

Submitting Country, Organization, Company

IFF

If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees

20

Title of the action

Furmark® Animal Welfare Certification

Upload an image



FURMARK
SUSTAINABLE NATURAL FUR

Relevant Website

<https://www.furmark.com/certification-programmes>

Partners

Baltic Control, NSF International, International Academy for Africa (i3A), NIIPZK, Federal Centre for Hunting Development, Validus

Type of initiative

Private initiative

Description of action

• Implementation of a range of independent certification programmes covering farm-raised and wild fur.

- The individual certification programmes must meet 3 clear principles:
 1. Certification programmes and their individual protocols must be science-based and approved by independent experts.
 2. Certification programmes must be verified by third parties and publicly available.
 3. Certification programmes must be sustainable, relevant, accessible, and traceable.
- A protocol process is in place for existing and new certification programmes.
- Further information available from information@furmark.com

Type of action

Traceability

Transparency

Please select the specific area/s of the action

Norms and standards

Collaborative initiatives

Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective

Certification at farm level or at trading body level for fur sourced from the wild.

Commitments

Emphasis on annual assessments, and continuous improvement.

Value chain scope

Primary production or at the trading body level.

Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

- The largest farm certification programme (WelFur) began in 2017 and more than 10,000 farm assessments have been completed across several thousand farms in Europe and North America. Each farm is subject to three initial assessments in the first year. Once certified the farm receives annual assessments.
- More recently an independent protocol for North American wild fur was delivered in Q1 2021 with a subsequent audit of the major North American trading body. The protocol incorporates 10 clear requirements across the 3 pillars of animal welfare, sustainability and traceability. The protocol sets out clear time-sensitive commitments which the trading body will be audited against on an annual basis.

Reference instruments and sources used

<https://www.furmark.com/certification-programmes>

Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced visibility of compliance with sustainability requirements by industry actors/partners along the entire value chain

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Scientific and technological community

Key performance indicators for the action

- By Q3 2020 implement a group certification third-party audit of the Swakara farms in Namibia
- By Q1 2021 implement a protocol and subsequent third-party audit of the auction house management system in Canada covering the wild fur supply chain from trapper to auction
- By Q1 2021 implement a protocol and subsequent third-party audit of the auction house management system in Russia covering wild sable supply chain from trapper to auction
- From Q3 2021 begin phasing in a Furmark® register and database to independently verify the certification status of individual farms/units
- By Q3 2021 implement revised protocol for the adoption of new and existing animal welfare certification programmes within Furmark® - ensuring full alignment with the 3 Furmark® key principles (1. certification programmes must be science-based; 2. third-party verified using accredited body; 3. sustainable, accessible and traceable)
- By 2023, all Furmark® animal welfare certification programmes, that are currently subject to third-party assessments/audits, will be subject to additional audits/assessments or verification by an accredited body, where appropriate
- By 2025, between 95-100% of farm-raised mink, fox and Finn raccoon sold at auction will be certified under Furmark®

See individual protocols which are available from information@furmark.com

Good practices

• The WelFur programme (by far the largest of the Furmark® certification programmes) is recognised by the European Commission in the database on self-regulations, which means the system has been scrutinised against the principles of validity, credibility, openness, good faith, legal compliance, iterative improvements” (these are actual principles in the co- and self-regulatory assessment of the EU, and they usually resonate well with the audience – especially good faith)

<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/policies/policy-areas/enterprise/database-self-and-co-regulation-initiatives/146>

How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

IFF perceives the UNECE/CEFACT Call to Action and the project on Traceability, Transparency, Sustainability and

Circularity of Value Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector as a best practice in seeking transnational and shared solutions in the transition towards a greener and circular economy. We expect the Call to Action to resonate strongly with policymakers and thus strengthen the credibility of IFF's commitment to create a traceable, transparent and accountable supply chain. At the same time, through the Call to Action, IFF will act as an ambassador of the project, aiming to raise awareness around it.

Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations



Other comments

Furmark® incorporates environmental standards and supply chain traceability. These are reflected in Actions 2 & 3 (see separate responses)