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Introduction and overarching principles

This Standard covers goats that are managed for the production of cashmere. The goat management, social criteria and management and auditing criteria could be applied to any cashmere goat production system. The land management clauses in this draft is only applicable to farmed systems. It does not cover nomadic herding systems.

The principles underpinning The Good Cashmere Standard by AbTF are based on the ‘Five Freedoms’ as defined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, which are as follows:

1. **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2. **Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. **Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

5. **Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

This Standard has been drawn up using the Five Freedoms as a framework to cover all aspects of goats’ lives.

Types of clause within the Standard

This Standard includes clauses that are required to be met in order for the farm to be certified. These clauses say that the farm must or must not do something or that something is prohibited.

Additionally there are clauses that say the farm should or should not do something. These clauses are highlighted with **IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA**. Improvement criteria give information on suggested best practice, but do not have to be met by the farm in order for certification to be granted.

If an operation fails to meet a required clause in this Standard, it will be considered to be non-compliant. There are three categories of non-compliance: core, major and basic.

If this symbol **C** is shown next to a particular clause, it indicates that failure to meet the clause would be considered a core non-compliance. Discovery of a core non-compliance leads to exclusion from the program. There are only three topics that are considered serious enough to warrant this rating: abuse of goats, child labour outside the allowances of the standard and use of illegal pesticides.

If this symbol **M** is shown next to a particular clause, it indicates that failure to meet the clause would be considered a major non-compliance.
If a farm receives any major non-compliances at its first audit it cannot be certified until action is taken to resolve the issue and the farm has submitted evidence to demonstrate that this has been done. If a farm receives any major non-compliances at a renewal audit it will be removed from the certified supply chain until evidence is supplied to demonstrate that action has been taken to resolve the issue.

If there is no core or major symbol next to the clause, it indicates that failure to meet the clause would be considered a basic non-compliance. If a farm receives any basic non-compliances at its first audit it cannot be certified until it provides acceptable information on how it intends to resolve the issue and the timeline for doing so. If a farm receives any basic non-compliances at a renewal audit it must submit an acceptable response to the certifier within 3 weeks of the audit report being issued. Its certification will then be maintained. If the farm does not respond to the non-compliance within 3 weeks it may be removed from the certified supply chain.

Further details on compliance issues and their resolution can be found in the Policy Manual.

**Development and review of the Standard**

This Standard has been developed with input from animal welfare specialists, industry experts and, through a field-testing process, goat farmers. After three years of implementation the Standard will be reviewed and revised based on findings from the audit process, as well as any new, relevant scientific findings. The revision process will again involve inputs from welfare and industry experts as well as from farmers.

Outside of the formal review and revision process clauses within the Standard may be amended or clarified if issues with their implementation arise, new technologies become available, or new scientific findings are made.
CHAPTER I
Goat Management

1. Feed, water and nutrition

Key principle: Goats have water and feed that meets their needs whatever their age or stage of production.

1.0.1 M Goats must be able to drink their fill of fresh water at least once every 12 hours.

Note: The best situation is when goats always have free access to water; however this is not current practice on all goat farms and would require structural change and capital investment to ensure that all goats have a trough in every pen and every pasture area.

1.0.2 If goats do not have free access to fresh water at all times, any new construction of housing, or enclosure of pasture areas must provide this.

1.0.3 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Goats must always have access to fresh water, including when they are on pasture, confined in housing or in yards.

1.0.4 M Goats must be offered a daily diet suitable for their age and stage of production.

1.0.5 Feed and water must be provided so that there is no competition between goats for access.

Note: As a guide, each goat should have at least 45cm feed space if feed is not available at all times or 22.5cm feed space when feed is always available.

1.0.6 M Goats’ feed must include at least 50% long fibre roughage on a dry matter basis in their daily diet, so as to maintain digestive health.

1.0.7 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Goats should have access to material such as shrubs or bushes to browse.

Note: Goats have a preference for browsing over grazing. Browsing material includes shrubs, bushes, hedges and small trees.

1.0.8 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Hay or other fodder should be offered in raised racks, not placed on the floor.

1.0.9 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
The majority of goats’ nutrition should come from grazing and browsing.
1.0.10 Any change of diet must take place gradually to avoid digestive upset.
1.0.11 Example tags or ingredient lists must be kept for all feeds and supplements used.

1.0.12 Goats must not be fed fishmeal or animal by-products.

1.0.13 Goats must be maintained in good body condition. Goat body condition will fluctuate throughout the year, but management must ensure goats are neither too thin nor too fat.

*Note: The expectation is that goats are maintained between Body Condition Score (BCS) 2 to 4 (on a five-point scale).*

1.0.14 **IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA**

Body condition scoring of a representative sample of goats (at least 10% of the herd) should be carried out at least three times per year and the results recorded.

*Note: Key times to carry out body condition scoring include when kids are weaned, when does are being prepared for breeding and mid-pregnancy.*

1.0.15 Goats that drop below BCS 2 must be given special treatment to improve their score and if they do not respond they must be euthanized according to Section 8.0.

1.0.16 Feed must be stored so that it cannot be contaminated or spoiled.

1.0.17 Mouldy or otherwise compromised feedstuffs must not be fed to goats.

1.0.18 Feed and water troughs must be cleaned as necessary to maintain them in a hygienic condition.

1.0.19 Water troughs must be checked daily to ensure that water is flowing.
2. Indoor living environment (housing and/or indoor shelter)

Key principle: Goats are protected from extremes of weather and have sufficient space to move around, interact with other goats and lie down somewhere dry.

