

# SOURCING JOURNAL

## New YESS Standard for Cotton Fabric Suppliers Targets Forced Labor

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SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 3:31PM



YARN SPOOLS ON SPINNING MACHINE IN A TEXTILE FACTORY [XY/ADOBE](#)

As part of its flagship initiative, [YESS: Yarn Ethically & Sustainably Sourced-Responsible Sourcing](#) Network has released its first YESS Standard for Fabric Mills: Weaving & Knitting Operations Only, as well as its 2.0 version of YESS Standard for Spinning Mills.

The standards aim to eliminate [forced labor](#) involved in [cotton](#) production by training and assessing fabric and yarn manufacturers to implement due diligence and address the risk of cotton produced with [forced labor](#) within their own supply chains.

“These standards will help establish due diligence expectations throughout global cotton supply chains all the way to the dirt,” said Patricia Jurewicz, CEO of Responsible Sourcing Network and founder of YESS. “After concentrated effort researching, training, piloting and gathering feedback from stakeholders, mills, auditors and brands, we’re excited to make these two standards publicly available so they can have a ripple effect across the industry.”

The YESS standards will assist companies to comply with due diligence regulations, give consumers assurance that brands are using cotton produced with a low risk of forced labor, enable spinning and fabric mills to implement systems to eliminate risk and encourage connection with local stakeholders to prevent and mitigate forced labor involved with cotton production.

Responsible Sourcing Network, a non-profit for-benefit organization based in the U.S., strives to end human rights abuses and forced labor connected to the raw materials found in everyday products.