



02 JUNE 2025

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

SFA ANIMAL FIBRE STANDARD v1.01



SUSTAINABLE FIBRE ALLIANCE

WHY A REVISED STANDARD?

Background

The SFA Animal Fibre Standard covers the biggest market share for certified cashmere. It is the only cashmere standard that aims to improve goat welfare, safeguard biodiversity and land, promote decent work and enhance fibre quality through an effective management system and assured chain of custody.

[Version 1.0](#) was published in December 2024 following an extensive revision and multi-stakeholder consultation since 2022. You can learn more about the development of v1.0 and the comments received [here](#). This revision primarily involved streamlining the structure of the Standard and resolving persistent debate on animal welfare requirements.

Following the publication of v1.0, we were contacted by the global animal welfare organisation, FOUR PAWS, who sought further clarification on the standard's requirements for their Certification Insights Report.

Methods

Having recently completed a full review of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard, the SFA focused on making changes to guidance, other clarifications, or editorial changes (e.g. errata, correcting typos, etc.), which does not constitute a change of practice or a change to the intent or scope of a standard (i.e. a minor change, as per the [SFA Standard Setting Procedure](#)). As per the [SFA Standard Setting Procedure](#), minor revisions such as those presented here do not meet the threshold for public consultation or formal decision making by the SFA Standard System Improvement Committee, though their membership was informed of the revisions and given an opportunity to veto the changes.

We are grateful to FOUR PAWS for their constructive and professional support in making these revisions and highlighting additional issues for inclusion in future reviews of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard.



Summary of Changes

The Standard replaces the SFA Animal Fibre Standard v1.0. This section outlines how v1.0 of the SFA Animal Fibre Standard differs from this Standard, specifically highlighting where changes were driven or affected by feedback received through consultation. Those changes that were influenced by consultation are given first. A summary of other feedback is also given. For more information on how the new Standard works in full, please read the Standard itself, which you can find on the [SFA Resources page](#).

Clarifications made

We have made a range of clarifications. These changes are minor as per the [SFA Standard Setting Procedure](#). The changes are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Clarifications

Section (Clauses)	Revision
Nutrition and water (16.1)	<i>Clarified that this means that animals' drinking water is checked daily.</i>
Nutrition and water (16.2)	<i>Clarified that this means ad libitum.</i>
Nutrition and water (16.2)	<i>Clarified that overnight safety/security, milking and medical care as acceptable justifications.</i>
Nutrition and water (16.13)	<i>Clarified that fibre-producing animals that get the majority of their nutrition from forage receive an adequate amount of roughage from nature by default.</i>
Housing and enclosures (19.2)	<i>Clarified that the Standard assumes that fibre-producing animals with access to nature have access to adequate environmental enrichment by default.</i> <i>Clarified that logs, stumps, etc., are intended for climbing.</i>
Housing and enclosures (19.5)	<i>Clarified that access to outdoor areas shall be at all times, except for justified timebound reasons related to the welfare of the fibre-producing animal.</i>

Other issues raised to be resolved and/or considered otherwise

FOUR PAWS raised other issues that were not considered or addressed as part of these revisions. In response, the following will be considered at the next scheduled review of the Animal Fibre Standard for potential implementation:

- A clause protecting animals from loud noises and other excessive stimuli;
- Clauses banning a range of mutilations including, but not limited to, ear notching, tattooing, freeze branding and tail docking;
- Clauses for habituating animals to common and potentially stressful procedures, such as for regular medical care, transport and use of raceways;
- A clause for regular personal contact between the animals and their keepers;
- A clause for *ad libitum* access to food, including roughage during the night;
- Review of clauses related to pain-relief.