



FURMARK

THE INTERNATIONAL MARK
OF RESPONSIBLE FUR



FURMARK

CONTENTS

03 **AN INTRODUCTION**

Mark Oaten - CEO of The IFF

04 **OVERVIEW**

FURMARK Explained

08 **EUROPE**

WelFur - Farm certification
for Europe

15 **SAGA FURS CERTIFICATION**

By Finish standards

20 **AMERICAS**

North American Farmed
Mink Certification

29 **WILD FUR**

North American Wild Fur
Regulation

40 **DRESSERS & DYERS**

Dresser and Dyer
Certification



FURMARK

AN INTRODUCTION

MARK OATEN

International Fur Federation

As one of the oldest trades in the world, the fur industry is proud of its heritage. For decades designers have been using fur and it's now on catwalks across the globe generating millions of jobs and valued at over \$30bn USD in retail alone. High welfare and environmental standards are at the heart of our business and we operate to strict standards based on science and backed by independent inspection.

FURMARK is the program that provides you with the reassurance you need to confidently buy fur. It's a world-class, comprehensive certification and traceability program that covers sustainability, animal welfare and the dressing and dyeing of fur. This brochure gives you details of the various parts of the FURMARK program around the globe and the plans we have to expand and develop our international mark for responsible fur.



"FURMARK is the program that provides you with the reassurance you need to confidently buy fur"

MARK OATEN



FURMARK

OVERVIEW

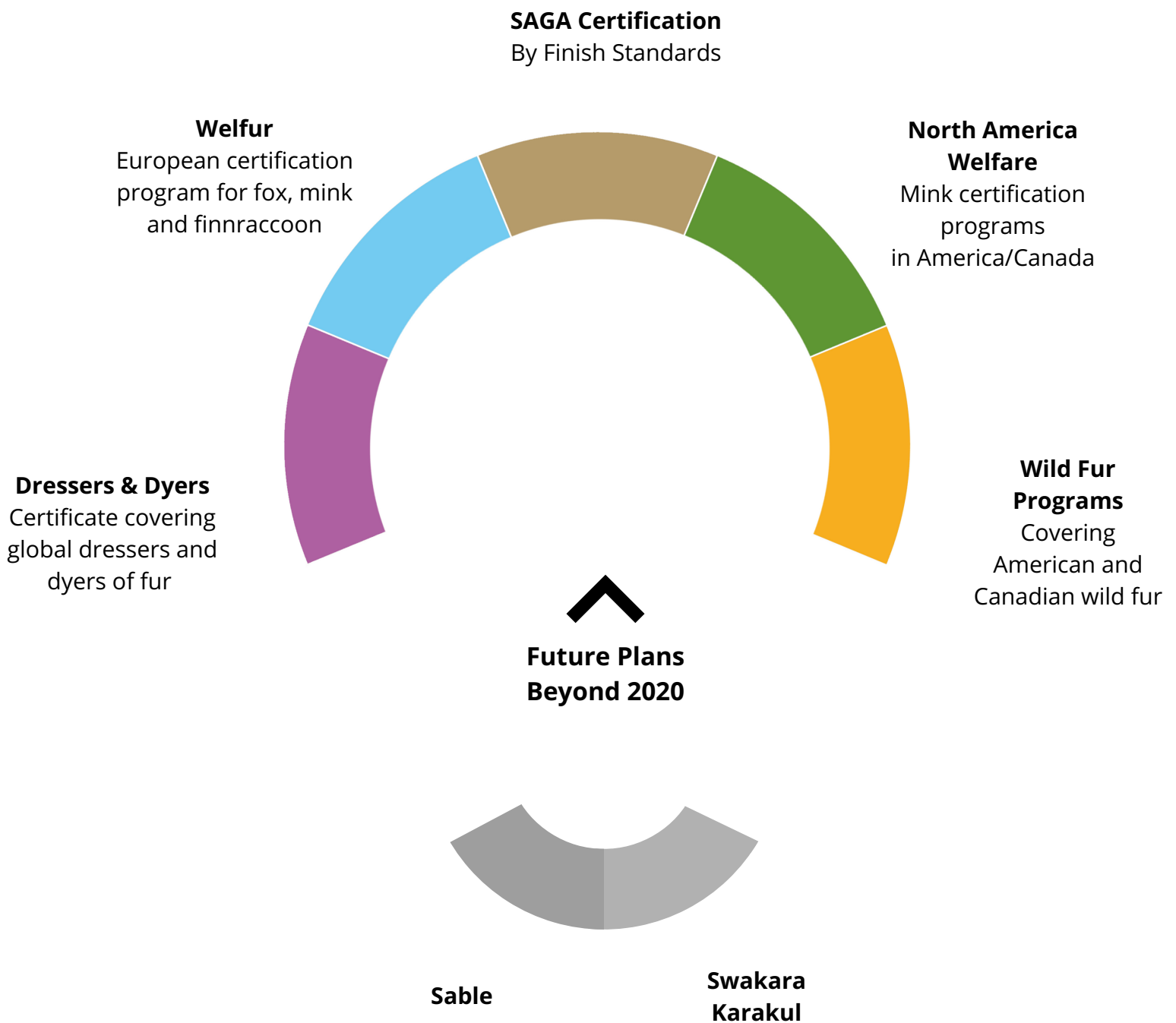
The global program overseeing Fur Trade traceability and certification, in place to ensure the highest welfare and environmental standards.

PRINCIPLES:



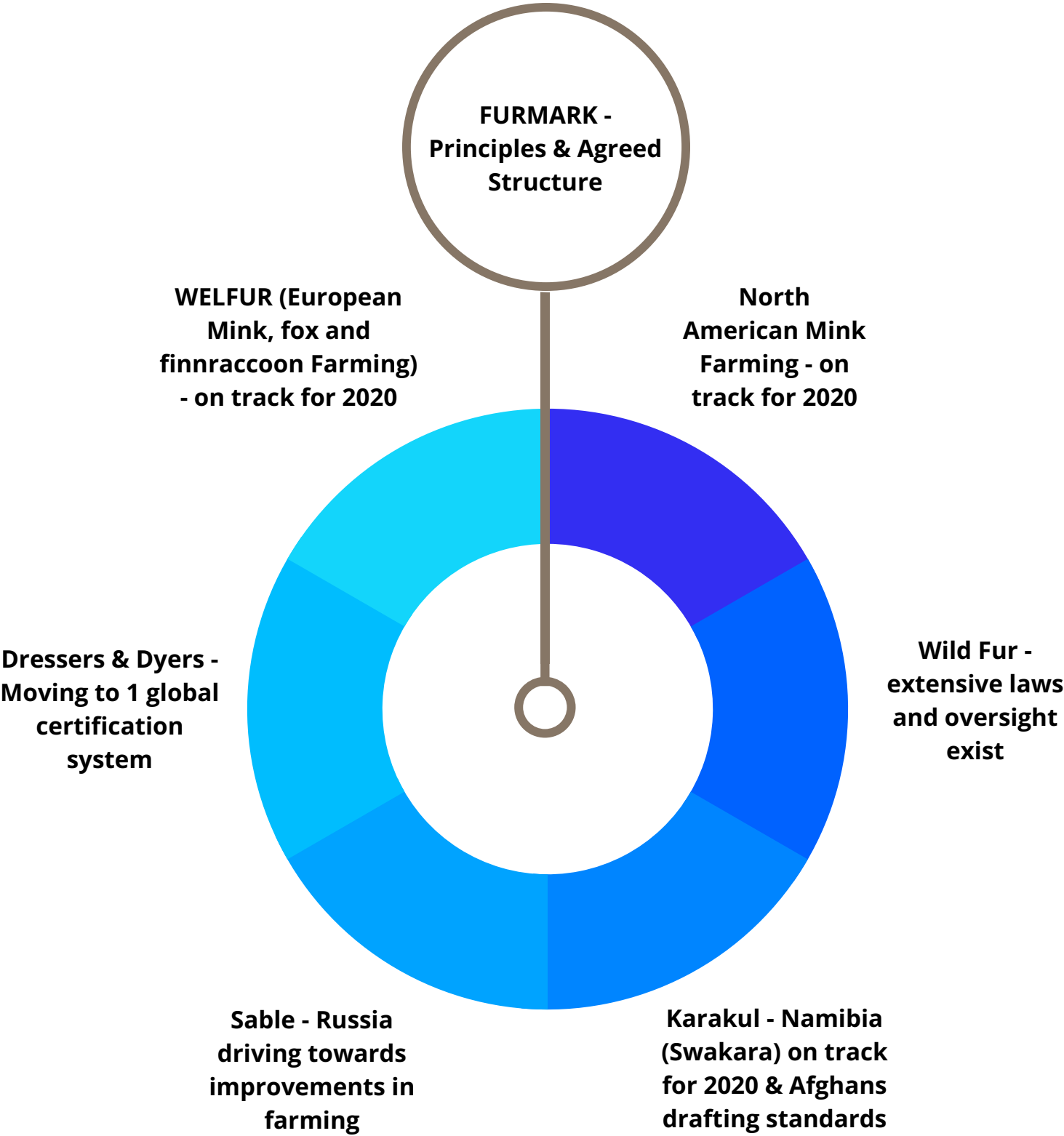
FURMARK

BY 2020 THE FURMARK PROGRAM WILL INCLUDE:



