

# UNHCR Environmentally Friendly Procurement

## DOCUMENT VERSION

This is the second version of this item with enhanced sustainability attributes, representing UNHCR's ongoing commitment to advancing the environmental, technical, social and economic sustainability of relief items, as of **December 5, 2023**.

## BLANKET, SYNTHETIC (FLEECE) 1.5 x 2m, MEDIUM THERMAL, RECYCLED

Providing material assistance to forcibly displaced populations is fundamental to UNHCR's protection mandate. In an emergency, blankets are one of the main essential items that UNHCR distributes as part of the assistance to the affected populations. Blankets provide insulation and protection against loss of body heat due to climate and cold weather conditions. The provision of blankets is a life-saving measure in many situations.

## END USERS

UNHCR is mandated to protect and assist refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people. The product with this specification will be used by the people we serve, primarily in emergencies. The end users include people of all ages ranging from infants to older persons, persons with disabilities and pregnant women. Therefore, the supplier needs to understand and study the needs of a forcibly displaced population, especially in emergencies, to ensure an innovative and sustainable product design that is user centered.

## SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAIN

For UNHCR to fulfil its mandate, it is imperative to minimize the environmental footprint of humanitarian assistance. Our approach to a sustainable end-to-end supply chain includes planning, sourcing, material, manufacturing processes, procurement, delivery, and lifecycle management of goods.

A holistic assessment of sustainable products includes, but is not limited to, the following criteria:

- The product design follows Universal Design principles that is user-friendly and accessible.<sup>1</sup>
- Manufacturing processes take into consideration the protection of the environment and respect for social standards.<sup>2</sup>
- Products are made from sustainable material and post-consumer waste.<sup>3</sup>
- Packaging is made from sustainable material, ideally with a second-life purpose.
- All unnecessary single-use plastic is removed.<sup>4</sup>
- Packaging, palletizing, and load ability of transport units are optimized.
- Products are recyclable.
- A life cycle analysis, including GHG emission factors, is performed for all products.
- The geographical distribution of the supplier base is diversified to ensure proximity of product delivery.

## PREFERENCE

Preference will be given to a product that is most user-friendly and has the highest overall sustainability elements that satisfy technical specifications. The suppliers offering products that meet these criteria will be evaluated based on the sustainability criteria established in the tendering process. Please see the Sustainability Procurement Indicators from the United Nations Global Market that we comply with.

1 <https://universaldesign.ie/Technology-ICT/Universal-Design-for-ICT/User-Testing/>

2 Suppliers to demonstrate the application of ISO 14001:2015: Environmental managing systems, ISO 9001:2015: Quality Management systems, ISO 26000: Guidance on social responsibility

3 Pre-consumer waste is encouraged to be used while cannot be considered part of the target emission reduction

4 <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/single-use-plastics-roadmap-sustainability>

