



**REGENERATIVE
COTTON
STANDARD**

Guidelines for RCS Implementation in the Supply Chain



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	3
2 IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS	4
3 TRACKING SYSTEM AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS	5
3.1 General	5
3.2 Documentation	5
4 LABELLING	7
5 CONTACT AND DOCUMENTS	7



By integrating Regenerative Cotton Standard (RCS) verified cotton into their individual supply chains, retailers and brands benefit from the Hard Identity Preserved (HIP) implementation system underpinning their supply chain transparency and cotton origin traceability. The related online Tracking System creates transparency throughout the complete value chain.

1 General Requirements

To be labelled with the “*Regenerative Cotton Standard*” logo, the final product must be composed of at least 5% cotton, with the remaining percentage comprising any other, non-cotton fiber. The entire cotton share (100% of the cotton contained in the final product) must be RCS verified cotton.¹

Every single product labeled with RCS needs to contain RCS yarns from a RCS registered spinning mill. A retailer/brand and its supply chain can choose an already RCS registered spinning mill or can register one of his preferred “not yet registered” spinning mills with RCS. Every registered RCS spinning mill receives a one-year valid RCS certificate; validity of RCS certificates should be regularly checked.

For a RCS production all other supply chain levels must be registered beforehand with RCS as well.

During RCS productions segregation and separation is required on all supply chain levels:

- **No blending of or substitution between RCS cotton and non-RCS cotton** is permitted. However, RCS cotton can be blended with other, non-cotton fibres.

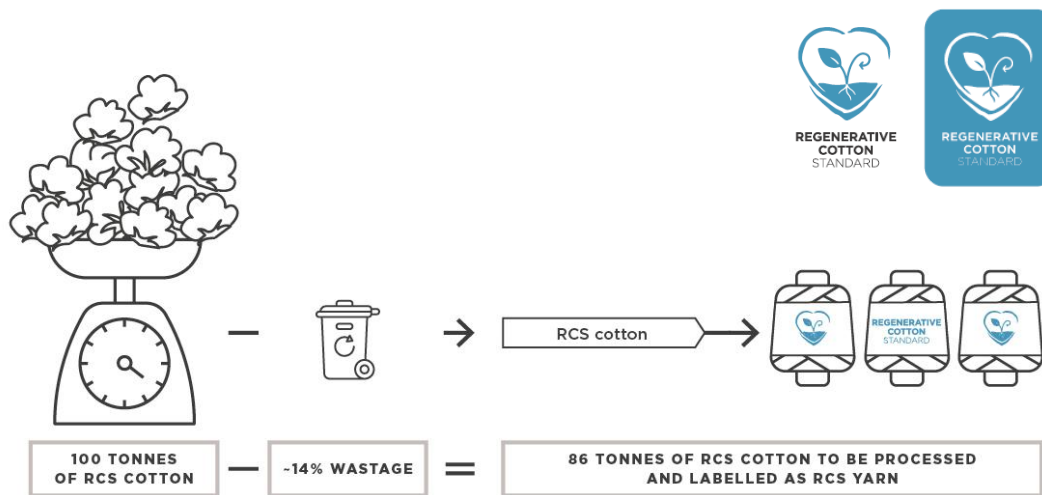


Figure 1: RCS production under the HIP implementation system

- **RCS cotton and any other cotton must be kept segregated** at all stages of storage, inter-facility transportation, and processing at the spinning mill level. Segregation may be physical (e.g. separate production lines) or temporal (e.g. separate production runs).
- **RCS cotton must be clearly marked** at all stages of storage, inter-facility transportation, and processing at the spinning mill level (e.g. with signage and in sales documents). To avoid confusion with the ‘Recycled Claim Standard’ it is suggested to clearly indicate ‘Regenerative Cotton Standard’ on all labels and documents.

¹ Mixing with cotton fibres from other sustainable sources (e.g. OCS, RCS – Recycled Cotton Standard) should be discussed individually with Aid by Trade Foundation.



