticides, fertilisers and all hazardous substances used by its sites to a site level, updated at least annually;
  - b) which sites use employed workers, updated at least annually;
  -  *i.e. contracted workers who are not members of a site's family/household*
  - c) the number of training sessions communicated, updated at least annually;
  - d) the number of individuals trained to a site level, updated at least annually;
  - e) a record of actions taken by the entity to meet the requirements and any improvement indicators of this Standard, updated at least annually;
  - f) the land used by its sites in the preceding year, updated at least annually;
  - g) outcomes of all incidents related to land tenure and resource conflicts and grievances, updated at least annually;
  - h) sales of animal fibre(s) made by the entity, including prices and other terms of a trade, updated at least annually;
  - i) purchases/payments made to sites, including prices and other terms for the sale of animal fibre(s), updated at least annually;
  - j) loans made to the entity and/or its sites, updated at least annually;
  -  *These records are in addition to those required by the version of the SFA Chain of Custody Standard against which the entity is certified.*

- 6.2 The entity **may** collect and maintain accurate, complete and up-to-date records for the entity and its sites, including:
-  *Each item in the following list counts as a separate improvement indicator for the purposes of continual improvement.*
  - a) the parentage of each fibre-producing animal to a site level, updated at least annually;
  - b) any medical treatments administered in the preceding year to a site level, updated at least annually;
  - c) fibre-producing animal mortality rates to a site level, updated at least annually;
  - d) fibre-producing animal morbidity rates to a site level, updated at least annually;
  - e) the rates at which interventions are needed during birthing to a site level, updated at least annually.
-  *The entity does not have to collect duplicate records, so long as they have full access to records collected by others (such as government or local veterinarians).*
  -  *Interventions include c-sections.*
- 6.3 The entity **shall** keep records for a minimum of five years.
-  *These records are in addition to those required by the version of the SFA Chain of Custody Standard against which the entity is certified.*
  -  *All records are confidential and will not be used for commercial purposes.*
  -  *This refers to records kept since certification; entities do not need to show 10 years of records before certification.*
- 6.4 The entity **may** evaluate mortality rates across sites and implement measures to reduce mortality at sites showing unusually high rates of mortality.
- 6.5 The entity **may** evaluate the rates in which interventions are needed during birthing across sites and implement measures to reduce interventions at sites showing unusually high rates of interventions.
-  *Interventions include c-sections.*

## 7. Continual improvement

- 7.1 At reassessment, the entity **shall** show continual improvement by meeting three improvement indicators that the entity had not already met at their last assessment and continuing to meet any improvement indicators that they had already met at their last assessment.
-  *Some improvement indicators are conditional, in that they are only relevant under certain circumstances. Where an improvement indicator is not relevant to the entity it cannot be used to show continual improvement.*
  -  *Where all of an entity's sites are exempt from a requirement, the entity may choose to waive the exemption for the purposes of showing continual improvement.*
- 7.2 The entity **shall** have a continual improvement plan that outlines how the entity plans to meet clause 7.1 at its next reassessment.
- 7.3 Any entity that has met all improvement indicators excepting 16.11 and 19.1 is exempt from 7.1 and 7.2.

- *The entity still needs to meet all improvement indicators before they can claim to be 'SFA Best Practice', which means that industrial farming systems can never be considered 'SFA Best Practice'.*

7.4 The entity **shall** adhere to one or more Rangeland Management Plan(s) (RMP) that covers the land used by their sites and includes:

- the legal status of the entity;
- a list of sites within the entity;
- a clear description of who is responsible for the overall management of that land;
- a list of the various users of that land; and
- a description of how the entity and its sites will work collaboratively with other rangeland users for everyone to meet the requirements under 'Biodiversity and Land Use' in this Standard.