2.0.1 Goats must have access to housing/shelter that protects their thermal comfort, provides shade from the sun and protection from wind, rain and snow.

2.0.2 Pens, gates and any other structures in the indoor environment must be constructed and maintained so as not to cause injury.

2.0.3 Housing/shelter must provide natural light and fresh air ventilation.

2.0.4 If artificial light is used it must not extend the daylength beyond 16 hours per day.

2.0.5 Air quality in housing/shelter must be maintained. Ammonia must not exceed 25ppm and dust must not exceed 10mg per cubic metre.

Note: Ammonia can be measured using testing strips, calibrated meters or sensory evaluation. If sensory evaluation is used both the smell of ammonia and the presence of dust must be hardly noticeable for this clause to be met. If dust causes coughing or the smell of ammonia is noticeable or causes watery eyes it is unacceptable.

2.0.6 Manure must be removed from housing/shelter as necessary to keep the environment clean.

2.0.7 Goats must have a clean and dry place to lie down in housing/shelter.

2.0.8 Goats must always have bedding in housing.

Note: Acceptable bedding materials that will provide comfort for goats include wood shavings, wood chips, maize (corn) stalks, hay or straw.

2.0.9 Housing/shelter must provide solid flooring for animals to lie down. Fully slatted floors are prohibited.

2.0.10 Goats must have at least the following space allowances when they are shut into indoor housing/shelter (see also clause 3.0.2 for space requirements for outdoor housing area).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of animal</th>
<th>Minimum under cover lying area per animal m² (ft²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doe</td>
<td>1.4 (15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doe and single kid</td>
<td>2.0 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional kids</td>
<td>0.4 (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaned kids</td>
<td>0.9 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck</td>
<td>2.0 (21)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.0.11 Animals must not have access to any potentially toxic chemicals e.g. paints, wood preservatives or disinfectants.
3. Outdoor living environment

Key principle: Goats have access to an outdoor area with sufficient space to exercise and interact with other goats.

3.0.1 Goats must have continuous daytime access to an outdoor exercise area.

*Note: An exception can be made at time of extreme weather when goats’ welfare would otherwise be adversely affected. The outdoor exercise area could be a yard or pasture areas (see also clause 3.0.3 below).*

3.0.2 Goats must have at least the following space allowances for their outdoor exercise area (see also clause 2.0.10 for space requirements for an indoor housing/shelter area).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of animal</th>
<th>Minimum outdoor exercise area per animal m² (ft²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doe</td>
<td>2.5 (27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doe and single kid</td>
<td>3.0 (33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional kids</td>
<td>0.5 (5.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaned kids</td>
<td>1 (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck</td>
<td>3.0 (33)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.0.3 Adult goats must have access for at least four hours per day to areas where they can graze or browse vegetation during the growing season.

*Note: The growing season for Inner Mongolia is defined as May to September. Cut vegetation such as maize (corn) stalks or hay is acceptable as well as plants growing in the area.*

3.0.4 Fencing, equipment and other structures in the goats’ outdoor environment must be kept in good condition and free from debris so as not to cause injury.

3.0.5 Fencing must be of a design that does not allow goats to get their heads or limbs stuck.

3.0.6 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Fencing should be at least 1.2m high.

3.0.7 Goats must be managed to avoid access to poisonous plants, shrubs and trees.

3.0.8 Goats must be provided with environmental enrichment such as earth mounds, raised wooden platforms, tree stumps or similar in their outdoor exercise area.
3.0.9 There must be a raised enrichment area of at least 0.5m$^2$ (4.5sq. ft.) for every group or part group of 50 goats.

*Note: Goats are very agile and like to climb. If given the opportunity both adults and kids can be seen getting up on raised areas of ground, tree stumps or similar as part of their normal behaviour to browse and play.*
4. Health

Key principle: Goats are managed so that they are in a state of good health and welfare. Management focuses on prevention of health problems, but in the event that goats become sick or injured they are treated promptly.

4.0.1 There must be a written health plan covering the prevention and treatment of health issues that are known to exist, or be of risk to goats on the farm. At minimum, the plan must include details of the following:

- 4.0.1.1 Internal parasite prevention and treatment
- 4.0.1.2 External parasite prevention and treatment
- 4.0.1.3 Infectious disease prevention and treatment
- 4.0.1.4 Lameness and foot problems, prevention and treatment
- 4.0.1.5 Biosecurity and quarantine
- 4.0.1.6 Vaccinations

4.0.2 The health plan must be developed with the advice of a veterinarian or other expert in goat production.

4.0.3 There must be at least annual vet or goat expert visits to review the health plan and goat welfare, health and disease management protocols on farm.

4.0.4 Any goat that is sick, injured or has parasites must be treated as soon as the health issue is discovered.

4.0.5 A goat that does not respond to treatment within a reasonable time period must be euthanised according to Section 8 of this Standard.

4.0.6 Medicine records covering the goat(s) treated, date of treatment, the product used, and the reason for treatment must be kept.

4.0.7 Protocols must be in place for the safe disposal of unused or expired medicines, insecticides, needles etc.

4.0.8 Sub-therapeutic use of veterinary medicines is prohibited.

Note: Sub-therapeutic is defined as the use of veterinary medicines – including, but not limited to, antibiotics and parasiticides - when animals are not clinically ill or at immediate risk of illness.