- **RCS yarn and non-RCS yarns must be kept segregated** at all stages of storage, interfacility transportation, and processing at the spinning mill level. Segregation may be physical (e.g. separate production lines) or temporal (e.g. separate production runs).
- **RCS yarns must be clearly marked** at all stages of storage, inter-facility transportation, and processing at the spinning mill level (e.g. with signage and in sales documents). To avoid confusion with the ‘Recycled Cotton Standard’ it is suggested to clearly indicate ‘Regenerative Claim Standard’ on all labels and documents.
- Only for RCS Organic productions spinning machinery is required to be cleaned between RCS yarn production and any non-RCS production.

Proof of the cotton segregation must be documented and uploaded in the respective Tracking System. **Clear segregation, separation and documentation is also required for all production steps on all supply chain levels.** If required, respective documentation (e.g. contracts, invoices, shipment documents, storage reports, production reports) must be provided to Aid by Trade Foundation office or 3rd party control bodies.

From March 2026, on the Aid by Trade Foundation Transparency Standard² will apply for all RCS productions.

2 Implementation Requirements

To ensure a smooth and easy HIP implementation of RCS and transparency throughout the entire supply chain **all direct production partners should be informed that it is a RCS order.** A remark on “Regenerative Cotton Standard” should be placed on all documents (order, contracts, invoices).

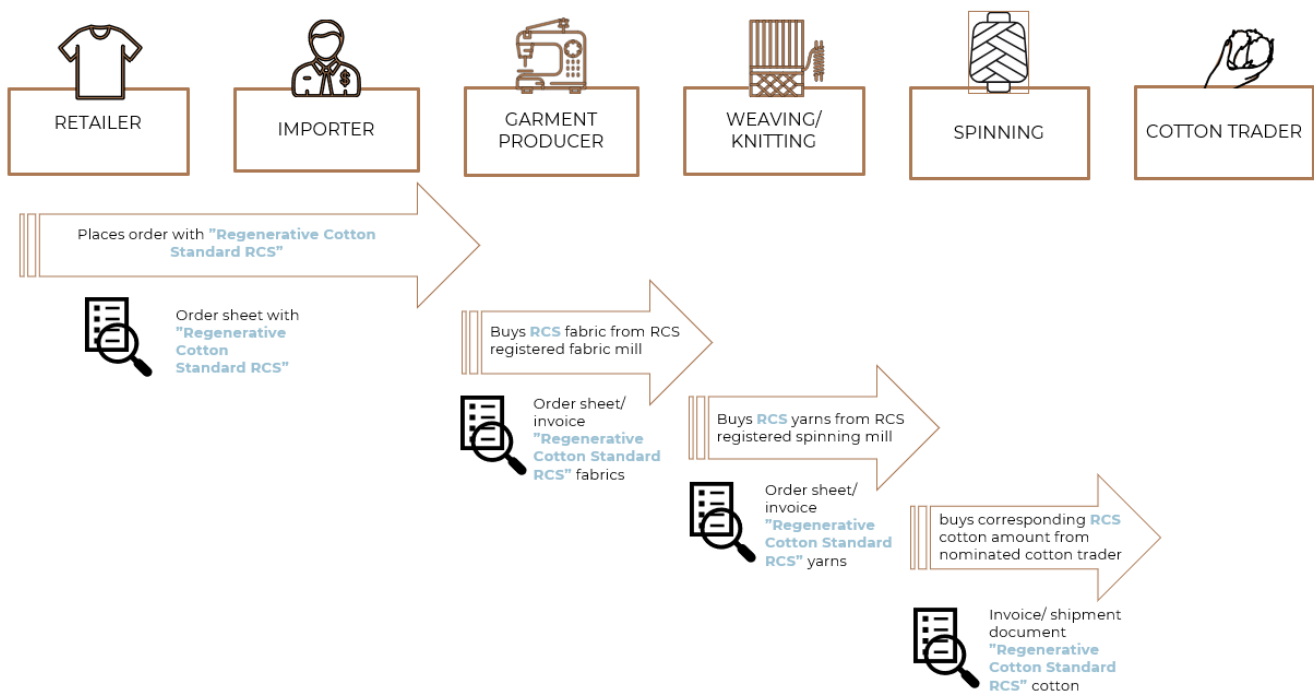


Figure 2: RCS in the supply chain

Same processes apply to intermediate levels of yarn/fabric/garment traders and yarn/fabric dye houses.

