



The Good Cashmere Standard®

by AbTF

Chain of Custody Guideline



The Good Cashmere Standard® by AbTF

INTRODUCTION

The Good Cashmere Standard® by AbTF (GCS) is an initiative of the Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF). Its objective is to promote animal welfare in cashmere production as well as social criteria for small- and large scale herders, to protect the environment and to promote biodiversity in Inner Mongolia. The Foundation was established in 2005. Both initiatives of the Aid by Trade Foundation, Cotton made in Africa and GCS, activate market forces and do not employ a donation-based approach.

The GCS offers transparency in the textile value chain for brands and retailers and the consumer. International retailers and brands that are partners of GCS buy the raw material at world market prices and receive support to smoothly integrate the sustainably produced cashmere into their value chains. The certified cashmere is processed into textiles in all major production markets. At the end of the textile chain, the partner companies pay a nominal license fee back that goes back to the Foundation and is reinvested to benefit the farmers and their animals in Inner Mongolia.

Whereas GCS is managed and owned by AbTF, the ATAKORA GmbH has the exclusive right to market the license of the GCS brand; ATAKORA GmbH is also responsible for supply chain management and business development.

Please contact us for further information.

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RETAILER / BRAND (RB)

The RB and the ATAKORA GmbH conclude a license contract, prior to the usage of the certified cashmere and the labelling on the products.

The RB pays a license fee which consists of three different pillars:

1. The partnership fee (mandatory)
2. The volume-based fee (mandatory)
3. Fee for marking (optional for the standard label)

There are two types of label: The Standard Label and the Premium Label. Only partners who can prove that they produce according to the quality criteria defined below are entitled to use the black **Premium Label**. These include:

- ✓ min. 34-36 mm staple length
- ✓ max. 15.5 micron
- ✓ cashmere from white goats only
- ✓ min. 50 % cashmere in product
- ✓ a marking of cashmere to transparently track the wool from the finished product back to the raw material

Each RB needs to be registered on The Good Cashmere Standard® by AbTF platform. To be able to track the products on the platform, an annual fee, depending on the quantity of users, might be applicable.

For the registration the RB needs to declare the (possible) supply chain partners to produce the products that will be carrying the GCS label. The most important information is the ready garment producer and the cashmere spinning mill.

The ATAKORA GmbH has developed a Label, which exclusively must be purchased at:

Nilorn Germany GmbH

Itterpark 7, 40724 Hilden, Germany

Telephone: +49 (0) 2103 / 908 16 0

info@de.nilorn.com

The RB must instruct the ready garment producer to purchase these labels only via the nominated company Nilorn. A set of documents need to be provided by the garment producer:

- ✓ order sheet of the retailer/brand
- ✓ purchasing document of the GCS cashmere



CASHMERE PRODUCER (CP)

The CP needs to apply for the certification according to The Good Cashmere Standard®.

For the application, the CP needs to provide the name and contact data of the farmers that the CP wants to include in the certification process. The nominated farmers will receive a self-assessment questionnaire (mostly via WeChat), which will be evaluated and used as basis to decide upon on-site audits. Should the certification process be successful, the CP will receive a certificate which is valid for 1 years.

The CP must follow certain reporting criteria which will be communicated by the ATAKORA GmbH.

THE SPINNING MILL (SM)

Spinning mill must fill out the registration template which includes the acceptance of the ATAKORA GmbH Code of Conduct in order to get registered with ATAKORA GmbH. The form is available online or can be requested from the ATAKORA GmbH.

The spinning mill must pay the actual fee for registration. The invoice is issued by ATAKORA GmbH.

After receiving the template and the payment, the spinning mills receives a registration number and a registration certificate from The Good Cashmere Standard®. The validity of the certificate is 12 months. After 12 months, the ATAKORA GmbH will contact the spinning mill for a possible extension.

The registration templates are kept for references at the Foundation. A spinning mill cannot be registered if no sustainable cashmere has been purchased. The proof of purchase needs to be sent to the ATAKORA GmbH.



READY GARMENT MANUFACTURE (RGM)

The RGM buys the certified raw material, yarn or fabric from a source certified according to The Good Cashmere Standard®. Contacts are available at the ATAKORA GmbH.

The RGM needs to apply for The Good Cashmere Standard® labels on the AbTF platform. To be able to enter the platform, the RGM needs to get registered. Detailed information for the registration process is available at ATAKORA GmbH.

After entering the system, the RGM must provide the following information:

- ✓ Copy of the order sheet from RB
- ✓ Quantity of labels needed
- ✓ Name of the spinning mill(s)
- ✓ Copy of the certificate where GCS has been purchased (labels will be only sent if the valid certificate is provided)
- ✓ Copy of the order sheet for the GCS cashmere

Only if all above-mentioned documents are uploaded in the system, the labels will be sent to the RGM in the quantity mentioned in the order sheet (max. plus 10 %).