4.0.9 The use of any product – for example antibiotics, beta-agonists or hormones - as a growth promoter is prohibited.

4.0.10 Records must be kept of mortality and culls and the reason for death/culling (where known).

4.0.11 Facilities to house and/or segregate sick or injured animals must be available.
4.0.12 Facilities for sick or injured animals must provide free access to water and clean and dry bedding materials.

4.0.13 Routine foot care including trimming and foot bathing as appropriate must be undertaken to ensure that lameness levels must not exceed 5% of the herd.
5. Goat management

5.0 Overall management

Key principle: Goat farmers are aware of and meet any relevant regulations and ensure their goats are maintained in stable groups.

5.0.1 M All relevant local and national laws and regulations as they apply to goat management must be met.

5.0.2 M Goats must be checked at least once daily.

5.0.3 Mixing of unfamiliar animals must be avoided. Goats must be managed in stable groups according to their age and stage of production.

5.0.4 Animals must not be kept in isolation unless this is necessary to manage health problems.

5.0.5 There must be a written emergency plan covering actions to protect goats in case of fire, flood, drought and/or other potential extreme weather/environmental conditions.

5.1 Breeding management

Key principle: The selection of goats for breeding allows goats to thrive without the need for excessive human intervention.

5.1.1 M Breeding selection must consider conformation and health characteristics (for example strong straight legs; teeth flush with dental pad; sturdy and well formed hooves) as well as fibre quality.

5.1.2 Cloned, genetically engineered or gene-edited goats are prohibited.

5.1.3 The techniques of embryo transfer and/or ovum pick up must not be used.

5.1.4 Young does must be at least one year old before being bred for the first time.

5.1.5 The area used for kidding must be kept clean.

5.1.6 Records must be kept of the total number of does that kid each year and the number that need assistance to give birth.

5.1.7 Action must be taken if more than 15% of does need to be assisted to give birth each kidding cycle.

5.1.8 Breeding males must have the company of other goats outside of the breeding season.
5.2 Kid management

Key principle: Kids are given the best start in life with welfare a priority from birth onwards.

5.2.1 M Kids must be checked to ensure they have had colostrum within 6 hours of birth.

5.2.2 Provisions for managing orphan or excess kids must be in place prior to the start of kidding.

5.2.3 Equipment used to feed artificially reared kids must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

5.2.4 Artificially reared kids must always have access to water.

5.2.5 M Kids must not be weaned until they are at least 40% of their adult weight or a minimum of 8 weeks of age.

5.2.6 At weaning, does and kids must be separated so they cannot see or hear one another.

5.2.7 Newly weaned kids must be kept with other kids they are familiar with.

5.2.8 Kids must have access to forage in their diets at least from the age of 15 days.

5.3 Physical alterations

Key principles: Physical alterations that are necessary for goat management are carried out so as to minimise pain and distress.

5.3.1 M If buck kids are to be castrated this must be achieved by the time they reach a maximum age of 6 weeks.

5.3.2 If buck kids are to be castrated the permitted methods are:
   • Scalpel
   • Emasculator (burdizzo)

5.3.3 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
If buck kids are to be castrated pain relief should be used.

5.3.4 Good hygiene practice must be followed when castration is carried out.

5.3.5 M All physical alterations aside from castration are prohibited. This includes a prohibition on the following:
   • Ear notching
   • Disbudding and dehorning
   • De-scenting bucks
   • Removal of goats’ wattles

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6. Combing and shearing
(harvest of fibre from live animals)

Key principle: Fibre is removed from goats using methods that minimise stress and injury and does not cause thermal discomfort.

6.0.1 M All combers/shearers must be trained and competent. This applies to contract shearers/combers as well as those employed on the farm.

6.0.2 If contract combers/shearers are used one person from the shearing team must be nominated to oversee goat welfare and to report any shearing injuries to the farmer.

6.0.3 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Goats should have their fibre removed with hand shears or electric clippers in preference to combing.

6.0.4 Hand or electric shearing equipment must be well maintained with suitable blades for goat fibre.

6.0.5 M When goats are restrained by ropes for combing/shearing, these must not be tied so tight as to reduce blood supply or cause any other injury.

6.0.6 Goats must be supervised at all times while they are under restraint.

6.0.7 Goats must be released from restraint if they are at risk of injury.

6.0.8 The time that goats are restrained for combing or shearing must be kept as short as possible.

Note: It takes around 30 minutes for a goat to have its fibre removed.

6.0.9 M Goats must only be combed when they are naturally starting to shed their coats.

6.0.10 M Combing/shearing must ensure that goats maintain thermal comfort post shearing. This can be achieved by: only combing/shearing in warm weather; leaving sufficient fibre on the goat to keep it warm; or giving goats a coat and/or housing them after combing/shearing in cold or wet weather.

6.0.11 M Combing/shearing must ensure that goats do not get sunburn post shearing. This can be achieved by leaving sufficient fibre on the goat to protect the skin or ensuring goats always have access to shade while their hair regrows.

6.0.12 Goats that are cut or otherwise injured during combing/shearing must be given treatment appropriate to the injury immediately.

6.0.13 Goats that are cut or injured during combing/shearing must be monitored for any sign of infection or other complications for at least three days post shearing.
6.0.14 Combers/shearers that cut or injure multiple goats during a single combing/shearing session must stop and be retrained before resuming combing/shearing.

