



**FIBERSHED**

Local Fiber, Local Dye, Local Labor

## Fibershed Certified Product Guidelines

The Northern California Fibershed, during its conception phase, was informally evaluated as a land-base that produced enough quality fiber and dye plants to develop the baseline for a prototype 150-mile wardrobe.

The evolution of the project now includes information gathered by Fibershed's 2013 California Wool Supply Analysis that qualitatively and quantitatively shows that California's wool supply increases significantly in quantity and breed diversity within a 200-mile radius of the original project headquarters. During a 2017 straw poll taken by the producer community, the boundaries of the Northern California Fibershed were expanded to include the following geography: San Luis Obispo to the Oregon border, the foothills of the Sierra Nevada to the Pacific Ocean, including the following counties: Del Norte, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Mendocino, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Lake, Yuba, Sutter, Colusa, Yolo, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Mono, Inyo, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Sacramento, Marin, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Merced, San Benito, Monterey, Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare, San Luis Obispo and Kern.

This certification process is maintained by Fibershed, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to support the emergence of regional, regenerative fiber systems. Fibershed is a trademarked term and logo, and its use is authorized for members as follows:

### 1.1 Fibershed Certification Requirements

Any and all goods that utilize the Fibershed Certified logo follow these guidelines:

- All fiber and hides are farmed/harvested within North Central California, from San Luis Obispo to the Oregon border, from the foothills of the Sierra Nevadas to the Pacific Ocean.
- All botanic dye is farmed/harvested within Northern California, from San Luis Obispo to the Oregon border.
- All tallow, essential oils, hydrosols, and supplementary oils/fats used in goat milk, beeswax, balm, candles, lotions, and body care products are farmed/harvested within the designated Northern California region.
- No item, nor any of its constituent parts, may be genetically modified or contain genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
- No item, nor any of its constituent parts, may be a manufactured biosynthetic.
- No item, nor any of its constituent parts, may be superwashed.
- All labor is sourced within the U.S.

### 1.2 Exceptions to Item Requirements

The reality of our California and domestic textile supply chain has led us to establish the following item exceptions. We re-evaluate these regularly through a producer-led advisory board as new fibers and processors take hold and grow in our region, and in the U.S. These exceptions may change at any time.

- Until the Northern California region has its own cotton and fine gauge wool milling facilities, Fibershed verifies goods from farmers that have had to send their raw material out of the Northern California area, to other areas in the U.S., for milling. This also applies to fabric finishing, hide processing, and cotton ginning.

- **Notions:** Sewing thread and most notions are not yet manufactured in our region, so Fibershed verifies goods from artisans whose thread and notions are sourced from outside our region. We also have a few stipulations that apply specifically to notions:
  - Items that are sewn with a poly cotton (polyester and cotton blend), or poly (100% polyester) thread, must be noted on the product label or in the product description (if being sold online), as not fully compostable.
  - Research and development (R&D) efforts on strength, fading, and so on are underway with some of the vendors, in regard to replacing nylon thread with natural fiber alternatives. Until these R&D efforts point to workable alternatives, items bearing the Fibershed Certified logo must contain 5% or less of nylon, poly cotton, or poly thread by weight.
- **Cotton:** Today, our Northern California Fibershed geography includes a very small number of sustainable and organic cotton growers. Some of the cotton we grow is blended with cotton from New Mexico and Texas, because these sources are certified organic and in some cases financially accessible for our mills to access yarns at affordable and accessible scales. At present, our region also has some harvested and ginned bales that can be sold directly to designers. Given these cotton-specific supply chain limitations, Fibershed has made an allowance for regionally blended (i.e. California and Texas, or California and New Mexico) Certified Organic cotton yarns and textiles until more local, organic cotton options can be generated.
- **Domestic Hemp:** There are currently a limited number of states in the United States growing textile grade hemp. At present, the Fibershed Certified product logo and label may include farm level traceable, domestically grown and degummed hemp to be blended into yarns that contain our region's own wool, alpaca, mohair, or cashmere.
- **Coverage for coarse wool bedding goods:** There is currently not enough fine organic cotton woven cloth generated at a light enough weight to support the creation of mattress pad topper or pillow covers. Many coarse wool producers utilize fabric covers to make their wool bedding. Organic cotton fabric, grown and manufactured in the United States and outside our fibershed, is allowed to use as a surface container for wool mattress toppers, pillowcases, and duvets. The following options exist: <https://bit.ly/2KHp1Lz>.
- **Tools, books and patterns:** While not farmed or literally sourced from materials within our region, we make an exception for creative ideas and items made or otherwise created (designed, conceived) that support, amplify, or help people use, learn to use, or learn more about practices in our region, and how to incorporate those practices into their lives, goods, and land. Tools, books, and patterns designed by producer members of the Northern California Fibershed may bear the text and/or logo of "Fibershed Certified Producer" to denote the book, tool or pattern was written or made by a Fibershed Producer Program Member.

### 1.3 Compliance

If a producer labels a Fibershed Certified good that does not comply with one or more of the above requirements, a Fibershed administrator will privately alert the producer to the problem and ask that they remove the Fibershed tag or logo. If non-compliant items are repeatedly or consistently (three times or more) found in online or in person commerce channels, the producer's profile will be suspended from the Fibershed Producer Directory and from participation in nonprofit events such as the Wool Symposium.

(Revised June 2019)