² Further information will be published June 2025.



3 Tracking System and Documentation Requirements

3.1 General

Until the individual Tracking System for RCS cotton will be going live (approx. Q4/2025) the SCOT HIP Tracking System will be used to ensure proper transparency in the supply chain and to make sure that the RCS cotton is being processed according to the implementation requirements:

Companies which are nominated for RCS productions will receive access to the HIP section in SCOT, Aid by Trades Foundation (AbTF) office approves beforehand the spinning mill's RCS cotton purchase documents.

All partners in the supply chain are obliged to regularly provide RCS purchase and sales data and respectively required documents.

The AbTF office does not take over any responsibility for the correctness of data provided in SCOT. If there are doubts about the reliability of the data which are checked randomly, AbTF office reserves the right to send 3rd party auditors to the supply chain to check, e.g. to the warehouse of the spinning mill to control the physical availability of the RCS cotton.

3.2 Documentation

Following documentation of RCS productions must be entered in the RCS Tracking System:

ENTITY	TRANSACTION	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	SPECIFICATION
Spinning Mill	Cotton Purchase <u>MANDATORY for RCS registration</u>	RCS cotton purchase contract <u>AND</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both sides signed contract and invoice (pro-forma invoice is not enough!) Clearly mentions "RCS cotton" (Incl. expected shipment date)
		Cotton shipment document/ confirmation of receipt <u>AND</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document confirming cotton receipt at spinning mill's warehouse
		Photo documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photo proof that RCS cotton is clearly marked and stored separated from any other cotton



If required, respective documentation (e.g. contracts, invoices, shipment documents, storage reports, production reports) must be provided to Aid by Trade Foundation office or 3rd party control bodies.

ENTITY	TRANSACTION	DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	SPECIFICATION
Spinning Mill	Yarn Sale	Machinery or RMS* document / Production report AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document excerpt showing which RCS cotton bales have been used for yarn production
		Yarn shipment document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incl. buyer/seller information, amount and delivery date Clearly mentions “Regenerative Cotton Standard/RCS yarn”
Yarn Trader	Yarn Sale	Yarn purchase document AND Yarn sales document (e.g. invoice, shipment document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incl. buyer/seller information, amount and delivery date Clearly mentions “Regenerative Cotton Standard/RCS yarn”
Fabric Mill	Fabric Sale	Machinery or RMS * document / Production report AND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document excerpt showing which RCS yarn purchase has been used for fabric production
		Fabric shipment document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incl. buyer/seller information, amount and delivery date Clearly mentions “Regenerative Cotton Standard/RCS fabric”
Fabric Trader	Fabric Sale	Fabric purchase document AND Fabric sales document (e.g. invoice, shipment document)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incl. buyer/seller information, amount and delivery date Clearly mentions “Regenerative Cotton Standard/RCS fabric”
Garment Producer	Garment sale = allocation of purchases to retailer orders	Machinery or RMS* document / Production report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document excerpt showing which RCS yarn/fabric purchase has been used for garment production
Importer	Garment order	n/a	n/a

For RCS products sourcing yarns and fabrics from RCS registered partners is mandatory.

RCS productions are only possible when the respective companies got RCS cotton, RCS yarns or RCS fabrics on stock; substitution or mixing with conventional cotton/yarn/fabrics is not allowed.



4 Labelling

The final product must be composed of at least 5 % cotton, with the remaining percentage comprising any other, non-cotton fiber. The entire cotton share (100% of the cotton contained in the final product) must be RCS cotton.³ RCS products produced according to the HIP requirements are allowed to be labeled with the “*Regenerative Cotton Standard*” logo.



For further information please contact the AbTF Marketing Department at:

marketing@abt-foundation.org

5 Contact and Documents

If you have any questions regarding RCS please contact:

supplychain@abt-foundation.org

Related documents:

- RCS verified cotton companies:
<https://regenerative-cotton.org/wp-content/uploads/RCS-Cotton-Companies.pdf>
- Aid by Trade Foundation Transparency Standard
to be published June 2025

³ Mixing with cotton fibres from other sustainable sources (e.g. OCS, RCS – Recycled Cotton Standard) should be discussed individually with Aid by Trade Foundation.