

Ultrafabrics

Materials Sourcing Standard for Circular Design

1. Introduction

Ultrafabrics product design aligns with circular economy principles and supports GHG-emissions reductions. Through continuous innovation and responsible sourcing, Ultrafabrics aims to conserve resources and protect the wellbeing of people and planet — without compromising performance.

We have committed to building our future-focused products around materials for circularity that are recovered, renewed, or grown rather than newly extracted finite resources. Our three material categories for circularity are recycled, renewable, and biobased materials, and are defined in this standard.

Many recycled, renewable, and biobased materials also carry a lower carbon footprint than the conventional, fossil-derived materials they replace. These lower-carbon materials support our SBTi-approved climate target and contribute to our customers’ emissions-reduction strategies.

At a glance: the three categories and the standards that verify them

Material category	Definition (industry-applicable)	Recognized standards / certifications
Recycled	Made wholly from feedstock recovered from the waste stream (pre- or post-consumer), reprocessed into new material (ISO 14021:2026).	GRS or RCS consolidating into the Materials Matter Standard (MMS) chain of custody via CCS; or ISCC PLUS (mass-balance, for chemically recycled polymer inputs)
Renewable	Derived wholly from responsibly managed biological resources. May include rapidly renewable sources that regenerate on a ≤10-year cycle and renewable resources responsibly grown on a longer cycle.	FSC or PEFC chain-of-custody certification; Canopy Hot Button as a supplementary assessment.
Biobased	Composed of biogenic carbon from renewable plant, agricultural, marine, or forestry resources, displacing petroleum feedstock.	USDA BioPreferred or TÜV AUSTRIA OK biobased certified, and/or verified by ASTM D6866, EN 16640, or ISO 16620-2 (radiocarbon) testing, or ISCC PLUS (mass-balance for bio-attributed polymer inputs).

Each category is defined in Section 2; the sources behind these definitions are listed in Section 6.

These requirements apply to the materials in Ultrafabrics’ supply chain and do not constitute certification of any finished product.

2. Material categories and definitions

KEY PRINCIPLE: A material is sourced as recycled, renewable, or biobased only where its content verification and responsible-sourcing claim are evidenced by current third-party certification to the standard named for that category.

2.1 Recycled materials

Definition

Recycled materials are manufactured wholly from feedstock recovered from the waste stream — diverted from disposal and reprocessed into new material, replacing newly extracted virgin materials. Consistent with the ISO 14021:2026 definition of “recycled material,” recovered feedstock includes both pre-consumer (post-industrial) material from manufacturing waste streams and post-consumer material recovered after end use.

Preference for post-consumer content. Where available, Ultrafabrics prefers post-consumer recycled content. Post-consumer material has completed a full use life before recovery. It diverts waste that would otherwise reach landfill or incineration and displaces demand for virgin resources — a greater circularity benefit than pre-consumer (manufacturing-scrap) material, which more often has other routes back into production.

Recognized standards and chain of custody

Recycled content should be third-party certified, with full chain of custody, under a recognized recycled material standard. The qualifying standards, and the periods in which each applies, are:

- **Global Recycled Standard (GRS)** — verifies recycled content against the ISO definition, accepts both pre- and post-consumer inputs, and adds environmental, social, and chemical-management requirements. A product must contain at least 20% recycled content for GRS certification (business-to-business), and at least 50% to carry the consumer-facing GRS label. In force through the transition period described below, and preferred over the RCS where both apply, for its additional environmental, social, and chemical criteria.
- **Recycled Claim Standard (RCS)** — verifies recycled content and chain of custody only, from 5% recycled content (RCS Blended) up to 100% (RCS 100), without the GRS’s additional processing requirements. In force through the transition period described below.
- **Materials Matter Standard (MMS)** — Textile Exchange’s unified standard for responsible material production, which consolidates and replaces the GRS and RCS, with chain of custody maintained through the Content Claim Standard (CCS). The standard going forward: effective from 31 December 2026 and mandatory from 31 December 2027.
- **ISCC PLUS** — a chain-of-custody certification (ISCC System GmbH) for recycled and bio-based content in chemical and polymer applications, adding environmental and social criteria and verified by annual third-party audit. It offers physical-segregation, controlled-blending, and mass-balance chain of custody; under mass balance, certified content is attributed to outputs through verified bookkeeping rather than being physically present in a given item. ISCC PLUS is the appropriate route for chemically recycled and bio-attributed polymer inputs (for example, recycled content in polyurethane resins).