FURMARK

PRINCIPLES & AGREED STRUCTURE



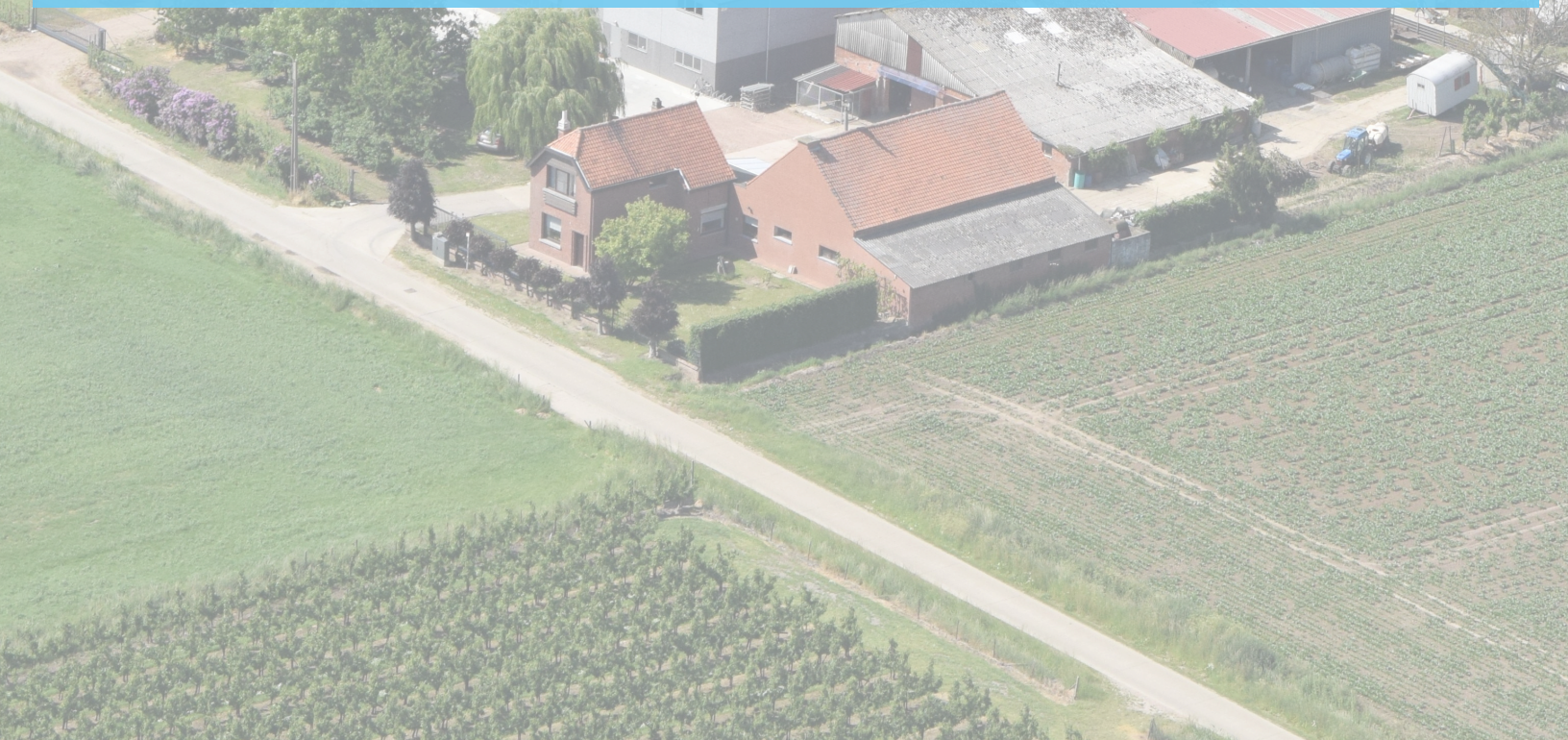
EACH STEP IN THE CHAIN VERIFIED BY THIRD PARTY***Farmers & Trappers******Auctions Gatekeepers for Producers******Brokers******Dressers & Dyers******Designers / Manufacturers******Brands / Retailers******Consumers***

FURMARK



WELFUR - FARM CERTIFICATION IN EUROPE

WELFUR is the name given to the fur farm inspection and certification program that covers farms for mink, fox and finnraccoon (Asiatic raccoon) in Europe. Inspections are performed by third-party assessors and low-performing farms are omitted from the program. The protocols are centered on the four pillars of good housing, good feed, good health and appropriate behavior. It is science-based, independently assessed and covers thousands of farms across Europe.





WELFUR - FARM CERTIFICATION IN EUROPE

WELFUR is a science-based animal welfare assessment program designed to certify farms for mink, fox and finnraccoon (Asiatic raccoon) in Europe. Inspections are performed by third-party assessors and low-performing farms are omitted from the program. The protocols are centered on the four principles of animal welfare: good housing, good feed, good health and appropriate behavior. By providing an objective documentation of animal welfare, WELFUR aims to certify more than 3500 fur farms across Europe.

WELFUR - BACKGROUND AND SCIENCE

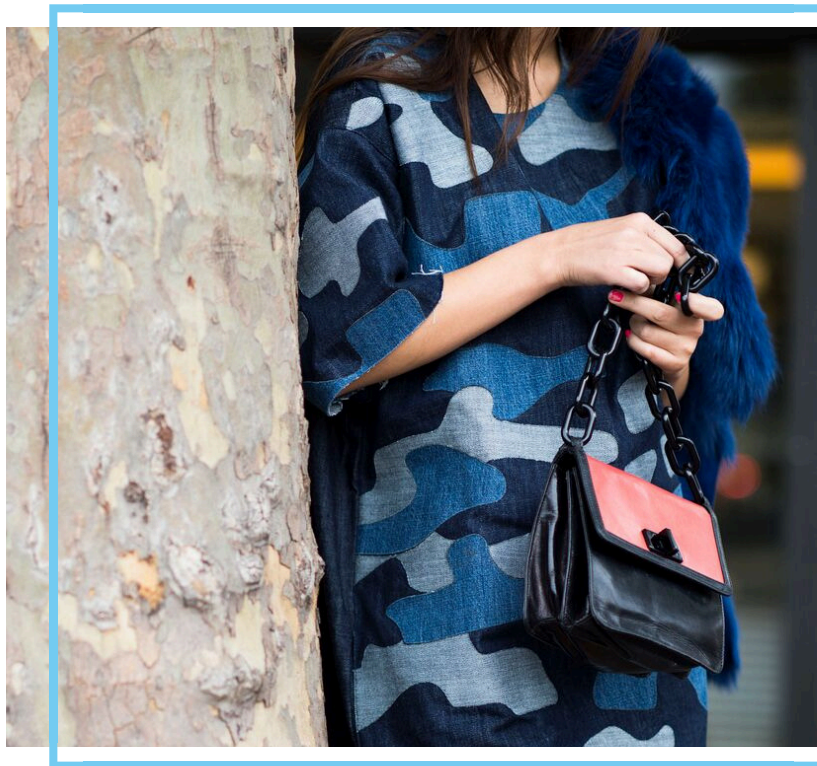
Within the scientific community, there is a general understanding of what represents good animal welfare and this consensus is reflected in the four welfare principles established in the European Commission's Welfare Quality® project: good housing, good feeding, good health, and appropriate behavior. From the principles of the EU Welfare Quality® project, independent scientists from seven European universities have developed the WELFUR program applicable to mink, fox and finnraccoon. The scientists started their work with an in-depth review of all existing animal welfare research and derived from it the most relevant to each species welfare indicators and measurements.

Based on this extensive scientific research, and will be a world-class animal welfare assessment program.

WELFUR OBJECTIVES

The objective of WELFUR is to ensure best practices in terms of respecting animal welfare in the fur supply chain. The certification program is designed to provide an objective and reliable animal assessment. It also aims to ensure transparency for customers, and enable an overall animal welfare improvement.

WELFUR is set to evaluate and assess the animal welfare standards at the farm and can serve as a tool for farmers to improve practices and farm management.



CERTIFICATION PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

WELFUR certification assesses and grades farms on four principles and 12 specific animal welfare criteria which exist together with over 60 welfare measurements that are species-specific.