- *Where the entity does not hold overall responsibility for the management of that land, they may choose to adopt any RMP written by the manager that does have overall responsibility of the land, even if that RMP doesn't exactly align with the requirements under 'Biodiversity and Land Use' in this Standard. In this case, the entity would be expected to participate in all opportunities to influence and develop that RMP such that it is in alignment with the requirements of this Standard.*

- *Where an entity has sites that operate in areas with different managers with overall responsibility, the entity's sites shall comply with the RMP that applies to the areas in which they operate, i.e. different sites may be working to different RMPs.*

- *Where no RMP exists, the entity would be expected to develop one of their own.*

7.4.1 The entity **shall** ensure that all sites within the entity have authentic opportunities to participate in any development of the RMP.

7.4.2 The entity **shall** ensure that use of the land by users that are not part of the entity are considered in the development of the RMP.

7.4.3 The entity **shall** ensure that the RMP includes a timeline for its implementation.

7.4.4 The entity **may** ensure that the RMP includes an annual monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan.

7.4.5 The entity **may** ensure that the RMP identifies and uses the traditional knowledge held by those who live in the area, work locally in the production of the animal fibre and/or are otherwise part of a local community that is engaged with the production of the animal fibre.

7.4.6 The entity **shall** communicate the RMP to all sites within the entity.

7.5 The entity **may** implement practices to effectively manage changing weather patterns due to climate change.

- *This means ensuring that sites are adapting to changing climate and weather patterns through appropriate changes to herd sizes and selective breeding for physical traits that are suitable for changing conditions. It is not about entities mitigating their own carbon footprint.*

## 8. Respectful tenure

8.1 The site **shall** prove their right to use the land they are using.

- 8.2 The entity **shall** recognize and uphold the customs and culture of indigenous people as defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and ILO Convention 169.
- *This includes, but is not limited to, identifying and protecting sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious and spiritual significance.*
- 8.3 The entity **shall** identify and uphold the rights of communities of any size that may experience impacts to their economies, rights or environments due to the activities of the entity and/or its sites.
- *For the purposes of this requirement, Indigenous peoples are considered a type of 'community of any size'.*
- 8.4 Neither the entity nor the entity's representatives **shall** use the power entrusted to them by their sites for private gain.
- *This is intended to prevent corruption, extortion and bribery as defined by [Principle 10 of the UN Global Compact](#).*
  - *This includes ensuring that any price premiums gained for 'SFA Certified' fibre and/or the financial benefits of co-operative bargaining are shared equitably with all sites.*

## Decent work

### 9. Labour

- 9.1 The entity and its sites **shall** not engage in or support the use of forced and/or compulsory labour, as defined in ILO Convention 29.
- *This includes the ILO Indicators of Forced Labour.*
  - *Anything beyond the terms of the contract is considered additional and/or overtime for which the employee shall receive additional remuneration.*
- 9.1.1 Sites that do not use employees are exempt from this requirement.
- 9.2 The entity and its sites **shall** not engage in discrimination, as defined in ILO Convention 111.
- 9.3 The entity and its sites **shall** not engage in violence and harassment, as defined in ILO Convention 190.
- 9.4 The entity **shall** ensure that all workers employed by the entity and/or its sites shall have a contract of employment that defines the expected scope of work and the terms of remuneration.
- *A contract may be written or verbal, but it must be agreed by both parties.*
  - *Expected scope of work means the regular hours and duties to be performed as defined by the contract.*
  - *Where relevant, the contract shall describe the explicit circumstances when and how an employee may be financially responsible for the loss of livestock.*
- 9.5 The entity **shall** ensure that all contracted workers employed by the entity and/or its sites shall receive wages that comply with local legal minimum wages or collectively bargained wages, whichever is higher.
- 9.6 The entity **shall** ensure that equal pay for equal work be provided for all contracted workers used by the entity and/or their sites regardless of gender, work status, religion, political affiliation, nationality, age or other factors.
- *This intends that pay should be the same within the entity and within sites, not that pay should be the same across the whole entity and its sites.*
- 9.7 The entity and its sites **shall** not engage in the worst forms of child labour and/or hazardous child labour, as defined in ILO Convention 182 and Recommendation 190.
- 9.8 The entity and its sites **shall** ensure that school-age children learning to herd livestock only do so outside of school hours.

