



**THE GOOD  
CASHMERE  
STANDARD**  
AbTF



# **Implementation Guidelines The Good Cashmere Standard ®**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1 GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 CHAIN OF CUSTODY MODEL HIP</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 GCS TRACKING SYSTEM</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 LABELLING</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 CONTACT AND DOCUMENTS</b>	<b>6</b>



# 1 General Information & GCS Membership

These Implementation Guidelines, provided by Aid by Trade Foundation (AbTF)/ ATAKORA Fördergesellschaft GmbH (ATAKORA), are intended as a practical guidance and overview for supply chain organisations looking to implement cashmere verified under [The Good Cashmere Standard by AbTF®](#) (GCS) into their production lines. The [Chain of Custody Guideline](#) remains the primary reference document.

All organisations producing, treating, trading, or sourcing GCS cashmere (tops) or GCS-claimed material or products (e.g. comber noils, yarns, fabrics, or garments) are required to maintain a [membership](#) with GCS, as applicable. To ensure that purchases of GCS-claimed products and materials are made under a verified claim, it is always the duty and responsibility of the purchasing entity to check whether the selling entity is registered with GCS, as applicable.

Retailers and brands must sign a licensing agreement with ATAKORA. This agreement allows them to incorporate the GCS verified cashmere into its supply chain and to use the GCS logo and label for product communication and corporate communication in accordance with the GCS Claims Frameworks, as applicable (see [Chapter 4](#)).

They are responsible for

- informing their relevant supply chain partners about the Chain of Custody (Coc) implementation requirements;
- ensuring that all relevant supply chain partners comply with the CoC requirements;
- monitoring documentation and data in the tracking systems to confirm the traceability and integrity of claimed materials; and
- ensuring accurate product labelling and marketing, avoiding any misleading claims.

## 2 Chain of Custody Model HIP

GCS applies the **Hard Identity Preserved (HIP)** Chain of Custody (CoC) model to ensure full transparency and traceability for GCS-verified cashmere and GCS claimed materials and products throughout the supply chain. Under the HIP system, GCS-verified cashmere can be traced from the retail order back to the GCS-verified cashmere producer, providing complete visibility of each step in the supply chain. This model guarantees that the integrity of the verified cashmere is maintained without any mixing or substitution<sup>1</sup>, supporting the highest level of transparency and assurance.

**Cashmere verified under The Good Cashmere Standard® can be only implemented under the Chain of Custody model Hard Identity Preserved into the supply chain.**

GCS yarns, fabrics and garments must contain in the cashmere share only GCS cashmere<sup>2</sup> and are therefore 100% traceable down to the GCS cashmere origin.

<sup>1</sup> Under an individual agreement with the retailer/brand mixing with other sustainable cashmere fibres, e.g. Recycled Claim Standard or Global Recycled Standard, might be allowed.

<sup>2</sup> Conventional cashmere may be used for accessories and minor additional textile components, provided that all of these components together account for less than 10% of the total product weight and the main textile product consists exclusively of GCS cashmere in terms of cashmere content. This applies to components that are not part of the main textile product and may be functional or decorative. They serve either the construction and function of the product or its visual design, but do not constitute the main textile component.



GCS cashmere (tops) and GCS-claimed materials and products (comber noils, yarns, fabrics, garments) must be segregated at all stages of the supply chain (from cashmere producer to retailer/brand).