ENSURING ANIMAL WELFARE ON FUR FARMS

GOOD FEEDING

Absence of prolonged hunger

Absence of prolonged thirst

GOOD HOUSING

Comfort around resting

Thermal comfort

Ease of movement

APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

Expression of social behaviours

Expression of other behaviours

Good human-animal relationship

Positive emotional state

GOOD HEALTH

Absence of disease

Absence of injuries

Absence of pain induced by management

ASSESSMENTS

Data on the criteria is collected during farm visits conducted by independent third-party assessor possessing the relevant expertise required to conduct the animal welfare assessments.

In order to obtain a WELFUR certificate, each fur farm must undergo three visits which evaluate the entire production cycle, including winter season with breeding animals only, whelping and nursing when dams and kits are looked at and growth season until pelting. A compulsory WELFUR visit once a year is then required to maintain the certificate.

SCORES

For WELFUR, the data collected on the farm are combined to calculate criterion scores standardized across countries. To ensure equal treatment of farms regarding e.g. climate conditions and different farming practices the differences have been carefully inserted in the assessment practices by the scientists.

Criterion scores are then combined to calculate principle scores, and the farm is classified to one WELFUR category according to the principle scores attained:

A. Best current practice
B. Good current practice
C. Acceptable current practice
D. Unacceptable current practice

Farms will get the certification whether they are graded as best current practice, good current practice or acceptable current practice. Farms with unacceptable current practice will not get the certification and will receive advice and will be pushed for improvements. From 2018 the first skins will be sold at the fur auctions and from 2020 Saga Furs, Copenhagen Fur and NAFA will not collect skins from Europe that are not Welfur certified.



WELFUR IN RELATION TO CERTIFICATION PRINCIPLES

1) WELFUR is committed to ensuring there are certification programs relevant to the fur supply chain.

WELFUR is a program serving as the basis for animal welfare certification in European farms. As an on-farm assessment program, it applies to more than 3500 fur farms across Europe with the aim to objectively document animal welfare. This approach is closely linked to the work done with e.g. dressing and dying and the purpose is to link the two together to ensure a full certification. The model agreed is the one tracking the skins via invoices through the supply chain.

2) WELFUR recognizes that there are different certification programs relevant to different regional geographies.

In Europe, the WELFUR program will eventually cover all the farms producing fur. The implementation of WELFUR started with test assessment in 2015-2016 in 10 different European countries. In 2017 the full implementation was launched. It is expected that in the course of the next 3 years, approximately 4000 European farms will be certified.

The aim is to sell WELFUR certified skins from December 2018 on and from 2020 the fur auction houses will only collect mink, fox and finnraccoon skins that are WELFUR certified in Europe.



3) WELFUR meets recognized principles of certification.

WELFUR is created by independent scientists from seven European universities. It is also aligned with the principles of certification as defined by ISEAL's Credibility Principles: truthfulness, transparency, sustainability, relevance, accessibility, efficiency, engagement, impartiality, improvement, and rigor.



FURMARK



4) WELFUR is species-specific and comprehensive.

WELFUR is available for all European farmed- fur from mink and fox. The development of certification for Finnraccoon is also underway. The scoring system and the rigor of the process provide an accurate picture whether a farm entity meets the standard's requirement. There are 25 measurements to assess the welfare of foxes and 22 measurements for mink. The measurements are either resource-based, management-based or animal-based. Animal-based measures are generally the best method to assess animal welfare but it is not always the case.

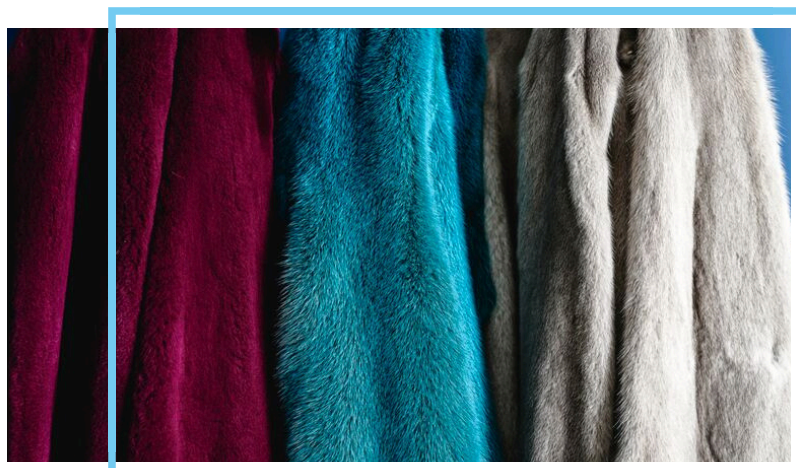
WELFUR serves as a management tool for the individual farmers. If the individual farmer sees a need to improve a practice, he can get help through the national organization in the country which assigns a WELFUR adviser counseling the farmer during the process of improving animal welfare practices.

5) WELFUR is science-based and verified by independent experts.

Since the starting phase of WELFUR, a set of external reviewers/experts were asked to assess the program.

These experts were among others scientists also working with the European Welfare Quality® project, but also some fur science experts. The external review of the program is publically available along with the WELFUR protocols for mink and foxes on www.fureurope.eu

All WELFUR assessment visits are conducted by independent third-party assessors with years of experience in the field of animal welfare assessment. Currently, the fur farms are assessed by Baltic Control. These assessors are independent from the industry. In long term, the assessors could also be from the national authorities, if Welfur becomes part of the national legislation.



FURMARK



6) The certification protocols must be available to the general public.

The certification will be transparent for policy-makers, customers, and the general public. All WELFUR protocols and the peer-review are publically available on the Fur Europe website, where an update of the certification process can also be found.

The results of the certifications will be available for brands as well for public authorities if the program is implemented into the national legislation.

As the implementation continues, Fur Europe collects all relevant information and will publish statistics on WELFUR and the status of fur animal welfare in Europe.

7) The verification system must be credible and impartial.

WELFUR is a science-based animal welfare program which has been reviewed externally by a panel of scientists. In order to receive a certificate, the farm has to be visited by WELFUR assessors during each of the three production periods. After that to maintain the certificate, the farm needs one maintenance visit per year. More visits can be arranged if the farmer is not certified. In order to prepare the necessary documentation, the visits will need to be announced to the farmer. However, the detailed assessment will ensure that any mismanagement of the farms will be noticed during the visits.

8) The audit results of farms must be transparent.

The results of the WELFUR assessments and the audit results will be published regularly. Fur Europe will annually publish statistics in its annual report and on the Fur Europe website and will provide national associations with the countries' results for them to publish. It is important for national authorities to possess those results should WELFUR be the basis for their national legislation, as well as providing brands with access to the results of the assessments.

9) WELFUR enables a process of continuous improvement.

WELFUR is a dynamic program and when new science is available the program will be updated accordingly. Fur Europe's aim is to make the WELFUR principles part of European and/or national law.

The strength of WELFUR as an animal welfare assessment system is the comprehensive approach to animal welfare which is measured methodologically and from various angles. At present, animal welfare assessment of European fur farms is typically performed by national authorities who mainly look for compliance with legislation. However, the levels of control and the basic legislation differ considerably from one European country to the other. WELFUR assessment of the individual fur farm will be performed every year at different times of the year taking the biological life cycle of fur animals into consideration.





Saga Furs Certification

Saga Furs have launched Saga Certification in 2005 as a farm management system producing the highest level of animal welfare. Responding to demand from global fashion brands and the next generation of consumers on sustainability and animal welfare, Saga Furs has continually developed its certification programme to ensure it meets the high standards that go well beyond what the national or EU laws require. The Saga Certification criteria includes standards for, advanced animal health and welfare, breeding conditions, food maintenance, farm hygiene, and record keeping.

ABOUT SAGA CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The first Saga Certification Scheme was launched in Finland year 2005 and was subsequently expanded into other European countries. Saga Certification gives several advantages:

- Improved transparency and traceability of the industry
- Documented, recorded and traceable operations
- Comprehensive follow up system
- Harmonized operations
- Supports fulfilment of legal requirements
- Systematic tool for implementation of improvements



Saga Certification goes beyond animal welfare. By approving only certified furs in the brand selection, Saga Furs supports a sustainable development in the fur farming industry.



FURMARK

In order to obtain the certificate, the farm operations must meet certain criteria and its production must be carefully documented and transparent. If the auditor detects any shortcomings, the producer is obliged to take action and remedy the situation by a certain deadline. The certificate is granted only to the farms which meet all the criteria. Certified farms are audited once a year. In consecutive years, the auditing is performed in different seasons with the farm Certification criteria and WelFur criteria for the production season in question.

WelFur is a scientific animal welfare assessment programme by which fur animal welfare is measured in a variety of ways and which is included in the Saga Certification system.