### 10. Occupational health and safety

- 10.1 Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to jeopardise the health or safety of workers **shall** be identified by the site and any risks to health and safety mitigated by the site.
- 10.2 The site **shall** ensure that situations likely to jeopardise the health or safety of a worker shall be reported to all potentially affected workers and responsibility for



- mitigating the risk assigned to the manager responsible for the health and safety of the workers who are at risk.
- 10.3 Where machinery is used, the site **shall** ensure that workers have access to clear instructions on the safe use of that machinery.
- 10.4 Where machinery is used, the site **shall** ensure the machinery is maintained and stored in a way that minimises the chance of disrepair and equipment failure.
- 10.5 The site **shall** provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at no cost to the worker.
- 10.6 The site **shall** ensure that workers have access to potable water and safe facilities for washing.
- 10.7 The site **shall** provide and maintain fire safety equipment and alarms.
- 10.7.1 Sites that do not use employees or have people sleeping on site are exempt from the need to have fire alarms.
- 10.8 The site **shall** provide and maintain the following except for justified reasons:
- a) Clean and hygienic washing and toilet facilities commensurate with the number and gender of employees;
  - b) Clearly marked, unlocked and unblocked emergency exits where escape routes are not immediately obvious;
  - c) Suitable conditions for pregnant women, or alternative working arrangements to avoid unsuitable workplaces.
- 10.9 The site **may** provide and maintain:
- a) Sanitary facilities for workers to eat and store their food;
  - b) Childcare and breastfeeding facilities.
- 10.9.1 Sites that do not use employees are exempt from these improvement indicators.
- 10.10 The entity **shall** ensure that its sites implement locally relevant practices that minimise the risk of communicable diseases being contracted by workers from the natural environment.


## Biodiversity and land use

### 11. Stocking rates

- 11.1 The entity **shall** identify any grazing pastures, including reserve pastures, used by the entity's sites and agree a schedule of seasonal grazing movements between those pastures with those responsible for managing access to those pastures.

 *This agreement should be covered by the Rangeland Management Plan (7.4)*

- 11.2 The entity **shall** ensure that stocking rates are appropriate for the pasture.

 *This means that stocking rates shall take into account the importance of native species, land type, pasture quality, seasonal conditions, class of stock, potential for overgrazing, etc.*

### 12. Conservation and restoration

- 12.1 The entity shall ensure that its sites **shall** conserve natural habitats and biodiversity on the land they use.

- 12.2 The entity **may** take steps to enhance natural habitats and biodiversity on the land used by their sites over time.

- 12.3 The entity **shall** identify natural water courses and wetlands in the lands used by its sites and implement measures to ensure their sites' activities do not affect these water resources through erosion, contamination and/or sedimentation.

- 12.4 The entity **may** take steps to restore natural water courses and wetlands on the land used by their sites over time.

- 12.5 The entity and its sites **shall** take measures to avoid the introduction of alien species to the land they use.

- 12.6 The entity **shall** identify degraded areas that are used by their sites.

- 12.7 The entity **may** take steps to restore degraded areas over time on the land used by their sites.

- 12.8 The entity **shall** ensure that corridors and/or routes used for the migration of wildlife across the land that their sites use is maintained.

- 12.9 The entity **shall** ensure that its sites implement locally relevant practices that minimise the risk of predation of wildlife by dogs owned by the site.


- 12.10 The entity **may** ensure that its sites implement locally relevant practices to improve palatable grazing resources for livestock and wildlife populations on the land they use, including maximising plant diversity and cover.

- 12.11 The entity **may** ensure that its sites implement locally relevant practices to minimise soil compaction and erosion, and minimise the loss of soil organic matter, on the land they use.


- 12.12 For the areas where the entity and its sites operate, the entity **may** ensure that livestock-free zones are established in areas important for the conservation of native wildlife.

### 13. Preventing contamination of the natural environment

13.1 The site **shall** dispose of animal carcasses hygienically.

 *This means in a way that prevents the spread of disease.*

13.2 The site **shall** not dispose of hazardous substances on the rangeland unless it would still be safe to use the affected land for foraging.

