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# Materials & Animal Welfare Policy

## Responsible Materials Commitment

G-Star is committed to sourcing and securing the supply of raw materials in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including EU and Dutch environmental regulations, while maintaining responsible, ethical, sustainable and transparent practices that preserve resources and respect human and animal welfare. The sourcing and production of raw materials must be in line with local laws, as well as international standards and must not lead to the degradation or destruction of ecosystems or biodiversity. Our materials strategy encompasses the sourcing and production of materials in a sustainable way, taking into account both social and environmental impacts. This is also reflected in our sustainable materials goal:

*By 2025, 75% of our collection will be made with regenerative, recycled, organic, bio-based and/or compostable materials.*

*By 2030 this should apply to the full collection.*

Read more on our sustainable materials strategy [here](#).

To gain insight into our progress per material, please see our latest Sustainability Report [here](#).

The minimum Social and Environmental requirements, as well as the Health & Safety (EHS) standards for the manufacturing of our products, are outlined in the G-Star Supplier Code of Conduct, found [here](#). The Code of Conduct refers to the G-Star Responsible Materials & Animal Welfare Policy as the basis for monitoring the use of raw materials for G-Star products. This Animal Welfare policy contains restrictions and requirements with respect to the use of raw materials for our products and packaging and applies to all our suppliers. This policy has been developed by including external standards such as the Higg Materials Sustainability Index (Higg MSI), the rigorous standards of the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, CanopyStyle's annual Hot Button Ranking and the Preferred Material Benchmark by Textile Exchange. Additionally, we have consulted animal protection organization FOUR PAWS for the development of this policy.

## Scope and Responsibility

The scope of the policy covers textile materials used in all apparel and accessories for all fabrics, linings and filling and where applicable trims/componentry. G-Star requires all parties involved with the design, development and manufacturing of products to be informed of the standards set in this policy, and to ensure that all raw materials and finished goods meet the applicable standards. G-Star's Sustainability Department are responsible for carrying out an annual review of the policy and including relevant updates.

All suppliers are required to cascade this policy and create a traceable and transparent system to keep on file records that provide credible assurance of the origin of the raw materials and if applicable sustainability certifications. This information must be shared with G-Star on a seasonal basis and spot-checks will be carried out on product assortments to verify compliance. In the case of a breach, this will be logged internally and a workstream set up to resolve the non-compliance. In case of unwillingness to cooperate and/or repeated violations of this Policy, G-Star reserves the right to immediately terminate the business relationship with the supplier and seek all available legal remedies, including compensation for damages.

## Fundamental Principles on Animal Welfare

G-Star is committed to ensuring all apparel, accessories and footwear are manufactured ethically, and therefore that animals receive an excellent standard of care. All materials of animal origin must be sourced with respect to animal welfare and species conservation. G-Star is on a journey to achieving the 'General Welfare Aims' of the Five Domains Model across our supply chains. We recognize the challenges that currently exist, and strive to achieve farm-level traceability and work with our partners to improve the standard of care we can ensure, whilst continuing to seek animal-derived materials certified to the highest standards of animal welfare available.

We do not accept any kind of ill-treatment of animals associated with the manufacturing of our products. Therefore, suppliers must implement international industry best practices for animal welfare on the farm, in transit, at the market or at a place of slaughter, based on the internationally recognized Five Domains Model for assessing Animal Welfare. The corresponding General Welfare Aims and the associated Provisions to the Five Domains assessment framework are:

1. **Good nutrition:** Provide ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
2. **Good environment:** Provide shade/shelter or suitable housing, good air quality and comfortable resting areas.
3. **Good health:** Prevent or rapidly diagnose and treat disease and injury, and foster good muscle tone, posture and cardiorespiratory function.
4. **Appropriate behavior:** Provide sufficient space, proper facilities, congenial company and appropriately varied conditions.
5. **Positive mental experience:** Provide mental experience: Provide safe, congenial and species appropriate opportunities to have pleasurable experiences.

G-Star is committed to strictly complying with all applicable laws, conventions and regulations, including but not limited to those provided by the following conventions: 1. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Appendix I. 2. The European Commission Wildlife Trade Regulations.

## Prohibited Animal Derived Materials

It is strictly prohibited to use raw materials from wildlife, which includes undomesticated species, vulnerable, endangered, exotic or wild caught species. This includes all materials derived from animals as listed in [the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List](#) or the [Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species](#) (CITES).