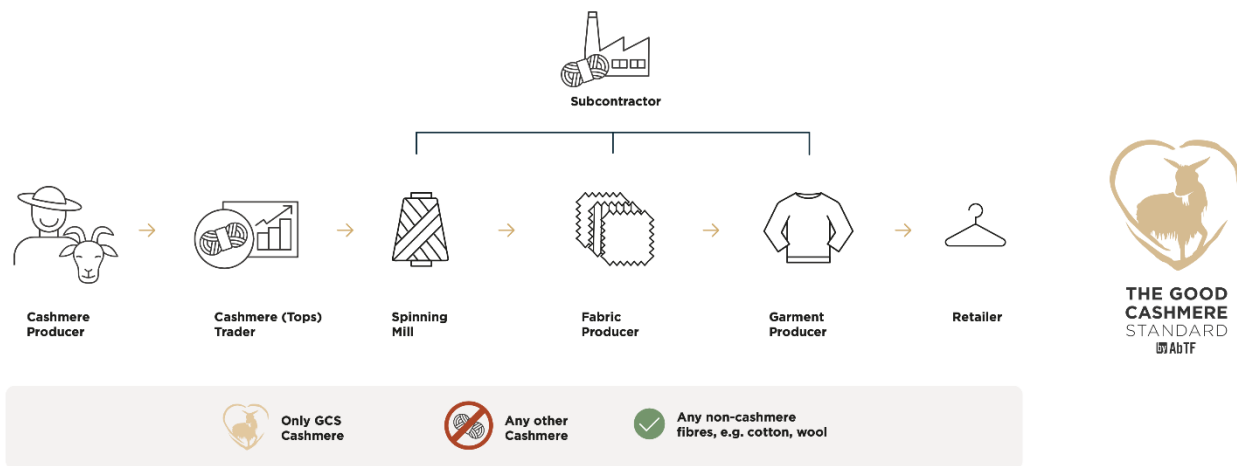


Figure 1: The process from GCS cashmere to GCS product<sup>3</sup>

- **GCS cashmere (tops) must be kept segregated from non-GCS cashmere (tops)** at all stages of storage, processing, treatment, and inter-facility transportation. Segregation may be physical (e.g. separate storage areas and production lines) or temporal (e.g. separate production runs, one after the other).
- **GCS cashmere (tops) must be clearly marked** at all stages of storage, processing, treatment, and inter-facility transportation (e.g. with signage). Accompanying production, sales and transport documents must clearly identify (e.g. with bag numbers or lot numbers) the corresponding cashmere (tops) as GCS-verified cashmere (tops).
- The **substitution of GCS cashmere (tops) with non-GCS cashmere (tops) is prohibited**. However, GCS cashmere can be blended with other, non-cashmere fibres.
- **GCS-claimed materials or products (yarns, fabric, garments or comber noils) must be kept segregated from other cashmere materials or products (yarns, fabric, garment or comber noils)** at all stages of storage, processing, treatment and inter-facility transportation. Segregation may be physical (e.g. separate storage areas and production lines) or temporal (e.g. separate production runs one after the other).
- **GCS-claimed materials or products (yarns, fabric, garment or comber noils) must be clearly marked** at all stages of storage, processing, treatment, and inter-facility transportation (e.g. with signage). Accompanying production, sales and transport documents must clearly identify (e.g. with bag numbers or lot numbers) the corresponding materials or products as GCS-verified materials or products.
- The **substitution of GCS-claimed materials or products (yarns, fabric, garment or comber noils) with other cashmere materials or products (yarns, fabric, garment or comber noils) is prohibited**. However, GCS-claimed yarns or fabrics can be mixed with other, non-cashmere yarns or fabrics.

**Proof of the segregation and labeling must be** provided on request or during audit.

<sup>3</sup> All intermediate levels producing, trading and processing cashmere or cashmere-containing products and cashmere by-products, e.g. yarn/fabric trader or dye houses, are also in scope and must fulfil all relevant regulations.



## 3 GCS Tracking System

The mandatory tracking of all GCS-claimed materials and products is managed via **TextileGenesis**. This ensures that GCS verified cashmere verified is processed according to the CoC requirements.

Companies registered with GCS receive access to the TextileGenesis system. All partners in the supply chain are required to regularly provide purchase and sales data, along with the necessary supporting documents, through TextileGenesis.

AbTF/ATAKORA does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of data or documents provided in TextileGenesis. If doubts arise regarding the reliability of information - which may be identified through random checks – AbTF/ATAKORA reserves the right to commission third-party auditors to verify the supply chain, including inspections at processing facilities or warehouses to confirm the physical availability of GCS-verified cashmere or GCS-claimed materials.

## 4 Labelling

Retailers and brands must ensure that only garments and textiles:

- which meet all implementation requirements outlined in the CoC Guideline and this implementation document; and
  - which are traceable through the applicable tracking system
- are sold under the GCS claim.

All product claims and labels must comply with the applicable Claims Frameworks and Logo Manuals.

There are three GCS label categories: **Standard Label**, **Premium Label**, and **Premium Blend Label**.

Only partners who can prove that their products meet the quality standards defined below are entitled to use the respective label.

Label Category	Minimum Cashmere Content of the Product	Maximum Fibre Diameter	Minimum Staple Length	GCS Cashmere Source
<b>Standard</b>	≥5%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Premium</b>	100%	15.5 microns	34-36mm	White goats
<b>Premium Blend</b>	≥5%	15.5 microns	34-36mm	White goats

For further information please contact the GCS Marketing Department at:

[marketing@abt-foundation.org](mailto:marketing@abt-foundation.org)



# 5 Contact and Documents

If you have any questions regarding GCS, please contact the GCS **team**:

[gcs@abt-foundation.org](mailto:gcs@abt-foundation.org) (**Available Monday – Friday, 9 am to 5 pm German time**)

## Helpful documents:

- Chain of Custody Guidelines  
<https://thegoodcashmerestandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/ChainofcustodyGuidelines-2025.pdf>
- Code of Conduct  
<https://thegoodcashmerestandard.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Code-of-Conduct-2023.pdf>
- GCS Membership Guidelines  
[https://thegoodcashmerestandard.org/wp-content/uploads/GCS\\_Membership-Guidelines.pdf](https://thegoodcashmerestandard.org/wp-content/uploads/GCS_Membership-Guidelines.pdf)
- GCS-registered Spinning Mills  
<https://thegoodcashmerestandard.org/wp-content/uploads/Spinning-Mills-GCS.pdf>