 *Hazardous substances include, but are not limited to, chemical, medical and biological waste including carcasses and unused/expired medications.*


13.3 The entity **may** take steps to restore areas damaged by hazardous substances over time.

13.4 The entity and its site **shall** prioritise biological, physical and other non-chemical methods for pest control.

13.5 The entity and its site **shall** only use pesticides once the level of infestation by a pest has the potential to cause harm to livestock or the pasture.

13.6 The entity and its sites **shall** only apply pesticides in a way that mitigates resistance.

13.7 The entity and its sites **shall** not use pesticides that are subject to international bans.

 *Banned pesticides are those that appear on the [PAN International Consolidated List of Banned Pesticides](#).*

## Animal welfare

### 14. Handling and herding

14.1 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals are handled humanely, such that they do not experience physical or emotional abuse.

■ *This means that the following are prohibited: kicking, striking, tripping, slamming gates onto, throwing or dropping, dragging or lifting by their coat, tail, horns, ears, head, neck or back legs.*

■ *It also means that fibre-producing animals must not be chased or struck using whips, sticks, stones, or electric devices.*

■ *This means the site shall only interact with fibre-producing animals in ways that build trust and promote calmness, confidence and compliant responsiveness within the herd.*

■ *This means that the fibre-producing animals should respond to the site's workers calmly, confidently and with compliance.*

14.2 The site **shall** ensure that young, pregnant females, and injured, lame or sick fibre-producing animals, are handled with additional care.

14.3 The site **shall** only tether fibre-producing animals and/or confine them to crates for **justified** timebound reasons.

■ *The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard.*

14.4 The site **shall** keep fibre-producing animals in stable groups of familiar conspecifics, with opportunities for bonding and other affiliative interactions.

14.5 The site **shall** not separate breeding males from conspecifics outside of the breeding season.

14.6 The site **shall** not keep fibre-producing animals in isolation except for **justified** timebound reasons.

■ *The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard. Transport is also justified, so long as it meets the other requirements of this Standard.*

14.7 The site **shall** give fibre-producing animals an appropriate opportunity to rest during the middle of the day.

■ *The middle of the day is when the sun reaches its highest point in the sky.*

■ *For cashmere goats, appropriate rest means at least 2 hours long.*

14.8 The site **shall** not use electronic prods, electro-immobilisers and similar electronic devices.

14.9 The site **shall** not practise hot-iron branding.

14.10 The site **shall** promptly remove animal carcasses from the sight range of their conspecifics.

■ *The site should be able to demonstrate a plan or indicate a designated space for disposing of carcasses.*

## 15. Fibre harvesting

- 15.1 The site **shall** only carry out fibre harvesting using competent persons, well-maintained equipment and techniques that minimise discomfort and risk of injury to the fibre-producing animal.
- For example, where harvesting is causing frequent cuts, the tool may need to be blunted or the harvesters may need to slow down.
- 15.2 Where fibre-producing animals are restrained for fibre harvesting, the site **shall** only use methods that do not restrict blood circulation or cause distress and/or injury.
- Both standing up and lying down methods are allowed, if done competently and the goat is calm and compliant.
- 15.2.1 The site **shall** ensure that their fibre-producing animals are not left unsupervised while under temporary restraint.
- 15.3 The site **shall** only harvest fibre outside during weather conditions that do not pose a health risk to fibre-producing animals.
- This means that fibre harvesting shall be suspended if adverse weather conditions arise and it cannot be done inside.
- 15.4 The site **shall** take measures to ensure goats do not suffer from cold weather after their fibre has been harvested.
- For example, sites should not put fibre-producing animals that have been recently shorn outside on open pasture.
  - Fibre-producing animals that cannot be housed to protect them from cold weather should be combed rather than shorn.
- 15.5 The site **shall** completely restrict fibre-producing animals' access to food and water for 4 hours before fibre harvesting.
- 15.6 The site **shall** take extra time and care with fibre-producing animals being harvested for the first time.
- This is to help the fibre-producing animal to become accustomed to the experience of being combed and/or shorn.
- 15.7 When using the combing method to harvest cashmere, the site **shall** only harvest fibre when it begins to shed naturally.