Note regarding standards transition: Textile Exchange published the final MMS criteria in December 2025 and is phasing out the GRS and RCS in its favor; existing GRS and RCS certificates remain valid until the legacy standards are withdrawn, expected by 31 March 2029. Throughout the transition, certification to the GRS, the RCS, or the MMS satisfies this standard’s requirement.

2.2 Renewable materials

Definition

Renewable materials are derived from biological resources that naturally replenish on a human timescale. Of particular value are rapidly renewable materials — those drawn from fast-growing sources that regenerate on a short cycle of ten or fewer years.

Ultrafabrics requires that renewable fibers are sourced only from forests and farmland that are managed responsibly: protecting biodiversity, preventing deforestation and the conversion of ancient and endangered forests, and respecting the rights of workers and communities.

Recognized standards and certification

Renewable forest-derived materials should be third-party certified, with full chain of custody, under a credible responsible-forestry scheme:

- **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** — an international scheme certifying that wood and forest-derived products, including wood-based cellulosic fibers, come from responsibly managed forests. It operates through forest-management certification of the source forest and chain-of-custody certification that traces certified material to the final product and carries the broadest environmental-stakeholder support.
- **Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** — an international umbrella scheme that endorses national forest-certification systems against common sustainability benchmarks, with equivalent forest-management and chain-of-custody certification. PEFC endorsement extends to recognized national systems — including the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) in the United States and Canada — so material certified under a PEFC-endorsed national system qualifies as PEFC-certified.

Supplementary assessment

For man-made cellulosic fibers, Ultrafabrics additionally references the producer's rating in Canopy's annual Hot Button Report — a third-party assessment of MMCF producers' forest-sourcing practices and their risk of sourcing from ancient and endangered forests. The Canopy Hot Button rating is an assessment, not a certification; it supplements, and does not replace or satisfy, the FSC/PEFC certification requirement.

2.3 Biobased materials

Definition

Biobased materials are commercial or industrial materials composed of biological (biogenic) carbon — derived from renewable plant, agricultural, marine, or forestry resources — as an alternative to conventional petroleum-derived materials. A material's biobased content is the proportion of its total organic carbon that is of recent biological origin, measured by radiocarbon analysis under ASTM D6866 where content is measured physically, or by certified chain of custody where content is attributed.

Preference for next-generation feedstocks. Where available, Ultrafabrics prioritizes second- and third-generation feedstocks — drawn from non-food biomass, agricultural residues, and other waste streams rather than from first-generation food crops — reducing competition with food production and land use while delivering the same biobased benefit.

Recognized standards and certification

Biobased content should be verified by radiocarbon analysis (ASTM D6866) under a recognized biobased-certification program:

- **USDA BioPreferred Program** — certifies a product’s biobased content through third-party ASTM D6866 testing and authorizes the USDA Certified Biobased Product label stating the verified percentage. For product categories without a USDA-designated minimum, a product must contain at least 25% biobased content to be certified.
- **TÜV AUSTRIA OK biobased** — certifies biobased carbon content by radiocarbon analysis (ASTM D6866 / EN 16640), classifying products on a graded scale from 20% biobased carbon upward. Internationally recognized and complementary to the USDA program, particularly for markets outside the United States.
- **ISCC PLUS** — a chain-of-custody certification (ISCC System GmbH) for bio-based (and recycled) content in chemical and polymer applications. Under the mass-balance method, bio-based content is attributed to outputs through verified bookkeeping rather than measured physically in a given item; ISCC PLUS also offers physical-segregation and controlled-blending methods, and biogenic content may additionally be confirmed by radiocarbon (¹⁴C) testing. It is the appropriate route for bio-attributed polymer inputs, such as bio-based content in polyurethane resins.

