

## Standard Products Catalogue ICRC/IFRC

### Sustainable information sheet

#### Product: Blankets, synthetic

The below table is based on the Sustainable Criteria list available at:

<https://itemscatalogue.redcross.int/green--2/sustainable-procurement--25/sustainable-criteria--112/information-sheet-sustainable-procurement--SUSTAINABLE.aspx>

Environmental aspects	Achievements
Use long lasting products and materials, to minimize the replacement and allow the second life.	The blankets are entirely made of polyester for a long life span. Long lasting is demonstrated by tensile test and weight loss tests after 3 washings (cf. specification).  Move from recycled wool to virgin polyester: The same strength and durability is achieved with a lighter blanket.
Use long lasting products	The blanket does not degrade rapidly, the quality of make also ensure a long usage. Testing of weight, minimum thickness, tensile, Rct, material loss, etc, ensures required quality. Tests are described in the specification.
Recycling the raw material of the product	The polyester fibers can be collected and recycled.
Using recycled or re-used materials to make the product	The material does not include recycled polyester as this may lead to lower the quality and reduce the lifespan.  Also, the recycled fibres are not preferred as most of them are done in places where huge social abuses have been reported, see ARISA report on textile recycling chains in India.
Reduced weight and volume compared to equivalent preceding products	The polyester blanket is lighter by 20% than the previous recycled wool blanket for a higher efficiency, from 1.7kg to 1.4kg per blanket.  This also reduce CO2 emissions during production and transport.
Seek equipment that is energy efficient	The blanket thermal resistance (low, medium, and high) is at the proper level and controlled with lab test. This avoid distributing additional blankets in cold climates.
Use materials with reduced effect on environment due to their intrinsic nature	
No (or reduced) polluting with minimum use of toxic chemicals, CFCs ozone and other pollutants	Additives are mandatory for fire safety.

100% biodegradable material when biodegradability in the environment is foreseen	Not applicable.
Use of materials and products that can have a second life in a different usage	Due to its long lifespan, the blanket will serve for many years. It can also be used as fabric for making different items (hats, coats...).
Use equipment that have a high rate of reparability when applicable	Easy to repair in small tailor shop, or even at household level
When products are made up of several types of material, particularly plastics and metals, the ease of disassembly is taken into consideration. Particularly relevant for electronic and electrical products.	The blanket is 100% made of virgin polyester
Minimum packaging. Reducing the packaging to the minimum although enabling the product to survive poor handling. Optimize palletization and TC loading.	<p>The blankets are not individually packed anymore. The compressed packaging was designed in an R&amp;D project to obtain the smallest volume without damages to the blanket (60% maximum compression ratio = 250% more blankets in a Sea Transport Container)</p> <p>The weight/volume ratio (112kg/m<sup>3</sup>) is optimum according to the maximum compression without damaging the blankets.</p>
<p>Manage sourcing in a way that reduces the environmental impact and facilitates the application of social standards.</p> <p>Favor manufacturing processes that facilitate pollution control.</p> <p>Proper waste management in the production site.</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> level: The blankets are produced by large industrial plants where international regulations on pollution should apply and social standards are up to the legal requirements or above. We perform Quality Social Environmental audits on site to ensure our requirements are met. This includes corrective action plan and implementation follow up.</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> level: The raw material (the virgin PES) is produced by large industrial plants where international regulations on pollution should apply. We rely on our manufacturers to keep control of their raw material producers, and encouraging them during the audits to source raw materials from clean origin.</p>

<b>Social aspects</b>	
Ethical standards	

The ICRC/IFRC code of conduct for purchasing strives to ensure the ICRC highest ethical standards and ethical standards from our suppliers too. Each person undertaking any purchasing activity in the ICRC signs this document.	The lead buyers are applying the Codes of Conduct and Ethics, ensuring the ethical standards are respected along the supply chain.  Audited by internal services.
The ICRC/IFRC Ethical Purchasing policy is being implemented. Criteria on working conditions, hygiene and security, safety, child labor, and environmental concerns are assessed in the manufacturing units. Position on Ethical Policy for Purchasing (icrc.org)	The manufacturing plants are being validated, ensuring the ethical standards are respected.  Manufacturers are encouraged to implemented progress actions, following recommended international standards.  Audited by our services.
Social impact: labor and deontological practices, Health and safety, hardship working conditions, etc.	The manufacturing plants are being validated, ensuring the social standards are respected.  Weight of the bales is designed for carrying by 2 people.

<b>Economic impact, value for money</b>	
Maximum durability, reparability, reusability, recyclability and upgradeability:	The blanket is very durable, ensured by the specifications and testing as described above. It can be used for many usages for long time.  Material is reusable and recyclable.
Use long lasting products and materials, to minimize the replacement and allow the second life.	Very durable product providing a long usage without replacement. The testing on tensile and material loss guaranties the durability.
Reparability is also considered during the design of the product.	Easy to repair in small tailor shop, or even at household level.
Seek products that enable updated and improve performance.	Not applicable
Anti-fraud policy  ICRC/IFRC policy to prevent fraud and corruption for all staff members and external partners	The anti-fraud policy guaranties the proper application of the product specification through a well-controlled purchasing process, a transparent and reliable quality control, and tight supervision of the inspection companies in particular during factory audits.