## 16. Nutrition and water








- 16.1 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals have access to clean, safe drinking water each day, with the ability to drink their fill.
- This means that animals' drinking water is checked daily.
- 16.2 The site **shall** only restrict a fibre-producing animal's access to food and water for **justified** timebound reasons.
- This means *ad libitum*.
  - The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard, such as prior to harvesting, milking and medical care. Transport is also justified, so long as it meets the other requirements of this



*Standard. Restrictions overnight are also justified, so long as it is for the safety and security of the animal and/or workers.*

- 16.3 The site **shall** not feed its fibre-producing animals spoiled or contaminated food.
- *This includes diseased carcasses.*
- 16.4 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals have access to feeding and water points such that they can eat and drink safely and without crowding.
- 16.5 The site **shall** not feed the by-products of animals or fishmeal to fibre-producing animals unless directed to do so by a veterinarian for justified reasons.
- *The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard.*
  - *Feeding the by-products of sick animals to conspecifics is never justified.*
- 16.6 The site **shall** not administer growth hormone promoters or non-therapeutic antibiotics for growth promotion to their fibre-producing animals.
- 16.7 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals do not have opportunities to eat harmful or poisonous plants.
- 16.8 The site **shall** ensure that their fibre-producing animals are never emaciated or weak.
- *Never emaciated means that fibre-producing animals would not score below 2 on a five-point Body Condition Scale where 1 is very thin and 5 is very overweight.*
- 16.9 The site **shall** ensure that their fibre-producing animals do not suffer from nutritional diseases.
- *For cashmere goats these include, but are not limited to, enterotoxemia, polioencephalomalacia, pregnancy toxemia, urinary calculi and white muscle disease.*
- 16.10 The site **shall** provide fibre-producing animals with access to materials to browse, such as shrubs and bushes.
- *These shrubs and bushes may be fresh cuttings.*
- 16.11 The site **may** ensure that the majority of their fibre-producing animals' nutrition comes from forage.
- 16.12 Where the majority of their fibre-producing animals' nutrition comes from fodder, the site **shall** have a Feed Management Plan.
- 16.13 Where the majority of a fibre-producing animal's diet comes from fodder, the site **shall** ensure that the proportion of roughage in the fibre-producing animal's diet is sufficient for them to ruminate.
- *Fibre-producing animals that get the majority of their nutrition from forage receive an adequate amount of roughage from nature by default.*
- 16.14 Where the majority of a fibre-producing animal's diet comes from fodder, the site **shall** introduce any changes to the fibre-producing animal's diet gradually over at least two weeks so as to avoid digestive upset.


## 17. Medical care and observation


- 17.1 The entity **may** ensure that their herds are assessed on site annually by a qualified veterinarian to review the welfare of the herd and the strategies and medical techniques used by the site to manage the welfare of the herd.
- 17.2 The site **shall** observe their fibre-producing animals at least once in a 24-hour period to check for sickness, injury or abnormal behaviour.
- 17.2.1 Fibre-producing animals that are identified as sick, lame or injured **shall** be given appropriate medical treatment, care and feeding and are observed at least twice in every 24-hour period.
- 17.2.2 Where there is a risk of contagion, sick animals shall be isolated from the rest of the herd.
-  *Note that the requirements preventing complete isolation still apply.*
- 17.3 Where the fibre-producing animal has hooves, the site **shall** trim their hooves to prevent lameness.
- 17.3.1 The site **shall** check all hooves at least twice a year.
-  *Trimming may be needed more often than twice a year.*
- 17.4 The site **shall** implement measures that prevent and control parasitic infections.
- 17.5 Newly acquired fibre-producing animals **shall** be quarantined for a minimum of 21 days from all other conspecifics, avoiding complete isolation.
-  *Quarantine means keeping conspecifics separate in a way that prevents nose-to-nose contact.*
-  *Avoiding complete isolation means keeping quarantined fibre-producing animals within sight, smell and sound of other conspecifics.*
- 17.6 The site **shall** keep a record of any medical substances (including herbal remedies) administered to any members of their herd, stating the reason for the treatment and the date(s) the treatment was administered.
- 17.6.1 The site **may** record the individual fibre-producing animals receiving the treatment(s).
- 17.7 The site **shall** not castrate fibre-producing animals without **justified** reasons.
-  *The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or the herd, such as to prevent inbreeding, and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard.*
- 17.7.1 The site **shall** not castrate fibre-producing animals older than an appropriate age without **justified** reasons.
-  *The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard.*
-  *For cashmere goats, the appropriate age is 8 weeks.*
- 17.8 The site **shall** ensure that castration is done by competent persons, using equipment that is clean and suitable and providing aftercare that promotes the health and recovery of the fibre-producing animal.
- 17.9 The site **may** use pain relief during castration.