In accordance with valid and widely accepted practice, the audits of Saga Certified fur farms are performed as so-called second-party audits and by external auditors. They are professionals with auditing competence.

The Finnish Fur Breeders' Association ProFur is responsible for the quality system and its development. DNV GL Business Assurance, a global provider of accredited certification, has granted ProFur's operations ISO 9001 certification. DNV GL audits the association's quality system and all processes as to their compliance with the ISO 9001 standard.

The Saga Certified fur farmers are very committed to the quality system and developing it

further: They understand the importance of the certification to the buyers, fashion houses and fur garment users.



CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

The certification criteria are based on legislation and proven good practices and development needs in the fur industry. The criteria cover a wide range of the different farm activities.

Animal Health and Welfare

Animal health and welfare are an absolute prerequisite for high-quality animal breeding. On certified fur farms, animal welfare is promoted with immediate and preventive measures.



Conditions for Rearing Animal

Safe and stimulating housing, adjusted to the various cycles in the animal's life, is the fur animal's most important immediate environment.

Farm Hygiene

A neat and tidy farm environment promotes welfare and comfort for both the animals and the farmer. Proactive measures prevent many ensuing problems.

Breeding

Healthy and trusting animals form the basis for high-quality breeding. Certified farms do not sell or deliver fur animals to countries which do not meet the requirements set in the Finnish Animal Welfare Act.

Environmental Management

Healthy and trusting animals form the basis for high-quality breeding. Certified farms do not sell or deliver fur animals to countries which do not meet the requirements set in the Finnish Animal Welfare Act.

Feed Management

The animals are given regularly analyzed feed that fulfils their nutritional needs in each production phase. Domestic raw materials are favoured in the feed production, and the entire feed chain is documented.

Training and Preparing for Exceptional Situations

Fur farming is a profession which requires solid hands-on competence as well as ongoing professional development on an annual basis. A certified farm is well equipped to act also in exceptional situations deviating from day-to-day routines.



Over the past years, Saga Furs has been developing the Saga Traceability (STS) and RFID technology that would allow consumers at the point of purchase to scan and trace fur back through the entire supply chain. Full traceability is important for quality assurance and a logical next step in customer transparency from farm to fashion house.

Along with Saga Furs, the Finnish Fur Breeders Association has pioneered in traceability and certification of its fur farms.



TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY FROM FARM TO FASHION HOUSE

In addition to certification, traceability in the production chain is increasingly important. Saga Furs has created a pelt traceability programme, which enables the manufacturers to trace the origin of the pelt lots down to individual farms.

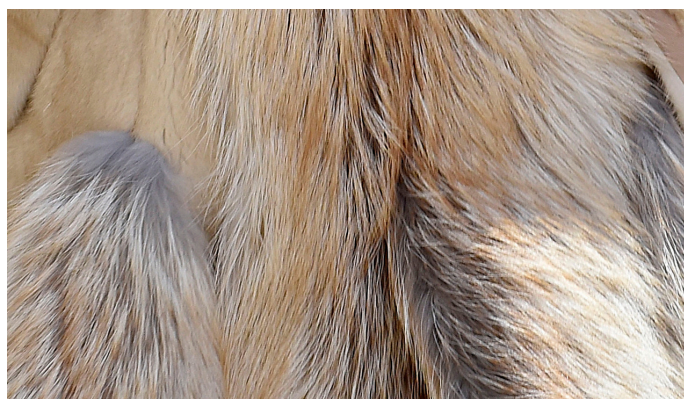
Global consumers expect to know where their clothes are sourced, they require openness and transparency in the way they are produced and assurance on the humane treatment of animals. With traceability Saga Furs can verify the origin and location from where the skins for each lot comes from by means of chain of custody documentation.

When an international fashion house wants to tell its customers the origins of the furs it uses and about the responsibility of their production methods, the only way to provide this information is through precise documentation. Traceability stands for the reliability of the product's origins; at the same time, the requirement for detailed documentation steers fur breeders towards even better and more sustainable production methods.

The Saga Furs Traceability System (STS) scheme is an integral tool in the trade to implement transparency and traceability – it's our chain of custody documentation. All the furs we sell can include the STS documentation, and the Saga traceability programme discloses the proportion of certified farms, dates of farm certification and the countries of origin.



Traceability is another sustainability and ethical issue where Saga Furs leads the industry. Over the past years, in addition we've been developing RFID technology that would allow consumers at the point of purchase to scan and trace fur back through the entire supply chain. Full traceability is important for quality assurance and a logical next step in customer transparency from farm to fashion house.



FURMARK

The background image shows a view of the New York City skyline from a waterfront perspective. The Freedom Tower (One World Trade Center) is the most prominent building in the center. To its left are other skyscrapers like the Citicorp Building. In the foreground, there are large, white, modern-style umbrellas on a wooden boardwalk or pier. The water is visible on the left side.

North American Farmed Mink Certification

There are two separate programs for fur farming in North America, one in the US and one in Canada.

The US has been certifying their farms with veterinarians since 1988 and is currently updating their standards in response to scientific advances and innovation. Canada has recently completed their process of updating their standards and is now beginning the rollout of their certification program.

Both programs are science-based and founded on the same FURMARK principals of truthfulness, transparency, sustainability, relevance, accessibility, efficiency, engagement, impartiality, improvement, and rigor.

**FCUSA Humane Care Certification Program &
CMBA Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Mink**
The North American Mink Industry’s goal for welfare enhancement and program assessment.

BACKGROUND & HISTORY

The Canadian and United States farm-raised mink sectors have a long history of working together to address their mutual needs in achieving sustainability in their respective sectors while recognizing their distinct autonomy, their extensive geographical areas, and respective histories. The welfare of the livestock under their care is a common cause for which both groups are striving to harmonize their standards. By aligning the welfare programs and associated certification assessments, both the USA and Canada aim to support quality welfare practices and animal husbandry systems that will meet the requirements of the livestock, the involved governmental agencies, consumer groups, associated marketing organizations, and the general public. It is important to note that individual animal husbandry programs vary from state to state, province to province and country to country. This process is moving forward, notwithstanding the complicating factors resulting from diverse geographic, governmental and regulatory regimes.

CMBA Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Mink



The Canadian farm-raised mink industry has developed and published, through the National Farm Animal Care Council, a “Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink” (originally developed in 1988). This Code of Practice was prepared in consultation with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, a scientific committee and Provincial governments, along with animal welfare representatives. An assessment process for the “Code of Practice,” is currently under development, which will ultimately become the certification program for the Canadian mink and fox farming community.

The United States farm raised mink industry, through the Fur Commission USA has established the “Standard Guidelines for the Operation of Mink Farms in the United States.”



Initially developed in 1985, it has been updated every three to five years with original input from animal welfare scientists and veterinarians from the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin and Oregon State University. The assessment program (certification program) in the USA will be based upon the Standards Guidelines, which is, once again, being revised and updated to ensure continuity with the Canadian program.

CURRENT STANDARD GUIDELINES IN USA/ CANADIAN MINK CODE

Producer Responsibilities

The humane raising of mink is dependent upon a myriad of factors including the skills, training, and integrity of mink farmers. The holistic approach to mink farming in the USA and Canada centers on ensuring that the producer has a thorough knowledge of the natural life cycle of domestic mink; has a solid working knowledge of the nutritional needs of mink; has adequate facilities and financial resources to supply and maintain proper housing and comfort, veterinary assistance and a reliable source of nutritious food and clean water.

USA Guidelines

There are seven sections to the Guidelines and each section details the responsibilities of the producer to ensure the requirements are fulfilled. Currently, over 90 percent of the production in the USA is certified to this standard. The seven sections of the guidelines include requirements in the following areas:

- 1.Management of the farm;
- 2.Accommodation: site accommodation, sheds, housing for the mink;
- 3.Food and Water: nutritional information, feed preparation, feed distribution, watering systems;
- 4.Health: farmer & veterinary relationship, herd health plans, testing for common diseases, immunization;
- 5.Environmental Quality: sanitation, water quality adhere to local government regulations;
- 6.Transportation of live mink, if applicable;
- 7.Humane Euthanasia.

In addition to the Guidelines, there are additional requirements for proper biosecurity for the operation of mink farms including disease control, handling, deliveries, visitors, employees.



Canadian Code

Like its American neighbor, the Canadian Code contains seven sections, detailing the responsibilities of the producer.

1. Accommodation and housing: nest boxes, bedding, sheds, site accommodation;
2. Biosecurity: access management, animal management, operational management;
3. Food and Water: quality, distribution, preparation, water quality and watering systems;
4. Health and Welfare management: veterinary care, herd health plans, immunization;
5. Animal Husbandry: handling, breeding/whelping/weaning;
6. Humane Euthanasia;
7. Transportation.