6.0.15 Records of the volume of cashmere produced each year must be kept.

6.0.16 Fibre from goats that are certified under this Standard must be clearly identified when it leaves the farm.

6.0.17 Records must be kept of the number of goats sheared per day, the names of the shearers and the number of goats that were cut or otherwise injured.
7. Handling and transport

7.0 Handling

Key principle: Calm handling promotes good relationships between farmer and goats and reduces fear and stress.

7.0.1 All goats must be handled calmly and without excessive force. Painful physical contact – for example hitting the goats, or using sticks or goads – is prohibited.

7.0.2 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Audible or visual measures (e.g. flags, rattles) should be used in preference to physical contact to encourage animals to move.

7.0.3 The use of electric prods is prohibited.

7.0.4 There must be handling facilities of a suitable size and design for the number of goats on the farm.

7.0.5 Handling facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise potential injury and distress.

7.0.6 Handling areas must be high enough to prevent goats attempting to jump out.

7.0.7 Lighting in handling areas must avoid creating shadowed areas.

7.0.8 Goats must not be exposed to sudden loud noises during handling.

7.0.9 Goats must not be closely confined or tethered unless temporarily for feeding, veterinary treatment or other similar activities.

Note: See Section 6.0 for details of restraint at combing.

7.0.10 Goats must not be lifted solely by their hair, ears, horns, tails, limbs or heads.

7.0.11 Goats must not be dragged.

7.0.12 When goats are moved on foot this must be at a pace that does not cause exhaustion or heat stress.

7.0.13 Extra care must be taken when handling young kids, heavily pregnant does and any goats that are sick or injured.
7.1 Transport

Key principle: Goats are handled carefully during loading, unloading and transport.

7.1.1 **M**Transport duration must not exceed 8 hours.

*Note: Transport duration is calculated from loading the first goat at the source to unloading the last goat at the destination.*

7.1.2 **M**Goats must have access to water up to the point of being loaded.

7.1.3 Goats must have enough space in transport to stand naturally without their heads touching the roof (if there is one).

7.1.4 Goats must be protected from heat and cold stress during transport.

7.1.5 Goats must not be moved or loaded unless the way forward for the lead animal is clear and there is sufficient space in front of them.

7.1.6 Transport vehicles must be cleaned between uses.

7.1.7 Transport vehicle ramps and flooring must be non-slip.

7.1.8 **M**Goats must be fit for transport. Any goat that falls into one of the following categories must not be transported unless this is to receive veterinary treatment:

- Unable to walk onto the transport vehicle unaided.
- With open wounds.
- With a prolapse.
- Which has undergone surgery in the previous two weeks.
- In the last month of pregnancy.
- That has given birth in the previous 48 hours.
- That is extremely debilitated.

7.1.9 There must be a written transport plan that includes actions that the driver must take in case of emergency.

7.1.10 Stocking density in transport must not exceed the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight kg (lbs)</th>
<th>Area per animal m² (ft²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant does</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;55kg (&lt;120 lbs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.4 m² (4 ft²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;55kg (&gt;120 lbs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.5 m² (5 ft²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other goats</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;55kg (&lt;120 lbs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.3 m² (3 ft²)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;55kg (&gt;120 lbs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.4 m² (4 ft²)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.1.11 The slope of any loading ramps must not exceed 20 degrees.

7.1.12 Goats must be penned within the transport vehicle in groups of similar size or age.

7.1.13 Goats must not be mixed with goats they are unfamiliar with during transport.

Note: This includes unfamiliar goats from the source farm or goats from other farms.

7.1.14 A record must be kept of any deaths in transport.
8. Euthanasia and Slaughter

Key principle: Slaughter is the planned death of goats. Euthanasia is the death of goats in response to illness or injury. Both euthanasia and slaughter that takes place under the control of the certified farmer (e.g. on-farm slaughter) must be carried out using methods that cause immediate irreversible unconsciousness and death.

8.0 Euthanasia

8.0.1 M If an animal is in pain and/or suffering from disease or injury that is either very severe or not responding to treatment it must be euthanized without delay.

8.0.2 M Animals to be euthanized must be handled, restrained and killed in such a manner as to minimise unnecessary pain and distress prior to death.

8.0.3 The person carrying out euthanasia must be able to recognize the signs of death.

8.0.4 The person carrying out euthanasia must stay with the animal until they have confirmed death.

8.0.5 M Goats must only be euthanized using the following methods:

- Captive bolt gun (penetrating and non-penetrating).
- Veterinary administered overdose of barbiturates.
- Blunt force trauma ONLY for kids up to seven days old.

8.0.6 The spinal cord must not be severed or broken in any animal, until after death.

8.0.7 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
The farmer or a full time employee should have attended training on the correct way to euthanise a goat according to this Standard.

8.0.8 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
The person who attended the training in clause 8.0.7 should be the preferred person to carry out euthanasia when this is necessary.

8.1 Slaughter

8.1.1 M All animals must be effectively stunned pre-slaughter using a method that causes instantaneous unconsciousness that lasts until death.

8.1.2 M Goats must only be stunned using the following methods:

- Electric head only stunning.
- Electric head and heart stunning.
- Captive bolt gun.
8.1.3 If a recoverable method such as electric head only stunning is used, the goat must be slaughtered by a secondary method such as exsanguination within 15 seconds of stunning.

8.1.4 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
All slaughter sites should have undergone and passed an independent welfare review covering handling welfare of goats from their arrival at the slaughter operation to their point of death.
9. Plans and records

Key principle: Farmers have plans to help maintain goat welfare and keep records to demonstrate the outcomes of their management.