- 17.10 The site **shall** not perform de-scenting, disbudding, dehorning and/or the removal of cashmere goat wattles.





## 18. Slaughter

- 18.1 Where the majority of their fibre-producing animals' nutrition comes from fodder, where more than one fibre-producing animal is being slaughtered at a time and/or slaughter is being done for the purposes of culling or commercial meat production, the site **shall** stun fibre-producing animals using methods that cause a rapid loss of consciousness that is expected to last longer than the process of slaughtering.

 *The aim of this requirement is to minimise both pain and distress for the animal.*

- 18.1.1 The site **may** stun fibre-producing animals before slaughter using methods that cause a rapid loss of consciousness that is expected to last longer than the process of slaughtering.
- 18.2 Whichever method is used to slaughter the fibre-producing animal, the site **shall** ensure that slaughter is only done by competent persons using equipment that is clean and suitable.
- 18.3 Whichever method is used to slaughter the fibre-producing animal, the site **shall** ensure that it is reliably rapid and effective.
- 18.4 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals to be slaughtered are unaware of their slaughter up until slaughter commences.
- 18.5 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals are unaware of any other animals having been slaughtered recently nearby.
-  *This means the animal shall not see the act or residual effects of slaughter in the lead-up to their own slaughter.*
- 18.6 The site **shall** not sell fibre-producing animals for international slaughter.

## 19. Housing and enclosures

- 19.1 The site **may** justify any restrictions to fibre-producing animals' access to natural grazing pasture.
-  *The only acceptable justifications refer to the welfare of the animal and/or to meet other requirements of this Standard. Transport is also justified, so long as it meets the other requirements of this Standard.*
- 19.2 Where their fibre-producing animals spend the majority of their time in a shelter or other enclosed space, the site **shall** provide fibre-producing animals with access to environmental enrichment that encourages exploratory, foraging and play behaviours.
-  *The Standard assumes that fibre-producing animals with access to nature have access to adequate environmental enrichment by default.*
-  *For cashmere goats, this means providing climbing opportunities in the form of logs, stumps, raised platforms and/or mounds etc.*
-  *Enclosed spaces are anything that restricts an animal's freedom of movement and include but are not limited to housing, fenced areas and transportation vehicles.*

