

# **BESTSELLER'S ANIMAL WELFARE AND MATERIALS ETHICS POLICY**

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**BESTSELLER**

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## BACKGROUND

As a significant actor in the global fashion industry, BESTSELLER is well positioned to take responsibility, do our part and create genuine change. Our approach is a holistic one where we work to integrate sustainability into all elements of our business. By embracing innovation, mitigating risks and increasing transparency, we can future proof our company and inspire positive social, economic and environmental progress.

We are convinced that we need to outline our chosen destination so we can plan the route to get there, we need to operate our business ethically, produce our products responsibly, build a resilient supply chain, greatly respect everyone involved and provide value to our stakeholders.

This document outlines BESTSELLER's policies on material ethics and animal welfare and requirements related to raw material sourcing. A list of the approved certified and/or branded materials can be found on our website [here](#).

## MATERIALS ETHICS

At BESTSELLER we are committed to choosing branded and certified materials and preparing for a circular future where we can, increasing the traceability of our textile supply chains and continuously working to explore innovative new materials and regenerative agriculture. We are committed to continue progressing in our focus on raw materials to ensure they are sourced in a manner where social and environmental impact is considered and loss or degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems is prevented. BESTSELLER strives to act in compliance with international legislation and standards.

BESTSELLER will not source any materials derived from species that appear on the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) or IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) lists of endangered species.

The specific material requirements listed in this document are guided by and set in line with industry expert groups. In addition to the material requirements, BESTSELLER will comply with local law and international standards.

BESTSELLER is a signatory to *The Microfibre Consortium* and we are committed to collectively work with the industry to reduce micro fibre fragmentation from textiles.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

At BESTSELLER, we are committed to safeguarding animal welfare. We require that any materials derived from animals used in our products are from animals that are treated humanely and according to animal welfare laws and recommendations.

We are committed to support any developments of standards that work towards the Five Domains Model and thereby ensure and encourage higher levels of welfare. BESTSELLER's long term ambition is to source all our animal fibres and materials from responsible sources, and we are committed to driving transparency and traceability in the supply chains of animal derived fibres and materials.

At BESTSELLER, we are supportive of the EU ban on animal testing. We require that our suppliers comply with the EU law and are not involved in any animal testing of cosmetic products and ingredients, or purchase ingredients or products from suppliers, who have been involved in such practices.

In addition, we support the use of recycled animal fibres and innovations of non-animal origin that can replace animal-based fibres.

## **BESTSELLER'S MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **BESTSELLER MATERIAL TARGETS**

#### **COTTON**

BESTSELLER's preferred cotton portfolio consists of certified organic<sup>1</sup>, recycled<sup>2</sup>, in-conversion, CmiA organic (Cotton made in Africa), Better Cotton, Direct to Farm and In conversion. (The in-conversion cotton uptake will count towards the organic cotton target, however please note that in-conversion needs to be reported separately in order to maintain transparency.)

Branded and Certified cotton options will be sourced in line with the official chain of custody requirements set by respective standard.

BESTSELLER will not accept cotton from countries with sourcing limitations mentioned in BESTSELLER's Sourcing Regions of Particular Human Rights Focus, as part of [BESTSELLERs Sourcing policies](#).

#### **SYNTHETIC FIBRES**

Recycled polyester and polyamide options will be sourced in line with the official chain of custody requirements set by respective standard or branded fibre tracer options.

#### **MAN MADE CELLULOSIC FIBRES**

BESTSELLER aims to source its man-made cellulosic fibres responsibly in line with industry best practice, from suppliers that have acquired green shirt rating in the [Canopy Hot Button Report](#).

<sup>1</sup> Approved organic standards are GOTs & OCS

<sup>2</sup> Approved recycled standards are GRS and RCS

BESTSELLER is working to eliminate sourcing man-made cellulosic fibres from endangered species habitats and ancient and endangered forests, sourcing from FSC or PEFC certified forests is required in the case of non-branded fibres.