### Fur

G-Star has adopted a Fur Free Policy and publicly reaffirmed our commitment to being a fur-free retailer by becoming a member of the Fur Free Alliance. Fur is defined as any animal skin or part thereof with hair or fur fibers attached thereto, either in its raw or processed state or the pelt of any animal killed for the animal's fur, in accordance with Dutch and EU regulations on fur trade and animal welfare. Based on the definitions of animal fur, the following materials are permissible: (1) Materials clipped, shorn, or combed from animals, such as fleece, sheepskin, or shearling, with the exception of angora and mohair which, are not permitted, (2) Leather or hair attached to a cow, sheep, buffalo, goat and pig skin, from tanneries certified by the Leather Working Group (LWG) as Gold, Silver or Bronze, (3) Synthetic materials intended to look like fur.

### Angora and Mohair

G-Star prohibits the use of Angora and Mohair as the humane treatment of Angora goats and Angora rabbits cannot be assured.

### Down or Feathers

Since 2020, G-Star banned the use of down and feathers to prevent the plucking of live geese or force-feeding techniques. Instead, we give preference to other sustainable alternatives such as 3M Thinsulate or Thermore® insulation made with recycled content.

### Exotic shells and skins

G-Star prohibits the use of all animal hair, shells, skins, feathers, bones or teeth from animals as listed in the [International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List](#) or, the [Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species](#) (CITES). G-Star also prohibits the use of fibers or skins from exotic animals with wild counterparts – i.e. camel or yak.

## Requirements per Permissible Material

It is prohibited to use any other material than listed permissible materials in this policy. Any new materials must be approved by the G-Star Sustainability Team first and will be assessed on specific requirements case-by-case.

### Requirements for Cotton

Permission Criteria	Further Detail	Material examples / explanations
G-Star does not accept any unethical practices in the supply chain, including cotton cultivation.	G-Star prohibits cotton sourced from areas where ethical practices cannot be guaranteed to be included in G-Star products. Please see definition in our Supplier Code of Conduct, <a href="#">here</a> .	Unethical cotton practices are defined as cotton that is cultivated in circumstances without respect for human rights, any form of forced labor, a lack of healthy and safe working conditions for workers and no or limited environmental protection.
G-Star prefers the use of recycled, organic or regenerative cotton.	N/A	N/A
All <b>recycled cotton</b> in G-Star products must be certified according to Global Recycling Standard (GRS) or equivalent.	Recycled cotton is defined as fibers produced from left-over material from production (pre-consumer recycled) or from used textiles that have been given a new life by being shredded, re-spun and knitted or woven into new material (Post-consumer recycled).	G-Star requires certification issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.
All <b>organic cotton</b> in G-Star products must be certified in accordance with the Organic Content Standard (OCS), or equivalent,	Organically grown cotton must follow internationally recognized organic farming standards that are enshrined in law such as the Council Directive on Organic Farming (EU), the National Organic Program (NOP) (US and Asia) and the Japanese Agricultural Standard (JAS).	G-Star requires certification issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.
All <b>regenerative cotton</b> in G-Star products are preferred to be certified according to RegenAgri.	<b>Regenagri</b> is an international regenerative agriculture program that supports farms and organizations transitioning to holistic farming, increasing soil health, encouraging biodiversity, reducing green house gas emissions and sequestering CO2.	N/A

## Requirements for Man-Made Cellulosic fibers

Permission Criteria	Further Detail	Material examples / explanations
G-Star is a CanopyStyle partner and prohibits sourcing fabrics from ancient and endangered forests, as defined by applicable international and EU conservation standards.	G-Star does not accept wood-based and wood-derived products deriving from illegally logged sources, ancient and endangered forests, or any endangered species as listed in the <a href="#">International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List</a> as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable.	Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests; tropical forests and peatlands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa. We avoid recent deforestation from these sources by keeping clear of plantation fibers established after 1994 and require our suppliers to ensure the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of local and indigenous communities prior to logging. This is supported by our preference for FSC certification.
G-Star prefers next-generation fibers and suppliers of man-made cellulosic fibers that use a 'closed loop' production, defined as a system that ensures emission controls and chemical recovery rates in line with <a href="#">EU Best Available Techniques (BAT)</a> .	N/A	N/A
To track the progress of our fiber suppliers we use the <a href="#">Canopy Hot Button Ranking</a> for Man-Made Cellulosic fiber sourcing decisions and only source from green-ranked producers.	The sustainable manmade cellulosic that are currently used in G-Star products are Lenzing branded fibers.	G-Star requires a Lenzing certification number from its suppliers.