9.0 Written Records

9.0.1 All records must be retained for at least five years.

This Standard requires the following written records. See the relevant clause number for more information:

- Lists of all feeds/supplements and their ingredients; clause 1.0.11
- Medicine records; clause 4.0.6
- Mortality and culls; clause 4.0.10
- Kidding and number of does that need assistance; clause 5.1.6
- Volume of fibre production; clause 6.0.15
- Number of goats sheared or combed, names of shearers/combers and number of cut or injured goats; clause 6.0.17
- Deaths in transport; clause 7.1.14
- Staff training; clause 10.0.2

9.1 Written Plans

This Standard requires the following written plans. See the relevant clause number for more information:

- Health plan; clause 4.0.1
- Emergency plan; clause 5.0.5
- Transport plan; clause 7.1.9
10. **Training and competence**

**Key principle:** All those working with goats are trained and competent to carry out the work required of them.

10.0.1 All those looking after goats (including family labour, full-time, contract or temporary workers) must be trained and competent to do the tasks required of them.

10.0.2 Records of initial and ongoing staff training must be kept.

10.0.3 A copy of this Standard must be available on-farm for all those looking after goats to refer to.

10.0.4 A named person must have responsibility for goat welfare.

10.0.5 All those looking after livestock (including contract or temporary workers) must be aware of this Standard and their part in ensuring the farm meets them.

10.0.6 Stock people must be assessed at least annually to review their performance.

10.0.7 Where farm workers speak different languages, best management protocols, biosecurity, welfare standards and other relevant documentation must be translated into the language that is used by those workers.

10.0.8 **IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA**

Stock people should get the opportunity at least annually to participate in courses for ongoing training or other professional development.
11. Land Management, Wildlife and Biodiversity

11.0 Land management

Key principle: Activities of goat farmers protects the land and does not cause pollution.

11.0.1 Goat farmers must not cause pollution. Manure and other animal wastes must be disposed of so as to minimise disease risk to other animals and to protect the environment.

11.0.2 Goat farmers must ensure that any hazardous materials are not disposed of on land used by goats unless specifically allowed by law.

11.0.3 Cutting of primary forest or destruction of other forms of national resources which are designated and protected by national law or currently valid international legislation to convert land for grazing or cropping is prohibited.

Note: Relevant internationally legislation can be found as follows
a) Important Bird Areas (IBA) - www.birdlife.org/datazone/site
b) World Heritage Sites / IUCN Categories I-IV: http://www.protectedplanet.net/

11.0.4 Grazing land must be managed to maintain vegetative cover and avoid erosion.

11.0.5 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Rotational grazing management should be used.

Note: Rotational management is when some pasture areas are rested while others are in use.

11.1 Crop management

This section covers crops that are grown by the certified farmer. It does not include crops bought in by the farmer that are grown elsewhere.

11.1.1 Plastic sheeting/film used for crop growing must either be degradable or be collected and disposed of properly after the crop is harvested.

11.1.2 IMPROVEMENT CRITERIA
Soil tests to monitor soil health or grazing and cropping land, including major nutrients, pH and soil organic matter should be carried out at least every three years.

11.2 Fertilisers (natural and artificial)

11.2.1 Fertilisers must only be used when there is demonstrable crop need.
11.2.2  Fertilisers must only be applied when soil conditions allow uptake of the nutrients. Applying fertiliser to frozen or waterlogged soil is prohibited.

11.3  Pesticides

11.3.1  Pesticides must only be used when monitoring shows that pests or diseases are present at a level where they will cause crop harm and cannot be controlled by other means.

11.3.2  Pesticides must only be applied to target areas. They must not be used when there is a risk of drift to non-target areas.

11.3.3  Pesticides must be mixed and applied as per the manufacturer’s instructions.

11.3.4  Biological, cultural and physical pest control methods must be used in place of chemical pesticides if the non-chemical methods are effective.

11.3.5  The use of pesticides banned under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the WHO list of highly hazardous and hazardous pesticides, and pesticides listed in the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) is prohibited.

11.4 Wildlife and Biodiversity

Key principle: Farmers co-exist with wildlife and do not negatively impact biodiversity on and around the areas they manage

11.4.1 Goats must be protected from predators.

11.4.2 Snares, leg hold traps and any other traps aside from live traps must not be used to catch or control wildlife.

11.4.3 Lethal control of wildlife must only take place when non-lethal control methods have failed.

11.4.4 Lethal control must only target the problem animal.

11.4.5 Lethal control must immediately cause unconsciousness and death.

11.4.6 Wildlife must not be poisoned

Note: Wildlife does not include rats and mice.

11.4.7 When poison is used to control rodents it must not be accessible to anything other than the target animals.

11.4.8 Harvesting/gathering rare, threatened or endangered plant species is prohibited.
CHAPTER II
Social Criteria

1. Small scale farmers

1.0.1 C The small scale farmer must respect the rights of children

Note: The farmer must respect the rights of children and ensure that there is no child labour in accordance with ILO Conventions 138 and 182. In the case of family smallholdings, children may help on their family’s farm provided the work is not liable to damage their health, safety, well-being, education or development and that they are supervised by adults and given appropriate training.

1.0.2 The small scale farmer must not employ children below the age of 15 or under the age defined by local law, whichever is higher.

1.0.3 The small scale farmer’s household members below 15 years or under the age defined by local law, whichever is higher may help on their family’s farm after school or during holidays only under the following conditions:

• The child’s work must be structured to enable him/her to attend school and have leisure time;
• The child’s work must be appropriate for his/her age and physical condition;
• The child must not perform tasks that are hazardous for him/her;
• The child must not work for long hours or under dangerous or exploitative conditions; and
• The child must be supervised and guided by his/her parent or legal guardian.