The Americas Commitment to Animal Husbandry & Welfare through Responsible and Sustainable Business Practices.

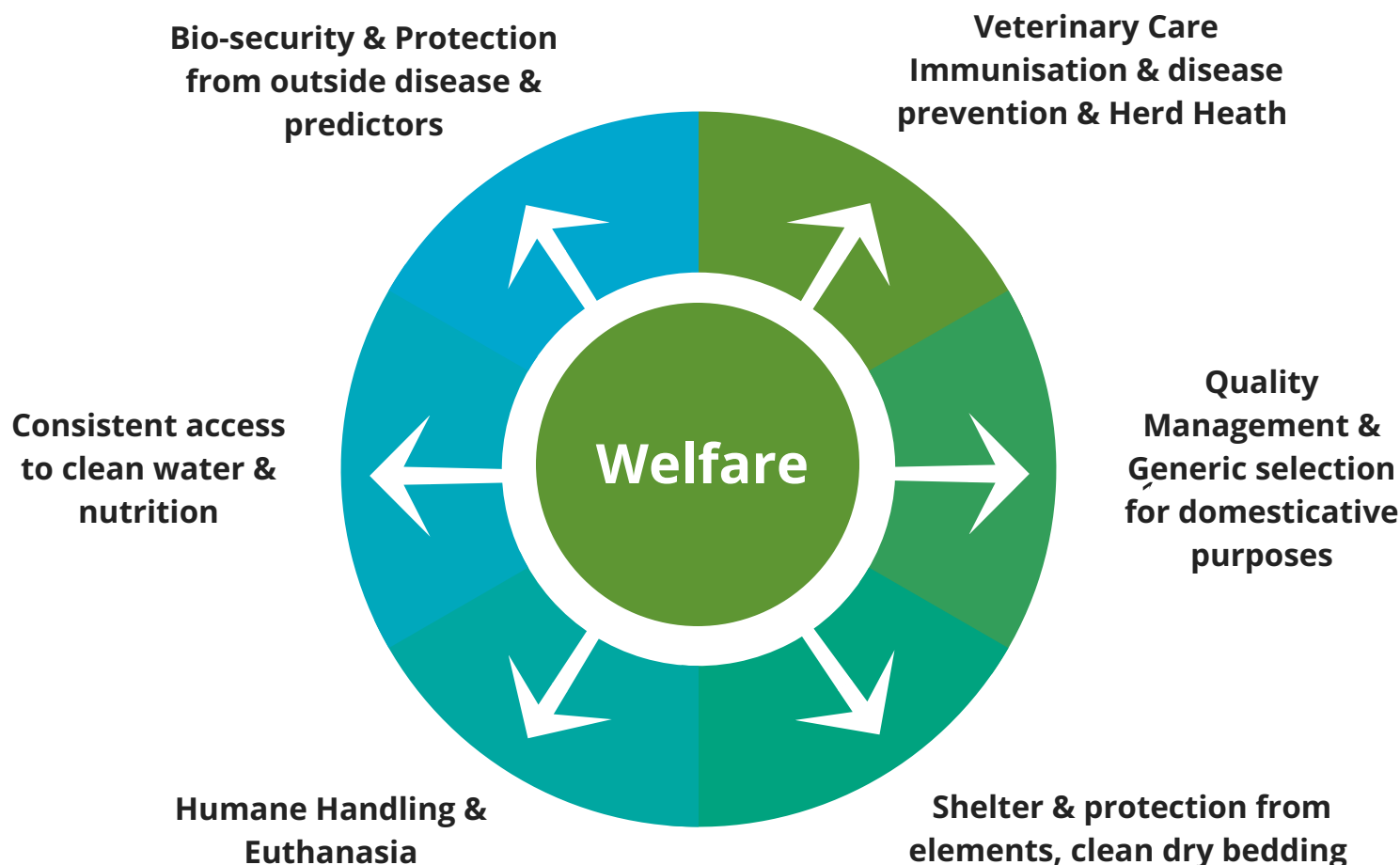
Animal welfare enhancement and program evaluation is a multifaceted issue that relies upon on sound scientific principles, economic and cultural elements in the development of a comprehensive set of guidelines. This will ensure the farming operation creates an environment to care for the animals in accordance with all applicable codes/guidelines.

Good animal welfare and animal husbandry are directly related to the health of the animal. Therefore, ensuring the health and well-being of farm-raised mink is at an optimum level. A comprehensive management program must be in place that requires: disease prevention & biosecurity; appropriate and prompt veterinary care; quality shelter; quality management and genetic selection; quality nutrition and clean water; personnel training; humane handling and euthanasia;



Mink Farm Welfare Assessment Guiding Principles

Utilizing the internationally recognized OIE Welfare Standards, established by the World Organization for Animal Health, as baseline criteria, the Americas Region aligned welfare programs will ensure the farm-raised mink meet the highest practical levels. The programs establish specific farm management requirements and guidelines that will enable the farms to maintain an environment that will allow the animals:



1. Appropriate shelter and protections from the elements to ensure optimal thermal comfort;
2. Consistent access to nutritious food and water to maintain health and vigour;
3. Protection from outside predators and disease through the application of best practices in accepted biosecurity protocols;
4. Humane handling and humane euthanasia;
5. Veterinary care to ensure optimum conditions to prevent pain, injury and disease
6. Quality management and genetic selection for domesticative purposes

**Nutritionists available to farmers in the Americas through farmer associations*



FURMARK

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

The certification program in the USA is being revised and updated. Presently in the USA, discussions are underway to assess the farms on: approximately 22 specific guidelines; in 9 sections and 13 requirements that reflect “best practice techniques.”

The individual guidelines in the USA will have a point scoring system assigned to them and specific instructions on how the points are to be allocated. Each farm must meet all requirements and then the accumulated score will determine certification.

The certification/assessment program in Canada is under development by an independent panel, as outlined in the background of this document.

AMERICAS WELFARE PROGRAM & THE ROUNDTABLE’S DRAFT CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

How the Americas programs meet the criteria in the Draft Certification Statement

1) Commitment to ensuring that there are certification programs relevant to the fur supply chain.

The aligned Americas Region welfare assessment programs will ensure the products being obtained by the Fur-Luxury Industry were confidently produced by certified farms, based upon the assessments carried out at the farm level by independent and accredited veterinarians.

These programs will also assist the marketing organizations to offer products of known levels of animal welfare and best practices in animal husbandry.

2) Recognition that there are different certification programs relevant to different regional geographies.

Both the Canadian and United States programs have incorporated management flexibility to address the different geographical requirements/ regulatory environments that may be encountered over the extensive range under which mink farming is undertaken.



3) Ensure that certification programs meet recognized principles of certification.

The Americas program embraces recognized principles of certification including truthfulness, transparency, sustainability, efficiency, engagement, impartiality, improvement, and comprehensiveness. This is essential to ensuring public support for, and credibility to the programs.





4) Certification programs must be species-specific and comprehensive.

The Canadian Code of Practice Assessment is being developed through the National Farm Animal Care Council in Canada (NFACC.) This organization has been responsible for the development of virtually all farmed animal species in Canada through the utilization of broad industry representation and expertise of all the stakeholders. NFACC's program is put together with multiple stakeholder groups including provincial governments, animal welfare representatives, a scientific committee, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association.

The United States Humane Care Merit Award Program is being concurrently updated to reflect and be aligned with the Canadian Code of Practice Assessment. As part of this process, the Program will also receive input from multiple stakeholder groups including research universities, USDA veterinarians, and veterinary medical groups. Both programs have been specifically developed to address the farmed mink industry, utilizing current scientific research and best practice management techniques.

5) Certification programs must be science-based and verified by independent experts.

The assessment/certification development committees have reviewed current worldwide research and will incorporate it into the development of the specific assessment criteria. For the Canadian program, a listing of the "Review of Scientific Research on Priority Issues" can be found on the NFACC website (www.nfacc.ca) Third party verification for the Canadian mink sector is to be conducted by an internationally recognized professional auditing company.

The U.S. standard guidelines will be verified by an independently verified animal auditor organization, an independent group with representatives from the American Society of Animal Science, six leading American Universities, with recognized animal science departments along with representatives and animal welfare representatives from other livestock industry groups.

Another independent animal auditors group will be retained as the third party auditors.



FURMARK

6) The certification protocols must be available to the general public.

The Canadian Code of Practice Assessment program will be made available to the public through the NFACC website and the Canada Mink Breeders Association website.

For the United States, the updated Standard Guidelines for the Operation of Mink Farms in the United States and the Humane Merit Award assessment program will be made available on the Fur Commission USA website and the American Mink Council website.

7) The Verification system must be credible and impartial.