BESTSELLER encourages brands to use more cellulosic fibres with innovative fibre feedstock (such as recycled cotton or agricultural residues) with the aim to reduce the use and dependencies of virgin wood pulp in BESTSELLER's products and reduce environmental impact.

## **WOOL**

Approved wool options will be sourced in line with the official chain of custody requirements set by respective standards (Alpaca, Mohair and Cashmere from the relevant standards will be included in this target)

BESTSELLER does not accept wool from animals that have been exposed to mulesing. National Wool Declaration of 'non-mulesed' or 'cesed-mulesed' is required for all wool originating from Australia.

## **ALPACA**

BESTSELLER supports the developments of the Responsible Sourced Alpaca standard initiated by the Textile Exchange which we believe will address relevant topics related to alpaca husbandry practices and land management. With this we are working to ensure access and transition to certified responsibly sourced alpaca at the earliest available date as well as support positive industry developments. By Oct 2025 we will aim to eliminate non-certified Alpaca. During this transition period brands are expected to acquire extra verification from suppliers to ensure that any materials derived from animals used in our products does not come from newborn (baby) alpacas, neither from the Vicuña species.

## **MOHAIR**

BESTSELLER will only accept mohair from farms certified to the Responsible Mohair Standard (RMS). Any mohair should be sourced in line with the official chain of custody requirements set by The RMS.

## **CASHMERE**

BESTSELLER has partnered with The Good Cashmere Standard® (GCS) by AbTF (Aid by Trade Foundation) and have effectively started sourcing cashmere fibres for some of our products through this source from 2020 onwards. We are in the process or working to increase the volumes of GCS across BESTSELLER brands. GCS certified cashmere is sourced in line with the official chain of custody requirements set by AbTF. By October 2025 we will aim to eliminate the use of non-certified cashmere. Therefore, brands should begin preparing for this change.

## **DOWN AND FEATHERS**

BESTSELLER **only** allows virgin down and feathers from sources certified to the Responsible Down Standard (RDS). Alternatively certified recycled down can be used.

BESTSELLER requires all down and feather sourcing to be in line with the official chain of custody requirements set by respective standards. RDS down or feathers **cannot** be blended with non RDS down or feathers or synthetic down.

BESTSELLER does not accept; down or feathers from exotic birds nor birds that have not been raised for the food industry. Feather or down from greylag geese due to the risk that they have been force-fed to produce foie gras. Nor feather or down from birds that have been live plucked.

## LEATHER

BESTSELLER only allows sourcing of leather as by-product from animals that have been bred for the food industry, specifically from cow, sheep, goat, pig and buffalo.

BESTSELLER does not accept leather obtained from live-skinning or live-boiling.

BESTSELLER will accept leather with hair on but not fur.

## ALUMINIUM AND IRON

Due to CBAM regulations (The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism is a system that applies a carbon price to imports from countries that have less stringent climate policies, encouraging them to reduce their emissions and level the playing field for European industries.) From 2027 it is required for us to pay taxes over products sourced from 2026 onwards. The requirements is for styles marked as >50% iron or aluminium in BI2 sourced from outside the EU.

Brands need to ensure that the composition of styles are correctly entered into the system. In the past we have seen styles that look like metal but are made from another material. This way we ensure that only for styles with >50% metal in the composition are indeed reported.

For the styles that are made with more than 50% iron or aluminium we have the following options:

1. Source the styles from inside EU
2. Stop sourcing the style
3. Continue sourcing from outside EU & pay taxes on these products from 2026 onwards.

*This will result in higher prices for these products going forward.*

## BANNED MATERIALS

BESTSELLER has banned the use of following materials. **Under no conditions will the use of these materials be accepted to produce BESTSELLER products**

1. *Real fur of any type*
2. *Exotic skins or skins from wild animals*
3. *Angora wool*
4. *Horn*
5. *Teeth*
6. *Bone*
7. *Coral*
8. *All shell (unless recycled with a full chain of custody)*
9. *Mother of Pearl*
10. *Non certified down*

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