- 19.3 Where their fibre-producing animals spend the majority of their time in a shelter or other enclosed space, the site **shall** have a written fibre-producing animal welfare plan that is reviewed at least annually.
- 19.4 The site **shall** ensure that the housing for fibre-producing animals who spend the majority of their time in enclosures has enough space.
- *For cashmere goats, enough space is at least 2m<sup>2</sup> of space per goat.*
- 19.5 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals who spend the majority of their time in enclosures have access to an outdoor exercise area with enough space.
- *This is in addition to the area set aside for housing.*
  - *This means access at all times, except for justified timebound reasons related to the welfare of the fibre-producing animal, such as for their safety and security at night.*
  - *For cashmere goats, enough space is at least 5m<sup>2</sup> of space per goat.*
- 19.6 Where used, the site **shall** ensure that housing, fencing, transport vehicles and transport loading facilities are constructed and maintained so as not to cause injury and/or distress to the fibre-producing animals.
- 19.7 The site **shall** ensure that any enclosed spaces are free from dangerous debris and objects.
- 19.8 Where used, the site **shall** ensure that housing, transport vehicles and transport loading facilities are free from unpleasant or strong odours.
- *The aim is that ammonia levels are below 1-2 parts per million at the height of the animals and there are 10-20 air changes per hour.*
- 19.9 Where artificial lighting is used, the site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals are not exposed to artificial lighting for more than 16 hours of any 24-hour period.
- 19.10 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals have access to natural light during daylight hours.
- 19.11 Where used in housing, the site **shall** ensure that artificial flooring is suitable for the fibre-producing animals to sleep on.
- *This means soft, deformable, clean, dry and not bare concrete or similar.*
- 19.11.1 The site **shall** not keep sick, injured, pregnant and/or young (less than one year) fibre-producing animals on slatted floors.
- 19.12 The site **may** not keep fibre-producing animals on slatted floors.
- 19.13 The site **shall** remove wet manure from shelters daily.

## 20. Shelter

- 20.1 The site **shall** provide fibre-producing animals with access to effective shelter/windbreaks to protect them from any adverse weather conditions.
- *This includes weather that is too hot or cold.*
  - *Shelter/windbreaks may be natural or artificial.*
- 20.2 Where fibre-producing animals are at risk from predators, sites **shall** take measures to reduce risk of attack and injury to the fibre-producing animals.
- 20.3 The site **shall** have the ability to segregate heavily pregnant, ill and/or injured fibre-producing animals away from their conspecific flock and each other.
- 20.4 The site **shall** provide pregnant fibre-producing animals close to giving birth with access to shelter.

## 21. Transport

- 21.1 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals that are sick, injured, unable to stand unaided, in the last two months of gestation, young whose umbilical cord has not healed, or are otherwise at risk during transport are not transported unless to receive medical treatment.
- 21.2 The site **shall** ensure that when fibre-producing animals are transported on foot, this happens at a pace that does not cause exhaustion to the fibre-producing animals.
- 21.3 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals do not experience heat and/or cold stress during transport.
- *Heat stress occurs when the body cannot get rid of excess heat. When this happens, the body's core temperature rises and the heart rate increases.*
  - *Cold stress is when the body can no longer maintain its normal temperature.*
  - *Protecting the animals from these means that they do not get too hot or too cold.*
- 21.4 The site **shall** ensure that transport vehicles have enough space for fibre-producing animals to lie down and stand without their heads touching any roof.
- 21.5 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals have access to nutritionally complete feed that is suitable for their life stage and ad lib water within 2 hours prior to loading for transport.
- 21.6 For journeys over 8 hours, the site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals are provided access to water, feed and rest at least every 8 hours, allowing fibre-producing animals to disembark from transport vehicles into an outdoor exercise with enough space for at least 8 hours before transport may recommence
- *During this opportunity, the animals shall be able to eat and drink to satiation.*
  - *For cashmere goats, enough space is at least 5m<sup>2</sup> of space per goat.*




## 22. Hazardous chemicals


- 22.1 The site **shall** ensure that fibre-producing animals are not exposed to toxic chemicals.

## 23. Breeding

- 23.1 The site **shall** consider the health, welfare traits and suitability for the environment of fibre-producing animals when selecting individuals for breeding.

 Sites should be able to explain their breeding strategy, and goats should not exhibit genetic defects such as in their legs, feet/hoooves or teeth. Animals' physical attributes should be suitable for their environment, show ease of birthing and robustness to disease.

- 23.2 The site **shall** not use for mating fibre-producing animals that are too young.

 For cashmere goats, too young is less than 12 months old if female or 18 months old if male.

- 23.3 The site **shall** ensure that females do not breed too often.

 For cashmere goats, too often is more than every 10 months.