Both the Canadian and United States programs will enlist specially trained licensed veterinarians (USDA accredited Veterinarians in the USA and provincially in Canada) to do the initial assessments on farms. The

expertise in animal health, behavior and farm management of these trained veterinarians will ensure public and consumer confidence in the assessment evaluation.

All farms in the USA will be inspected over a 14-18 month period to allow for sequential evaluations during the subsequent production phase. A professional third-party audit organization, in the USA and Canada, will be utilized to randomly select a percentage of the previously-assessed farms for a re-evaluation of the assessment process by their specifically trained auditors.



This will ensure to the public, the credibility and impartiality of the assessment process.

8) Audit results of farms must be transparent.



The general farm assessment programs will be available on industry websites. Farm-specific assessments will be dealt with on an individual farm basis.

9) The certification will enable a process of continuous improvement.

The design of both programs will encourage individual farms to continually improve their level of compliance and the programs themselves will be reviewed and updated by the scientific committees on a continual basis.





North American Wild Fur Regulation

Wild Fur in North America is subject to a wide-ranging system of laws, regulations, checks, and controls that prioritize the sustainability and welfare of all fur-bearing species. Ensuring population and environmental sustainability is focal to how wild fur is harvested. The system of checks and balances operates at local, state, regional and provincial levels of government and also through wide-reaching international agreements. It is necessarily complex as it spans different agencies, species, range-states, environments and national borders.

FACTS

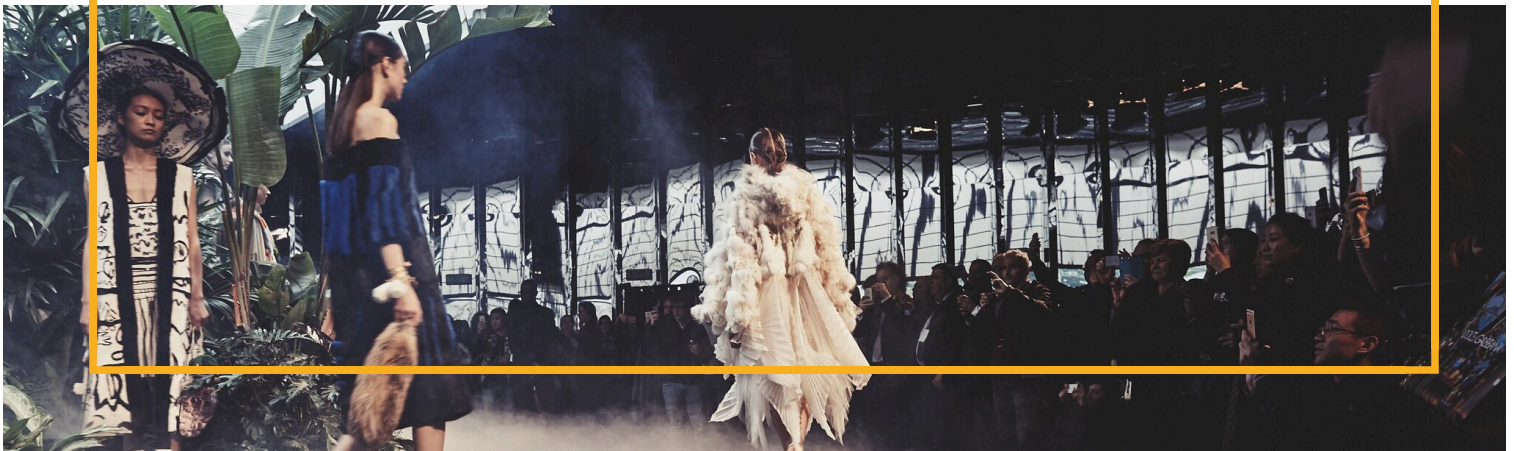
Fur trapping in North America is a key activity for wildlife workers responsible for animal protection and conservation. Their work is both regulated and supported by law and includes:

- Protecting, monitoring and managing endangered species;
- The re-introduction of species to their original habitats;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of wildlife damage to property;
- The protection of crops and domesticated animals from wildlife destruction;
- Disease management to protect human and animal health;
- Controlling invasive species;
- The harvest of fur to be used in the international fur trade.

More than 23 different species form part of the international fur trade and trappers are required by law to adhere to strict rules which include:

- Mandatory licensing;
- Restricted seasons which vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction;
- Agreed on quotas to which trappers must adhere;
- The trapping of specific species designated as “abundant”;
- Adherence to local, state or provincial rules on trapping;
- The use of mandatory regulated trapping devices and systems;
- Attendance of local, state or provincial educational programs;
- Trapping in designated areas only;
- Adherence to mandatory trap check laws;

The relevant government must also monitor harvests to sustain healthy population levels in balance with habitats.

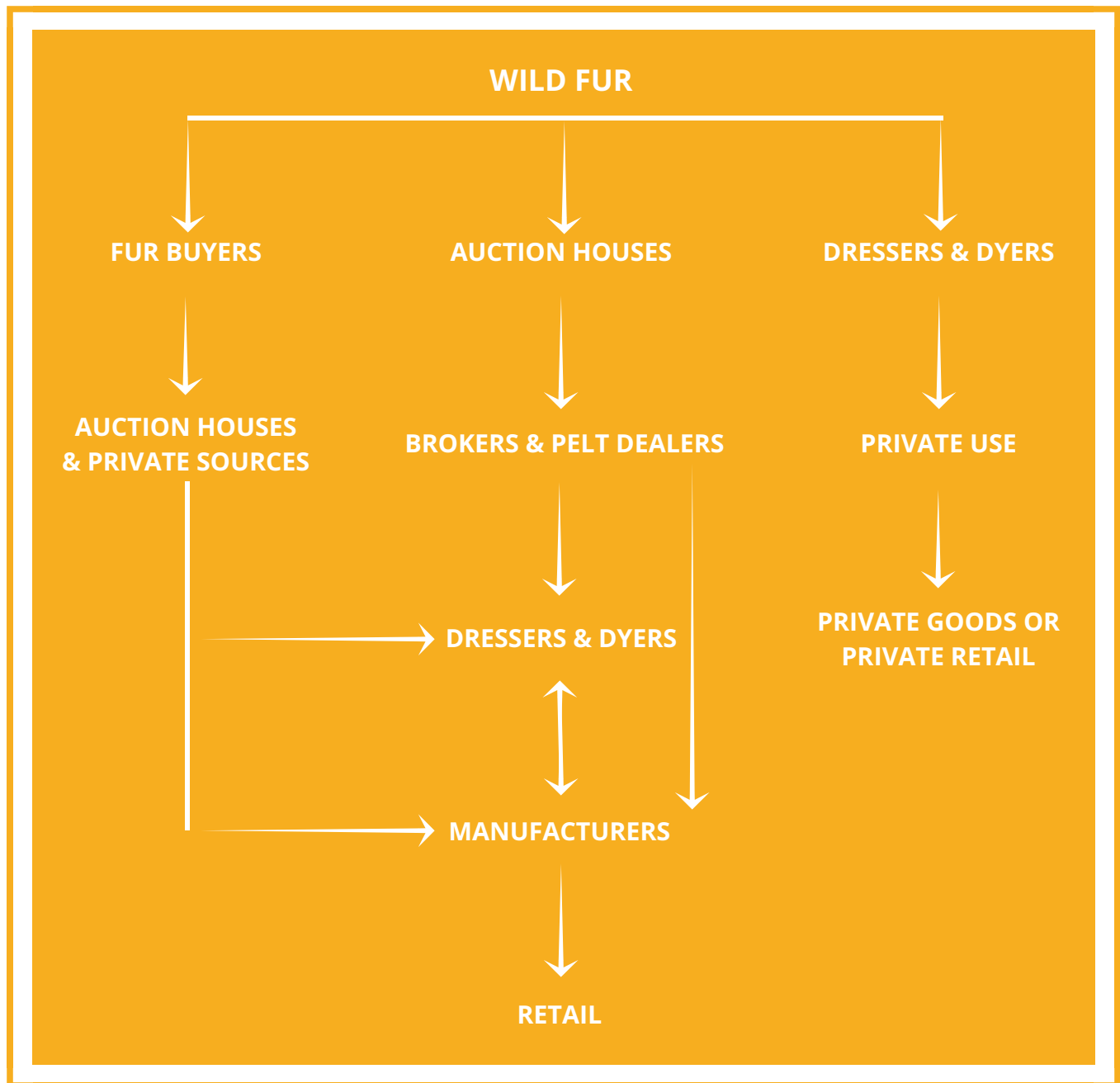


FURMARK

More than 4.5 million fur pelts are harvested annually in North America and wild fur generates over \$80 million for the harvesters. The absence of this trade would trigger dramatic increases in the populations of pelt-bearing species posing a potential nuisance in some areas.