## Requirements for Synthetic Materials

Permission Criteria	Further Detail	Material examples / explanations
G-Star aims to phase out all virgin synthetic materials by 2030.	We only accept recycled synthetic fibers made from reclaimed pre-industrial, pre-consumer (industrial waste) and post-consumer materials. Recycled synthetic materials must contain at least 50% recycled content in order to be claimed as recycled material.	All recycled synthetic materials used in G-Star's products must be certified according to the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or equivalent, and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange. Read more about the synthetic materials we currently source <a href="#">here</a> .

## General requirements for Animal-Derived Materials

We recognize the unique qualities and functional benefits of animal-derived materials in our collections. At the same time, we are committed to continually strengthening environmental and animal welfare standards. Therefore, we focus our sourcing on select materials – such as sheep and alpaca wool, cashmere, and leather from bovine, sheep, and goats – and work in close partnership with these supply chains to uphold and further advance responsible practices. Additionally, we are actively exploring recycled alternatives and next-generation materials to further reduce our impact where possible.

Permission Criteria	Further Detail	Material examples / explanations
Supply chain actors raising, harvesting, and processing ADMs must comply with or exceed all applicable animal welfare laws and regulations in both the jurisdiction of production and sale, including but not limited to EU Regulation 1099/2009 on animal welfare standards.	Supply chain actors must comply with all animal husbandry laws and local laws and regulations related to animal welfare.	N/A
A supplier of ADMs to G-Star shall not outsource to suppliers who do not adhere to G-Star's Animal Welfare policy.	Any outsourcing of production must be approved by G-Star and suppliers who receive approved production must also comply fully with this policy.	N/A
ADMs shall only come from domesticated animals.	<p>The definition of 'animal', as defined in the 'Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes', Art 2.1, can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The definition for 'domesticated animals', as defined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service regulations 50 CFR 14.4, can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p>Examples of domesticated animals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle,</li> <li>• Sheep and goats,</li> <li>• Alpacas (wool only, no fur)</li> </ul>
G-Star is invested in the usage of next-generation materials as a way to decrease the use of ADMs.		Examples include Jacron or plant-derived materials

## Requirements for Wool

Permission Criteria	Further Detail	Material examples / explanations
Wool shall only come from sheep, alpaca or cashmere goats.	Any wool-bearing animals other than those listed are not permissible in G-Star products.	Wool from Angora rabbits and Angora goats is not permitted for use. Shearling is permitted for use.
There shall be no live lamb cutting (also known as mulesing) of sheep used for wool production destined for G-Star products.	Mulesing involves the removal of strips of wool-bearing skin from around the breech of a sheep meant to prevent fly strike. Ceased mulesing is permissible.	N/A

All wool used in G-Star products must be certified organic, recycled or certified at a yarn level according to the Responsible Wool Standard.	G-Star gives preference to recycled certified wool according to the Global Recycling Standard (GRS) or equivalent. G-Star also accepts virgin wool certified in accordance with the Responsible Wool Standard (RWS), or certified to the Organic Content Standard (OCS), and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.	Karakul lamb is prohibited.
<p>Sourced Alpaca wool must be sourced from producers that demonstrate verifiable compliance with internationally recognized animal welfare standards and better practices in animal husbandry.</p> <p>Sourced Cashmere must be sourced from producers that demonstrate verifiable compliance with internationally recognized animal welfare standards and better practices in animal husbandry.</p>	If using these fibers in future collections we will source-certified alpaca wool, according to the Responsible Alpaca Standard and/or source-certified cashmere according to the Good Cashmere Standard or, recycled cashmere.	N/A
Products made with recycled wool, alpaca fiber or cashmere fiber, shall be certified according to the Global Recycling Standard (GRS)	The certification must be issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.	N/A