- 23.4 Where the site uses fibre-producing animals for breeding, the site **shall** ensure that herds have a gender ratio that is not detrimental to the sexual health of the males.

 This means the ratio shall be appropriate for the age of the males.

- 23.5 The site **shall** not use any of the following during artificial insemination:


- a) surgery;
- b) ovum pick-up;
- c) embryo transfer;
- d) electro-ejaculation.

- 23.6 The entity **shall** ensure that cloned, genetically engineered and/or gene-edited fibre-producing animals are not owned by any of their sites.

## 24. Rearing

- 24.1 The site **shall** not carry out c-sections without justified reasons.
- 24.2 The site **shall** only carry out c-sections using equipment that is clean and suitable and providing aftercare that promotes the health and recovery of the mother.
- 24.3 The site **shall** ensure that planned c-sections are only carried out by a veterinarian.
- *Emergency c-sections may be performed by any competent persons where not doing so would threaten the life of the mother and/or offspring.*
- 24.4 The site **shall** provide newborns with an area that is sufficiently warm, clean and dry.
- 24.5 The site **shall** give newborns the opportunity to bond with their mother and the herd.
- 24.6 The site **shall** ensure that adequate supplies of colostrum are available in case of emergency.
- *This means that the supply shall be available prior to the birthing season.*
- *'Adequate' depends on breeding herd size.*
- 24.7 The site **shall** provide all newborns with sufficient colostrum, whether by natural methods or manual assistance, within 24 hours of birth, with the first feed occurring within 2 hours of birth.
- 24.8 The site **shall** only use equipment to artificially feed young fibre-producing animals that is kept clean and well maintained.
- 24.9 The site **shall** not wean young fibre-producing animals until they are old enough.
- *For cashmere goats, old enough is either 16 weeks of age or at least 40% percentage of their adult weight.*
- 24.10 The site **shall** ensure that young fibre-producing animals that are unable to suckle sufficiently are fed manually or fostered and have milk in their diet until they are old enough.
- *For cashmere goats, old enough is either 16 weeks of age or at least 40% percentage of their adult weight.*
- 24.11 During the birthing season, the site shall have at least one person on site who is demonstrably familiar with birthing and the common problems that arise during birthing to know when to intervene and when to request assistance.

## 25. Working animals


 *Working animals primarily refers to dogs, but may include any animals used in producing animal fibres.*

25.1 The site **shall** ensure that working animals have an adequate supply of food and water every day.


25.2 The site **shall** give working animals prompt medical care when it is needed.

25.3 The site **shall** handle their working animals in a way that avoids injury, fear and distress for the working animal.

25.4 The site **shall** not keep working animals continuously tethered or tethered in a way that restricts their breathing.


 *This includes choke chains, which are never allowed.*

25.5 The site **shall** not mutilate their working animals.

 *This includes removal of teeth, claws and/or tails of dogs.*

25.6 The site **shall** ensure that working animals receive appropriate vaccination and parasite control.

25.7 The site **shall** provide working animals with a sleeping area that is not on bare concrete or metal and is suitably warm and dry.

 *The site shall be able to describe what they do with working animals during adverse weather conditions.*

25.8 The site **shall** keep on site a first-aid kit that is sufficient and suitable for the care of their working animals.

25.9 The site **shall** ensure that the behaviour of working animals does not cause injury, distress or pain to fibre-producing animals.

## Fibre quality improvement

### 26. Breeding

- 26.1 The site **shall** consider fibre length, fineness and colour when selecting fibre-producing animals for breeding.
- 26.2 The entity **may** adopt a breeding improvement plan to improve the length, fineness and colour of the fibre produced by their sites.
- 26.3 The entity **may** monitor and annually review the length, fineness and colour of the fibre produced by the entity.
- *This is an opportunity to incorporate learnings and inform the entity's breeding improvement plan.*
- 26.3.1 When fibre quality issues are identified, the entity **may** take steps to understand and address them.
- *For the purposes of continual improvement monitoring, reviewing and addressing fibre quality issues counts as one improvement indicator.*



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