TRAPPING SUPPORTS RURAL LIFESTYLES

Many harvesters depend on pelt money for their livelihood and in many cases rural and indigenous communities rely on this income for economic viability. Trapping also has a big cultural significance and is essential for many areas to retain their identity and traditions.





WILD FUR STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Wild Fur programs vary widely depending on region, species and local factors. In North America, a wide range of state, provincial, territorial and federal rules are well established in order to cover these variable factors, the following globally recognized standards include:

- Two international organisations to control standards (ISO);
- The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS);
- The U.S. – E.U. Agreed Minute;
- Best Management Practices (BMPs);
- CITES;
- All state, provincial or federal laws and regulations on trapping fur-bearing animals.



FURMARK

All programs detail different rules for each species and wild fur programs are science-based and verified by independent experts who continuously improve and test traps and trapping systems. They are outlined below.



- In the U.S. over 70 Federal and state fish and wildlife agency professionals are involved in maintaining and improving standards. They include wildlife biologists, wildlife researchers, mechanical engineers, statisticians, foresters and wildlife technicians with expertise in the capture of wild fur-bearing species.
- More than 1,200 expert trappers and wildlife professionals have participated in field projects. Over 300 individual field projects have been conducted across 41 states.
- In Canada, a state-of-the-art facility has tested 612 types of traps on 17 species in both field and controlled environment tests. Projects have been conducted in six provinces, one territory and in three states. Over 100 trappers and technicians have been involved in the program since the 1980s.
- In the US 400 types of traps have been tested including foothold traps, body grip traps, cage traps and live restraint snares which have resulted in the development of 23 species-specific Best Management Practices.
- The North American wild fur programs have been independently verified. Universities and veterinary pathologists have provided expertise in the study of dead and captured animals (to evaluate criteria based on the ISO protocol). Radiologists and mechanical engineers have also helped to evaluate trap parameters and computer simulation modeling has been employed in trap design.



WILD FUR VERIFICATION PROGRAMS ARE CREDIBLE AND IMPARTIAL

The following Universities and experts have participated in the development and continued improvement of the North American programs:

- USA: Cornell University. Ithaca, New York; The University of Georgia (Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study Center and Veterinary Science School); Athens, Georgia; The University of Wyoming (Veterinary School); Laramie, Wyoming.; The University of Missouri (Engineering Department and Veterinary School); Columbia, Missouri. Mississippi State University; Starkville, Mississippi; The University of Texas. San Antonio, Texas; The University of Arizona, Tempe, Arizona, etc.
- CANADA: Trent University, University of Ottawa, University of Prince Edward Island, University of Victoria, University of Montreal, Guelph University, Universite de Montreal, Universite du Quebec a Rimouski, Canadian Wildlife Health Center (UPEI, University of Calgary), Trent University, University of Ottawa, University of Victoria, etc.

OVERSIGHT OF PROGRAMS

- Trappers in North America are required to purchase a trapping license and comply with comprehensive harvesting regulations.
- Conservation officers monitor and enforce state, provincial, territorial trapping regulations by visiting trappers, conducting routine field patrols and the inspection of trap lines. Government agencies also record, monitor, regulate, and inspect wild fur harvests and shipments.
- Canada has more than 1,400 Wildlife Conservation or Enforcement Officers and the US has 8,500.

- It is their job to enforce all of North America's regulations for the protection of wildlife. They work directly in the field on a full-time basis and have the power to lay charges against law-breakers and directly enforce all hunting and trapping activities.

- In addition to this number, there are federal fisheries officers, guardian programs, police, stakeholder support workers and justice and wildlife or environmental management staff. They all work to administer programs and the daily enforcement of regulations.



- The fur trade is subject to thorough licensing, permitting and regulation by state, provincial, territorial and federal wildlife management agencies and border trade control authorities. From the trapper harvesting on the land to the buyers, wholesale dealers, auction houses, importers and exporters, every single step of the trade is strictly controlled.
- The oversight includes regulations at federal, state and provincial levels, including the following:
 - National, state, provincial legislation (Endangered Species Acts) State, Provincial, Territorial Wildlife Acts and Regulations
 - Regulation of trade through the (Customs/Lacey Act, CITES, WAPRITA (Canada Wildlife Trade Legislation))
 - Regulations on various Federal agency properties



FURMARK

DETAILS OF WILD FUR PROGRAMS ARE EASILY AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The AIHTS, Agreed Minute, ISO Standards and examples of Federal, State, Provincial and Territorial rules are all available on the following websites:

[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A21998A0214\(02\)](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A21998A0214(02))

http://tcc.export.gov/Trade_Agreements/All_Trade_Agreements/exp_002820.asp

<http://fur.ca/fur-trapping/humane-trapping-standards-and-animal-welfare/>

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/international/default.asp?lang=En&n=ECB505F4-1>

<https://cites.org/eng/app/index.php>

<https://www.fws.gov/endangered/laws-policies/>

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=en&n=65FDC5E7-1>

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=en&n=ED2FFC37-1>

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/laws/mmpa/>

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-93-56/index.html>

<https://www.fws.gov/international/laws-treaties-agreements/us-conservation-laws/lacey-act.html>

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=en&n=65FDC5E7-1>

<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/>

<http://fur.ca>

http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Introduction_BMPs.pdf

<https://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=E8EA5606-1>



Online links to specific state and provincial trapping and wildlife harvesting requirements can be found at each state, territorial and provincial Department of Natural Resources websites. Scientific peer-reviewed studies, tests on traps, trapping systems, furbearers, management systems are simply too numerous to list.

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 2016, and the National Fur Harvest Database, is available online at: http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.php?section=furbearer_management&activator=27

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Best Management Practices for Trapping in the United States. Available online at: http://fishwildlife.org/?section=best_management_practices

A Guide for Trappers in the United States: Safety-Animal Welfare-Responsibility-Furbearer Conservation (2005). The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Available online at:

http://www.fishwildlife.org/files/Trapping_Student_Manual_2005.pdf

<http://fur.ca/certified-traps/> Canadian AIHTS certified traps

http://fur.ca/downloads/ms_3612.pdf Canadian Best Trapping Practices Document

<http://fur.ca/category/conservation/>

<http://fur.ca/conservation/coyote-population-and-management-in-canada/>

<http://fur.ca/fur-trapping/about-traps/>



FURMARK

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

1) Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards

The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS) is an agreement between Canada, the European Union and Russia that ensures the highest possible animal welfare standards for traps used to capture a total of 19 wild animal species in those countries. Under AIHTS rules, traps must be approved by the appropriate authorities and they must conform to AIHTS standards. More than 600 trap designs have been rigorously tested under AIHTS in Canada since it was ratified in 1999. The agreement guarantees trade of the listed wild animal species between parties providing trap standards outlined in the agreement are adhered to. The United States has a separate, but similar agreement with the European Union.

2) Agreed Minute

In 1997 the United States and the European Union signed an Agreed Minute on humane standards for trapping of fur-bearing animals. The Agreed Minute represents an international treaty commitment between the United States and the EU. The Agreement on International Humane Trap Standards (AIHTS) continues to identify humane methods for the capturing of fur-bearing animals based upon strict performance evaluations. The Agreed Minute reflects the U.S. and E.U. commitment to the principles of the AIHTS. To comply with this agreement the US has developed.

Best Management Practices to scientifically evaluate traps and trapping systems. Animal welfare is always the priority along with safety, efficiency, selectivity and practicality. Results of this research are provided to the general public, trappers, regulatory authorities and state and federal wildlife agencies.

3) Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMP) scientifically evaluate the traps and trapping systems and these scientific tests continue to be undertaken in over 40 U.S. states. They are species specific and tested for regional differences.

For the purpose of developing these BMPs, trap performance criteria or thresholds have been established by the Furbearer Conservation Technical Work Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). These thresholds were based on the 1997 understanding reached between the United States of America and the European Community (EU/US Agreed Minute), with input from wildlife biologists and wildlife veterinarians. These thresholds provide a common framework for evaluating progress toward the use of more humane traps and trapping methods.



4) Convention on International Trade and Endangered Species

The convention on International Trade and Endangered Species (CITES) is another international agreement that regulates segments of the fur trade. Under this Convention, species in trade that might be harmed by over-exploitation are carefully monitored and regulated to ensure international guidelines are followed. Most of the CITES regulated North American fur-bearing species in trade are secure and not endangered but are listed under Appendix II of CITES simply because they are considered look-a-like species meaning they are similar in looks to species which are endangered in other parts of the world. At the point of importation, the importing country may request a certificate of origin that certifies it is in compliance with the Convention.

5) ISO Standards

Two international science-based trap standards have been developed to test restraining and killing devices by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The ISO is comprised of 162 members, each being the sole representative of their country. These standards outline how traps should be tested, regardless of the reason for trapping.