1.0.4 Hazardous work must not be performed by anyone under 18.

1.0.5 The small scale farmer must be committed to the values of The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS) and continuously improve their performance.

1.0.6 The small scale farmer must ensure subcontractors (e.g. those contracted to shear the goats) comply with all relevant criteria in the GCS, particularly the animal welfare criteria in Chapter I. The minimum actions the small scale farmer must undertake to fulfil this requirement include:

• Effectively communicating the requirements of the GCS to third parties; and
• Ensuring that the significant risks of not meeting the requirements of the GCS are effectively addressed by third parties.

1 Small scale Farmers are farmers with a maximum of 200 goats and/or no employed staff, Farm work is mostly done by the farmer, family members or the community; workers are not hired all year round.
2. Large farms with employed staff

2.0.1 C The large farmer must respect the rights of children and ensure that there is no child labour in accordance with ILO Conventions 138 and 182.

2.0.2 The large farmer must not employ children directly or indirectly (through sub-contracting) below the age of 15 or under the age defined by local law, whichever is higher.

2.0.3 Robust age-verification mechanisms must be part of the recruitment process to ensure compliance to the minimum age.

2.0.4 Hazardous work must not be performed by anyone under 18.

2.0.5 The large farmer must develop a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) and its actions must be implemented, documented and monitored. The CIP must be reviewed and updated annually.

2.0.6 The large farmer must ensure subcontractors (e.g. those contracted to shear the goats) comply with all relevant criteria in the GCS, particularly the animal welfare criteria in Chapter I. The minimum actions the large farmer must undertake to fulfil this requirement include:

- Effectively communicating the requirements of the GCS to third parties;
- Ensuring that the significant risks of not meeting the requirements of the GCS are effectively addressed by third parties; and
- Making efforts to incorporate the requirements of the GCS in contractual agreements with third party employers.

2.0.7 The large farmer must record how the actions relating to employment and subcontracting are fulfilled.

2.0.8 Contracted workers must have access to a grievance mechanism.

2.0.9 There must be an effective GCS audit process that regularly assesses risks of non-compliance with the Standard and implements corrective actions.

2.0.10 There must be a system in place to maintain adequate records of employment. This must include at least the following:

- personnel file for each employee and worker;
- pay records;
- working hours records;
- workforce statistics;
- policies;
- health & safety.

2.0.11 There must be a system in place to collect, compile and report complete and accurate data in accordance with the AbTF’s data reporting template.
2.0.12 The large farmer must guarantee free choice of employment and ensure that there is no forced or compulsory labour, including bonded or trafficked labour at any stage of production and processing.

2.0.13 Labour by prisoners or those working under the regiment of imprisonment must not be used, even when this is permitted by national or local labour or other laws.

2.0.14 Employees and workers must not be required to lodge deposits or identity papers, nor are salaries, benefits or properties retained to force employees or workers to remain on the work site.

2.0.15 Debt must not be imposed on workers (e.g., through large pay advances, for food, equipment or transportation fees) that is difficult or impossible to repay on low wages.

2.0.16 Workers’ rights to leave employment after giving reasonable notice must be respected.

2.0.17 A policy of non-discrimination and support for disadvantaged groups must be implemented.

2.0.18 The farmer must not tolerate any form of discrimination. This includes benefits or discrimination in hiring, promotion, access to training, remuneration, allocation of work, termination of employment, retirement, general treatment in workplace or other activities on the basis of gender, age, religion, race, colour, caste, ethnicity, nationality, social background, disability, membership in trade union or workers' representative bodies, political opinion, type of worker (permanent, temporary or migrant), sexual orientation, family responsibilities, pregnancy, childbirth, marital status, diseases or other.

2.0.19 There must be a written code of conduct or non-discrimination policy that is communicated to employees and workers.

2.0.20 Tests for pregnancy or genetic problems must not be conducted during recruitment of employees and workers.

2.0.21 The right of all employees and workers to establish and join workers' organizations and bargain collectively must be guaranteed.

2.0.22 All employees and workers including seasonal and casual workers must have fair conditions of employment with regard to wages and contracts and are paid the legally applicable minimum wage/s (statutory national or regional minimum wage applicable to agriculture, collectively agreed wage, industry minimum).

2.0.23 Equal pay for equal work must be offered to all employees and workers - permanent, seasonal or casual - without discrimination based on gender or otherwise. This includes equivalent benefits and employment conditions for equal work.
2.0.24 Employees and workers must be paid on time regularly and at least through an appropriate method of payment.

2.0.25 Payments must be documented with a clear and understandable payslip containing at least the following information:

- time period;
- gross and net wage and benefits;
- wage calculation for piece rates; and
- amount and reason for any deductions.

2.0.26 Payments must be made in the national currency.

2.0.27 Employees and workers must sign for any payments received in cash.

2.0.28 Payroll records must be kept.

2.0.29 All employees and workers, including permanent, seasonal, casual and migrant workers, must receive a contract of employment prior to work. The contract must include at least the following:

- job description;
- working hours and rest periods;
- wage;
- form and frequency of payment;
- overtime regulations;
- social benefits;
- entitlements and deductions;
- annual paid leave, sick leave, protection of the worker from loss of pay in the case of illness, disability, accident or loss of life;
- a notice period for termination that is the same as the notice period for the employer.