3. Definitions

Material producer — the manufacturer of the certified material (for example, the fiber producer or the resin/feedstock producer), as distinct from the manufacturer of the finished backcloth or input.

Direct supplier — the entity from which Ultrafabrics Group (or subsidiaries, or partner mills) purchases finished backcloth or formulated inputs.

Backcloth — the textile substrate to which Ultrafabrics applies its polyurethane coating.

Chain of custody (CoC) — documentation and verification of the path certified material takes through each stage of the supply chain to the final product.

Scope Certificate — a certificate evidencing that a site or organization is certified to a given standard and the product scope it covers. It evidences certified-supplier status, not that a specific shipment was sold as certified output.

Transaction Certificate (TC) — a certificate evidencing that a specific shipment of material was sold as certified content under the standard’s chain of custody.

4. Supplier requirements

4.1 Material certification

A direct supplier that supplies a material containing recycled, renewable, or biobased content is responsible for verifying, and evidencing under 4.3, that the material meets the applicable Ultrafabrics definition and is certified to an applicable standard for its category:

4.1.1 Recycled materials shall meet the definition in Section 2.1 and be certified to an applicable standard: GRS, RCS (or their successor standard); or ISCC PLUS.

4.1.2 Renewable materials shall meet the definition in Section 2.2 and be certified to an applicable standard: FSC or PEFC chain of custody.

4.1.3 Biobased materials shall meet the definition in Section 2.3 and be certified to an applicable standard: the USDA BioPreferred Program, TÜV AUSTRIA OK biobased, or ISCC PLUS.

4.2 No uncertified substitution

Direct suppliers shall not supply uncertified material in place of certified material, and shall notify Ultrafabrics in advance of any change that affects the certification of the material supplied.

4.3 Documentation (per article and lot)

For each article and production lot, the direct supplier shall verify the certification of the in-scope material and provide to Ultrafabrics:

- **(a)** identification of the in-scope material, its category (recycled, renewable, or biobased—noting if more than one category applies), and the certified content percentage claimed (chain-of-custody content claim) or corresponding certified weight supplied in the lot (mass-balance claim)
- **(b)** evidence that the in-scope material supplied is certified to the applicable standard — preferably a chain-of-custody Transaction Certificate, or, for mass-balance certified material, the Sustainability Declaration or an equivalent certified claim passed on the transaction or delivery documents for that material; and, at minimum, the Scope or chain-of-custody certificate under which the material is certified (a GRS, RCS, or successor-standard Scope Certificate; an FSC or PEFC CoC certificate; a USDA BioPreferred or TÜV AUSTRIA OK biobased certificate), or an ISCC PLUS certificate and the product scope it covers, sufficient for Ultrafabrics to verify it on the relevant public database or registry;
- **(c)** a declaration from the direct supplier (i) confirming that the in-scope material identified in the lot is certified to the applicable standard, (ii) identifying the certificate(s) under which it is certified, (iii) for mass-balance certified material, confirming the certified volume claimed for the lot was allocated in accordance with the scheme's mass-balance rules and has not been claimed or sold to any other party, and (iv) committing not to supply uncertified material in place of certified material without prior notice to Ultrafabrics (per 4.2).

4.4 Acknowledgment and incorporation

4.4.1 These obligations shall be incorporated into purchase agreements and/or purchase orders with each direct supplier.

4.4.2 Each direct supplier shall provide written acknowledgment of, and agreement to comply with, this sourcing standard — by signed acknowledgment, by acceptance of the Ultrafabrics supplier code of conduct where it incorporates this sourcing standard, or by incorporation into the supplier agreement or purchase terms. Acknowledgment shall be a condition of onboarding for new direct suppliers of in-scope materials.