Key parts of the standards include:

- The provision of testing methods for performance evaluation of traps in the key areas of capture efficiency, animal welfare, selectivity and user safety.
- Sampling sizes for devices tested;
- Definitions of words;
- Trauma scales and classification of injuries and length of time to death for devices which kill.
- Mechanical testing of trapping devices;
- Compound and field testing protocols;
- Pathology protocols

Two standards (10990-4/ 10990-5). ISO 10990-4 address the methods for testing killing-trap systems used on land or underwater and ISO 10990-5 covers methods for testing restraining traps. These ISO standards are integral to all the work done in North America to meet our commitments under the AIHTS and the Agreed Minute.



FURMARK

TRACKING AND TRACING PELTS

Protection, management and fur harvesting varies among U.S. states, Canadian provinces and territories across North America. Professional wildlife managers adopt and implement regulations for specific needs based on the scientific understanding of regional wildlife populations. Recognising these differences, wild fur harvesters normally require a mandatory “trapping license” which relates to their specific area and species.

Through the course of a trapping season, this license allows a trapper to harvest various species within the regulations. Law enforcement officers can inspect their trap lines or catch at any time. Within this same legal framework, pelt dealers must also purchase and register with their state, provincial or territorial authorities as well.

During or at the end of the trapping season, trappers have a multitude of options by which to sell their pelts. These options include but are not limited to:

- Auction companies;
- State, provincial and territorial trapper auctions;
- Pelt dealers;
- Private use, sale.

The transfer of custody of wild fur starts once the trappers choose where to sell their fur. Trappers are required by law to provide to the seller their contact information, trapping license number as well as a log of the number of species being sold. Once the sale takes place, this documentation will be associated with each pelt throughout the supply chain until reaching the auction house or pelt dealer.

Wild fur trappers who chose to send their furs to the auction houses do so on a consignment basis. Before sorting and grading, each wild fur pelt is identified with a bar-coded ticket that can be traced back to the individual trapper or source from which the pelts came and, once sold, forwarded to the fur purchaser.

These records and databases are maintained and updated regularly and allow the auction houses to:

- Keep track of the origin of the fur and its status in the auction process;
- Ensure the sale of fur is properly invoiced.

This ensures that each trapper is fully compensated for the furs that he or she has provided, once they have been sold.

By law and regulation, collected raw fur pelts must be documented, regardless of their position in the supply chain and special permits are required for CITES appendix II species.





Dressers & Dyers

Dressing refers to the preservation of fur from its unprocessed state and dyeing refers to changing the colour of the hairs of the fur. Both of these require physical and chemical processes and the fur sector has spent a great deal of time and effort working with these skilled professionals to find the best solutions for the customer, the product and the environment.

FurMark certified dressers and dyers satisfy the three core conditions of lab verification of product safety to the highest standards, government inspection of facilities to ensure minimal emissions and declarations from the companies themselves making them culpable for any failures to uphold their commitments. As a part of FurMark there will also be a supplementary inspection by independent 3rd party professionals to ensure these declarations are truthful.

AGREED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

A The organizations are committed to ensuring that there are certification programs relevant to the total fur supply chain including the dressing and dying stage.

B The organizations recognize that there are different certification programs relevant to different regional geographies and administered by separate authorities; and it expects that these distinct programs will all meet these principles; and that mutual recognition, access, and respect will be reflected in their respective application.

C The organizations will ensure that certification programs meet recognized principles of certification. Certification programs must meet recognized regulations and the following principles: truthfulness, transparency, sustainability, relevance, accessibility, efficiency, engagement, impartiality, improvement, and rigor.

D Certification programs must meet all local, national and regional requirements, legislation and regulation (e.g. REACH in Europe).

E Certification Programs must be chemical-specific, and comprehensive.



Certification Programs must include an on-site audit of dressing and dying facilities to evaluate practices and environmental emissions

F

Certification Programs must include an ongoing laboratory-based evaluation of a proportion of final products of the dressers and dyers (i.e. finished pelts) that are and carried out by an independent and reputable laboratory.

G

The certification program must allow for the verification of the chain of custody of the skins through the dressing and dying process.

H

The verification system must be credible and impartial.

I

Certification programs must commit to ensuring that their protocols are available to the general public. In order to validate the credibility of protocols, simplified versions of the protocols must also be publically available.

J

Audits must be conducted by independent third - parties, enhancing the credibility of the certification programs.

K

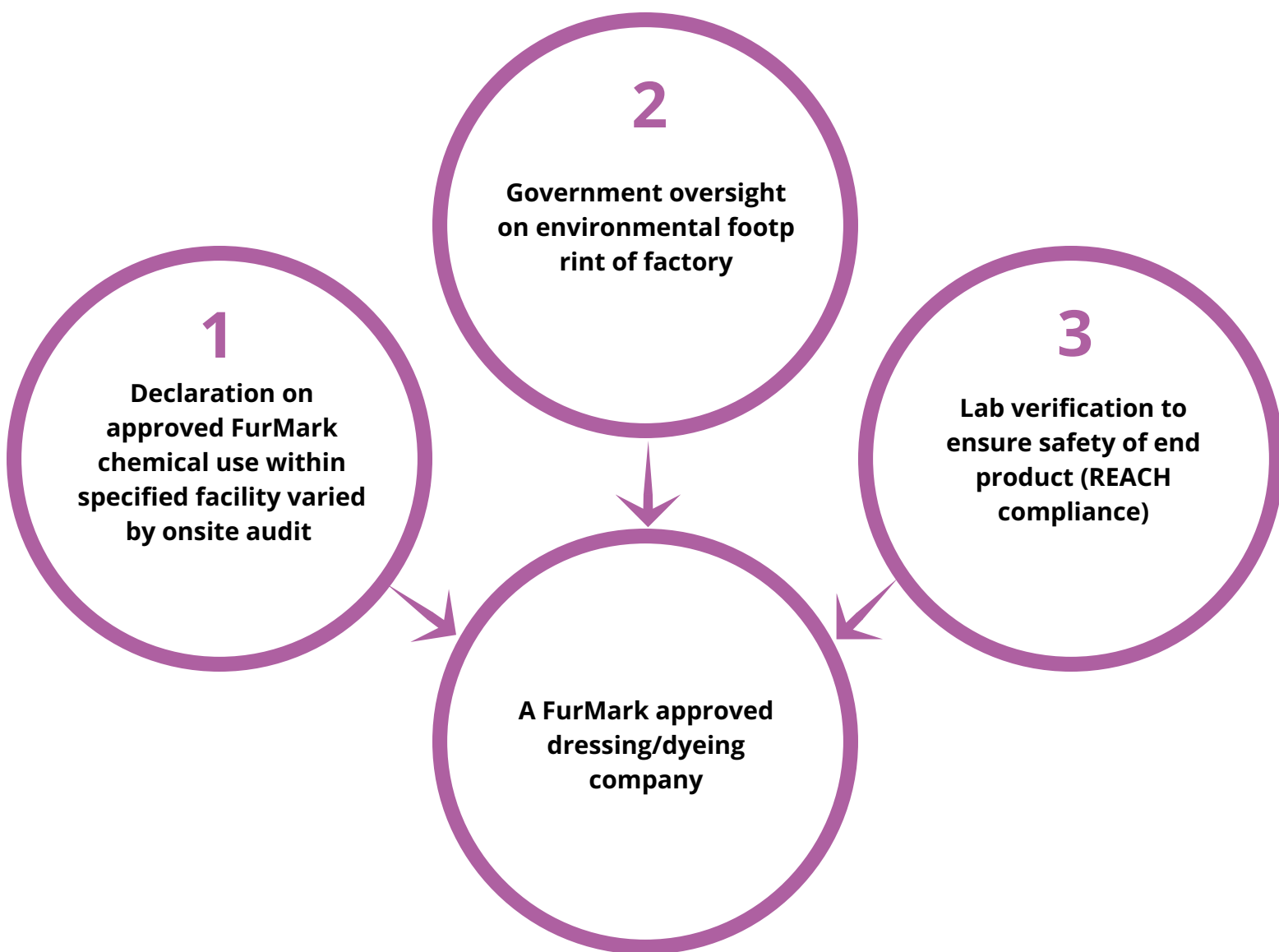




DRESSER AND DYER CERTIFICATION ELEMENTS

To be a fully certified dresser and dyer you must meet the following conditions:

1. Chemicals from the agreed list used in processing –declaration followed by spot-check on-site
2. Factory Outputs (aka footprint) (government inspections, but onsite monitoring either constant or periodic a must)
3. Chemicals present in end product (lab tests, must be REACH-compliant)
4. Traceability forward and back within FurMark





INTERNATIONAL
I F F
FUR FEDERATION

info@iftf.com - wearefur.com



FurMark has been printed on recycled paper