If required by national legislation the contract must be written and be signed by worker and employer before the worker commences work. A copy must be provided to the employee/worker.

In countries, where written contracts are not required by law for casual workers, the farmer must ensure that casual workers understand and agree with the terms of the verbal contract.

2.0.30 All employees and workers must be aware of their rights and duties, responsibilities, salaries and work schedules as part of the legal labour contract.

2.0.31 The rights and health of employees and workers must be protected through appropriate working hours.
2.0.32 The farmer must comply with applicable national and local legislation and industry standards and follow collective bargaining agreements regarding working hours and overtime regulations.

Note: This applies equally to employees and workers including seasonal workers, casual workers and/or workers that are paid per unit or result.

2.0.33 Recording of working hours - regular and overtime – must be done in a transparent manner.

2.0.34 The farmer must grant and respects meal and work breaks according to national legislation.

2.0.35 Measures must be in place to deal with accidents and emergencies including first aid.

2.0.36 Adequate first aid equipment (complete and up to date) must be provided.

2.0.37 Transport to medical facilities must be provided if necessary.

2.0.38 Workplace hazards must be managed effectively.

2.0.39 Personal protective equipment (PPE) must be provided free of charge for all employees and workers handling any potentially hazardous chemicals or that are working in a hazardous environment. Employees and workers must know how to use PPE.
CHAPTER III
Management Criteria and Auditing

1. Small scale farmers

1.0 General management

1.0.1 Cashmere marketed by the farmer as Good Cashmere must be produced and certified according to The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS).

1.1 Audits for small scale farmers

1.1.1 The small scale farmer must cooperate appropriately with the Auditors to ensure an efficient and effective Audit.

1.1.2 The small scale farmer must commit to provide the Buying Station with required information listed at 3.0.7 below.

1.1.3 The small scale farmer must grant auditors unlimited access to all facilities in the farm.

2. Large farms with employed staff

2.0 General management

2.0.1 The large farmer must operate effective management systems that deliver the requirements of this Standard.

2.0.2 There must be adequate staff capacity to implement The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS).

2.0.3 The large farmer must appoint a person responsible for GCS matters, called the GCS Officer who has the relevant knowledge and experience to carry out this post.

2.0.4 The GCS Officer must be responsible for:

- The overall coordination of GCS matters on the farm;
- Handling all necessary GCS related communication;
- Acting as a liaison between AbTF, the lead auditor and farmers regarding GCS matters;

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2 Small scale Farmers are farmers with a maximum of 200 goats and/or no employed staff, Farm work is mostly done by the farmer, family members or the community; workers are not hired all year round.

The Good Cashmere Standard® by AbTF, version 1.0 2019
• The submission of annual Self-Assessments and annual Continuous Improvement Plans;
• Overseeing compliance, implementation and monitoring of the farm’s performance regarding the GCS requirements.

2.0.5 The AbTF rules regarding the chain of custody must be followed, especially with respect to the preservation of traceability of the cashmere produced according to the criteria of the GCS.

2.0.6 Cashmere marketed by the large farmer as Good Cashmere must be produced and certified according to The Good Cashmere Standard.

2.0.7 If the large farmer has multiple sites and not all of these sites are taking part in the audit programme for GCS, the large farmer must ensure the separation of GCS cashmere from non-GCS cashmere. If necessary, a separation system must be in place, applied, and documented at all stages.

2.0.8 Sales records of cashmere to international traders and/or local buyers, including the buyer name, date, and volume, must be kept for at least one year and be available to AbTF or the Auditor upon request.

2.0.9 An effective GCS audit process must regularly assess the risks of non-compliance with the Standard and implement corrective actions.

2.1 Audits for large farms

2.1.1 The large farmer must provide sufficient and appropriate assistance to the Auditors in order to ensure an efficient and effective Audit. This includes the provision of staff with local geographical knowledge as well as transportation and logistical support.

2.1.2 The large farm’s GCS Officer must be available to participate in the audits, as well as the opening and closing meetings.

2.1.3 Confidential interviews with employees/workers’ representatives, employees, workers and farmers, all randomly chosen by the Auditors must be conducted without any influence from the large farmer.

2.1.4 At least one worker representative must participate in the audits as well as opening and closing meetings in order to increase worker involvement and understanding of the process of compliance.

2.1.5 Worker participation in audits must take place during working time and workers must not lose income.

2.1.6 The large farmer must commit to provide the Buying Station with required information listed at 3.0.7 below.

2.1.7 The large farmer must grant auditors unlimited access to all facilities in the farm.
3. Buying Stations

3.0 General management

3.0.1 The Buying Station must operate effective management systems to deliver the requirements of this Standard.

3.0.2 There must be adequate staff capacity to implement The Good Cashmere Standard (GCS).

3.0.3 The Buying Station must appoint a person responsible for GCS matters, called the GCS Officer who has the relevant knowledge and experience to carry out this post.

3.0.4 The Buying Station must develop a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) and its actions must be implemented, documented and monitored. The CIP must be reviewed and updated annually.

3.0.5 The GCS Officer must be responsible for:
- The overall coordination of GCS matters in the Buying Station;
- Handling all necessary GCS related communication;
- Acting as a liaison between AbTF, the lead auditor and farmers regarding GCS matters;
- The submission of annual Self-Assessments and annual Continuous Improvement Plans;
- Overseeing compliance, implementation and monitoring of the farmers’ performance regarding the GCS requirements.