## Requirements for Leather

Permission Criteria	Further Detail	Material examples / explanations
G-Star only accepts leather as a co-product from the meat industry specifically from bovine, sheep and/or goats, with documented proof of origin and processing chain required for each shipment.	The use of any animal materials other than those explicitly listed above is strictly prohibited in G-Star products. Only shearling and hides with hair attached from the permitted species (bovine, sheep and/or goats) may be used, subject to all other requirements in this policy.	Karakul lamb is prohibited.
All virgin leather used for G-Star collection should come from tanneries certified by the Leather Working Group (LWG).	G-Star requires leather to be produced by Gold-rated LWG tanneries.	We recognize the Leather Working Group (LWG) as a leading standard for responsible leather manufacturing. While its scope does not cover animal welfare at the farm or slaughter stage, it remains an important tool for improving environmental practices within the leather supply chain.
Leather shall not come from cattle grazed on lands that have contributed to new deforestation or forest degradation.	Leathers sourced from cattle grazed within 50 kilometers of protected areas or deforestation fronts must be accompanied by independently verified documentation proving that the land where animals were raised has not contributed to deforestation for at least the past 5 years.	Protected areas are reported through the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). Deforestation fronts are reported by World Wildlife Fund (WWF).
Live skinning shall never be used.	N/A	N/A
G-Star stimulates use of low-impact and durable alternatives for leather, such as Jakron or plant-derived materials, as well as recycled leather.	Recycled Leather must be certified according to the Global Recycling Standard (GRS) and issued by a certification body accredited by Textile Exchange.	N/A

## Circularity

To minimize the use of finite resources and operate within planetary boundaries G-Star gives preference to input materials which are safe, recycled and/or renewable as well as durable and recyclable. To eliminate waste in the textiles industry, G-Star aims to champion resource reuse and bring clear benefits for natural resources, economic wellbeing, and health and safety of the people who produce and dispose of our products.

Resource efficiency at every stage is important. Since 2018 we have been introducing and growing our offer of Cradle to Cradle certified® innovations. G-Star has set ambitious goals for 2025 to have 20% of our collection made with Cradle to Cradle certified® fabrics by 2025, with annual interim targets and progress reporting requirements. In order to be certified at a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum level, a product must meet the minimum criteria for that level in all five criteria categories (material health, product circularity, clean air & climate protection, water & soil stewardship, social fairness).

All Cradle to Cradle® certifications must be issued directly by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute, listed on their website and shared directly with G-Star.

## Raw Material Traceability

Suppliers must develop, maintain, and regularly audit a comprehensive traceability system for raw materials that meets or exceeds the requirements set forth in this policy. This system must be documented and available for G-Star's review upon request.

Upon request by G-Star, suppliers will have to be able to share **verification documents for every transaction in the chain**:

- In case of certified material, a chain of custody with all transaction certificates from garment manufacturer up to fiber level is sufficient.
- In case the supplier cannot provide the necessary documentation upon request, measures appropriate to the severity of the issue will be taken.
- G-Star will conduct random documentation request and authentication of documentation to ensure commitment and compliance to above requirements. G-Star Sourcing team will inspect supplier transactions and documents for completeness and accuracy. This process may include testing for verification of the origin of the material as documented.
- In line with the US Customs and Border Protection requirements, evidence of documentation includes, but is not limited to:
  - Transaction and Supply Chain Records: full records of transactions and supply chain documentation that demonstrate the country of origin and its components (e.g., packing list, bill of lading, manifest);
  - Documents Demonstrating the Parties Participating in the Transaction: all parties involved in the manufacture, manipulation, or export of a particular good (e.g., summarize the roles of parties involved as substantiated by other supporting documents, flow chart of supply chain);
  - Documentation Relating to the Payment and Transportation of Raw Materials: the origin of the raw materials, and documentation showing that these business transactions (e.g., invoices, contracts, purchase orders) have occurred financially (e.g., proof of payments) and physically (e.g., documents to support goods were transferred from one entity to another).

## On Product Sustainability Claims

G-Star requires a high level of credibility and transparency to make product claims related to the level of sustainability of a material or product. All claims must be substantiated against a standard methodology to assess the reduced impact on the environment. Sustainability claims on G-Star products must be able to provide information on relevant aspects of the product that contribute to the product's sustainability profile such as the material or processes used. All claims must be verifiable through certification by an accredited third-party certification body recognized by Textile Exchange, and all supporting documentation must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years after the product's last sale date. G-Star prefers the usage of GRS, OCS and RWS wherever possible.

Questions regarding G-Star's Responsible Material & Animal Welfare Policy and the RAW Responsibility program can be addressed to [cr@g-star.com](mailto:cr@g-star.com).