4.5 Non-compliance

4.5.1 Failure to meet the requirements of this sourcing standard is subject to corrective action and may result in suspension or removal as an approved supplier of in-scope materials.

4.6 Carbon footprint data (request)

Ultrafabrics is working to measure and reduce the cradle-to-gate greenhouse-gas emissions of its products. Separate from the certification requirements of this standard, direct suppliers are requested — though not required at this time — to support this work by providing, on request, available carbon footprint (CFP) data for the materials they supply: preferably a cradle-to-gate product carbon footprint calculated in accordance with a recognized methodology (for example, ISO 14067 or the GHG Protocol Product Standard), or, where material-specific data are not yet available, a representative or average value with its calculation basis identified. Provision of CFP data is not a condition of qualification under this standard or of purchase.

5. Purpose and scope

5.1 This sourcing standard applies to materials described in marketing content and sustainability reporting as recycled, renewable, or biobased, and sets Ultrafabrics' requirements for the responsible sourcing of those materials. Such materials may include the fibers and other inputs contained in product backcloth, backings, and polyurethane resins and coatings.

5.2 For each of these material categories, this sourcing standard establishes (a) the definition Ultrafabrics applies, (b) the third-party standards and/or certifications Ultrafabrics recognizes as evidence of a responsible-sourcing claim for that category, and (c) the documentation suppliers must provide.

5.3 It applies to all in-scope materials purchased by Ultrafabrics Group, regardless of the supply-chain tier at which Ultrafabrics takes ownership.

5.4 Ultrafabrics generally purchases finished backcloth and formulated inputs rather than raw fiber or feedstock. This sourcing standard therefore operates through requirements placed on Ultrafabrics' direct suppliers and through documentary verification that the recycled, renewable, and biobased materials supplied are certified, rather than through any chain-of-custody certification held by Ultrafabrics.

5.5 Other third-party standards of equivalent rigor may be considered for inclusion in future revisions of this standard.

6. Sources and references

Definitions and certification criteria in this sourcing standard draw on the following sources. Links are current as of August 18, 2026.

Recycled — GRS, RCS, and the Materials Matter transition

- Textile Exchange — Recycled Claim Standard (RCS) and Global Recycled Standard (GRS): <https://textileexchange.org/recycled-claim-global-recycled-standard/>
- Textile Exchange — Materials Matter Standard Transition Policy (TE-MM-POL-102, April 2026): <https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2026/04/TE-MM-POL-102-V1.0-Materials-Matter-Transition-Policy.pdf>
- ISO 14021:2026 — Environmental statements and programmes for products — Self-declared environmental claims (definition of “recycled”): <https://www.iso.org/standard/14021>

Renewable — FSC, PEFC, SFI, and Canopy

- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC): <https://fsc.org>
- Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC): <https://pefc.org>
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) — PEFC-endorsed national system: <https://www.pefc.org/discover-pefc/our-pefc-members/national-members/sustainable-forestry-initiative-sfi>
- Canopy — Hot Button Report: <https://canopyplanet.org>
- Textile Exchange — Materials Terminology Guide (rapidly renewable): <https://textileexchange.org/app/uploads/2022/08/Materials-Terminology-Guide.pdf>
- U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) — rapidly renewable materials (LEED MRc6): <https://www.usgbc.org/credits/new-construction/v21/mrc6>

Biobased — USDA BioPreferred, TÜV AUSTRIA, and ASTM D6866

- USDA BioPreferred Program: <https://www.biopREFERRED.gov>
- USDA BioPreferred — ASTM D6866 and biobased-content definitions: https://www.biopREFERRED.gov/BioPreferred/faces/pages/ASTM_D6866.xhtml
- TÜV AUSTRIA — OK biobased certification scheme: <https://okcert.tuvaustria.com/ok-biobased-en/>
- USDA Biobased Markets Program rule — 7 CFR Part 4270: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-7/subtitle-B/chapter-XLII/part-4270>
- International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC PLUS) — chain-of-custody certification for recycled and bio-based materials: <https://iscc-system.org/certification/certification-schemes/iscc-plus/>