3.0.6 Buying Stations must operate a data management system.

3.0.7 Buying Stations must have a system in place to accurately collect, maintain and update annually at least the following farmer/farmer group information:
- name;
- location;
- gender;
- age;
- number of goats;
- pre-finance amount (if applicable) and repayment;
- cashmere price at market;
- training participation.

3.0.8 The Buying Station must have a system in place to collect, compile and report complete and accurate data in accordance with the AbTF data reporting template.

3.0.9 AbTF rules regarding the chain of custody must be followed, especially with respect to the preservation of traceability of the cashmere produced according to the criteria of the GCS.
3.0.10 Cashmere marketed by the Buying Station as Sustainable Cashmere must be produced by and purchased from farmers that are certified according to the GCS.

3.0.11 If not all of the farmers selling to the Buying Station are taking part in the audit programme for GCS, the Buying Station must ensure the separation of GCS cashmere from non-GCS cashmere. If necessary, a separation system must be in place, applied, and documented at all stages.

3.0.12 All farmers must be given receipts of sales of their cashmere, including the buyer name, date, volume and price paid. The Buying Station must maintain copies of these receipts for at least one year and must be able to submit these sale records to AbTF or the Auditor upon request.

3.0.13 Sales records of cashmere to international traders and/or local producers, including the buyer name, date, volume and price received, must be kept for at least one year and be available to AbTF or the Auditor upon request.

3.0.14 An effective GCS audit process must regularly assess the risks of non-compliance with the Standard and implement corrective actions.

3.0.15 The Buying Station must have clear and equitable contracts with GCS farmers.

*Note: Contracts are preferably written, but may be verbal.*

3.0.16 All GCS herders or GCS herder groups (in case of group contracts) receive contracts in language(s) understandable to them.

3.0.17 Contracts must as a minimum clearly indicate:
- pre-finance terms and conditions (if applicable);
- grading and pricing;
- delivery and payment terms and conditions; and
- an arbitration system to resolve conflicts separate from jurisdiction.

3.0.18 The Buying Station must ensure that GCS herders have a good understanding of the contract and the associated rights and obligations.

3.0.19 There must be a transparent grading and payment system for cashmere in place that pays different prices for different cashmere quality levels.

3.0.20 GCS farmers must be paid for their cashmere in a timely manner, and not later than 30 days after delivery of fibre to the Buying Station.

3.0.21 GCS farmers must have easy access to the Buying Station’s arbitration system or grievance mechanism if they consider that they are not receiving a fair price for their cashmere.
3.1 Audits for buying stations

3.1.1 The Buying Station must provide sufficient and appropriate assistance to the Auditors in order to ensure an efficient and effective Audit. This includes the provision of staff with local geographical knowledge as well as transportation and logistical support.

3.1.2 The Buying Station’s GCS Officer must be available to participate in the audits, as well as the opening and closing meetings.

3.1.3 Confidential interviews with employees/workers’ representatives, employees, workers and farmers, all randomly chosen by the Auditors must be conducted without any influence from the Buying Station.

3.1.4 At least one worker representative must participate in the audits as well as opening and closing meetings in order to increase worker involvement and understanding of the process of compliance.

3.1.5 Worker participation in audits must take place during working time and workers must not lose income.

3.1.6 The Buying Station must grant auditors unlimited access to all their facilities.
ANNEX 1

The following table lists active ingredients, categorized by the sources mentioned in clause 11.3.5 of this Good Cashmere Standard. This list is set up in alphabetical order of the active ingredients of pesticide products.

In the case of pyrethroids, WHO acknowledges a high variability of toxicity data and points to the need for classification by formulation. Pyrethroids are currently under scrutiny of the Aid by Trade Foundation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pesticide Active Ingredient</th>
<th>CAS Number</th>
<th>WHO la</th>
<th>WHO lb</th>
<th>POP</th>
<th>PIC</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Alachlor (EN) Alachlore (FR)</td>
<td>15972-60-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2 Acrolein (EN) Acroléine (FR)</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>4 Allyl alcohol</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane (EN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Alpha-chlorohydrin (EN) 3-Chloro-1,2-propanediol</td>
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<td>7 Arsenic compounds Group</td>
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<td>Calcium arsenate</td>
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<td>Lead arsenate</td>
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<td>Sodium arsenite</td>
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<td>8 Azinphos-ethyl (EN/FR)</td>
<td>2642-71-9</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Azinphos-methyl (EN) Azinphos-methyl (FR)</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Under scrutiny - Phase-out period likely</td>
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<td>11 beta-HCH; beta-BCH</td>
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<td>23 Chlorfenvinphos (EN/FR)</td>
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<td>24 Chlorimephos (EN), Chlorémphos (FR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesticide Active Ingredient</td>
<td>CAS Number</td>
<td>WHO la</td>
<td>WHO lb</td>
<td>POP</td>
<td>PIC</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**PIC Convention: Severly Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF)**

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**Obsolete**

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<td>Dinoseb and Dinoseb salts (EN) dinosèbe (FR)</td>
<td>88-85-7</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Endrin (EN) Endrine (FR)</td>
<td>72-20-8</td>
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<td>Heptachlor (EN) Heptachlore (FR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesticide Active Ingredient</td>
<td>CAS Number</td>
<td>WHO la</td>
<td>WHO lb</td>
<td>POP</td>
<td>PIC</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mirex</td>
<td>2385-85-5</td>
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<td>Toxaphene; Camphechlor (EN)</td>
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<td>Bamphéchlore (FR)</td>
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