Item Application Sample



Technical Specification

<b>Design and comfort:</b>	The blanket should be breathable, secure, free from allergens and with no strong odour. It should provide a soft, pleasant, and comfortable feeling against the skin. A user-friendly and accessible product design that follows <a href="#">Universal Design Principles</a> .
<b>Make / Weaving:</b>	Knitted or woven, dry raised on both sides – innovative alternative weaving can be considered if it satisfies the quality criteria.
<b>Material / Content ISO 1833 on dry weight:</b>	The material composition of blankets shall be 100% recycled polyester. Recycled polyester should be from post-consumer waste re-melting process. Pre-consumer material is acceptable, however, preference is given to post-consumer material. The recycled material in the product needs to ensure the quality and usability requirements of the products.
<b>Colours:</b>	A uniform dark colour that is not black (e.g., dark blue, grey, brown). No red or white. The colour should be fixed and not run when washing.
<b>Size:</b>	150 x 200cm +3%/-1%. Measured on a flat stabilized sample, without folds.
<b>Weight:</b>	Minimum 400g/m <sup>2</sup> maximum 700g/m <sup>2</sup> weight determined by total weight/total surface.
<b>Thickness ISO 5084:</b>	Minimum 6.5mm (1KPa on 2000mm <sup>2</sup> ).
<b>Tensile strength ISO13934-1:</b>	Minimum 250N warp and weft.
<b>Tensile strength loss after washing ISO13934-1 and ISO 6330:</b>	Maximum 5% warp and weft after 3 consecutive machine-washing cycles at 30°C and one flat drying.
<b>Shrinkage ISO 6330:</b>	Maximum 5% warp and weft after 3 consecutive machine-washing cycles at 30°C and one flat drying.
<b>Weight loss after washing:</b>	Maximum 5% after 3 consecutive machine-washing cycles at 30°C and one flat drying.
<b>Thermal resistance ISO 11092:</b>	The insulation capacity of a blanket depends on the thermal resistance (Rct or TOG) and the air permeability of the material. The thermal resistance depends not only on the weight or the raw material but also on the fiber quality, the type of weaving or knitting and fiber raising. Minimum Rct = 0.25 (m <sup>2</sup> ·K)/W (=TOG 2.5), rounded to the nearest 0.01 in the case of Rct (or 0.1 in the case of TOG), passed on samples picked from compressed bales. Mechanical conditioning: after opening the bale, the blanket shall be dry tumbled in a dryer (500L minimum capacity) without any other load for 15 minutes at a temperature of less than 30°C. Then, the blanket shall be conditioned for at least 24 hours by flat lying at ambient conditions (20°C and 65% Relative Humidity).
<b>Resistance to air flow ISO9237 under 100 Pa pressure drop:</b>	Maximum 1000 L/m <sup>2</sup> /s
<b>Finish:</b>	Whipped seam at 10 mm from the edge with a minimum of 10 stitches/10cm or stitched ribbon or hemmed on 4 sides. Corners can be rounded up to a 10 cm radius or square. However, alternative innovative finishing options can be considered.
<b>Span/shelf life:</b>	The blanket should not degrade rapidly and should ensure long usage. Durability is demonstrated by tensile tests and weight loss tests after 3 times of washes. Blankets should have a minimum life span of 2.5 years and a shelf life of 7 years.
<b>Fire resistance SO12952-1 &amp; ISO12952-2:</b>	Resistance to cigarette - No ignition Resistance to flame - No ignition

### Packaging

#### Primary packaging:

Reducing plastic waste in the environment: Individual blankets should have no packaging (zero plastic).

#### Secondary packaging:

- An optimal number of products should be packed in export-quality secondary packaging. Currently, bales are in use to make sure items are protected. Sustainable materials (such as recycled polypropylene) with natural colour are preferred. Long-lasting plastics such as tarpaulin that have a second-life purpose in the field could also be considered. Innovative solutions are welcome.
- Quantity per secondary packaging: 20 pcs with a compression rate of 60% is optimal, but innovative alternative approaches will be considered if they satisfy the quality and usability requirements of the products.
- Compressed and strapped with 5 straps (2 lengthwise, 3 crosswise). Straps made of recycled material are welcome.
- Current bale dimensions: Length 85cm +/-5cm, Width 55cm +/-5cm, Height 75 cm +/-5 cm (height of the bales to be compressed by maximum 60% from free state to final compressed and strapped state).
- Preference will be given to innovative packaging that does not harm the product, ideally with a second-life purpose, and minimizes packaging waste.
- Ensure that user-friendliness and safety aspects of handling persons are considered in the packaging design.

#### Tertiary Packaging:

The bales might be packed on a pallet; in this case, they need to be wrapped in a water-tight material, preferably made of, or containing sustainable material, e.g., recycled plastic or reusable material (such as tarpaulins or other alternatives). Packaging needs to ensure that products are protected from any damage including water and moisture. Innovative sustainable solutions are welcome. Avoid compostable bio-plastic for packaging and increase recycled content wherever possible.

### Optimal Shipping / Container Information

What is the maximum number of items you can fit into a transport unit?

Please include the container layout plan.

- 20' DC container (without pallets)
- 40' DC container (without pallets)
- 40' HC container (without pallets)
- 20' DC container (with pallets)
- 40' DC container (with pallets)
- 40' HC container (with pallets)

The final number of the transport unit and maximum height of loaded pallet, if palletized, will be defined on the purchase order.

### Manufactured Marking

Every blanket should include a tag stitched in the hem, see the reference to a graphic example of a tag below. The tag should include the following:

- UNHCR logo
- Produced for UNHCR by the manufacturer's name
- a unique reference batch number
- the date of manufacturing
- TOG number
- material composition (type of material(s)) and the ratio of each material in the product
- certified sustainability claim/eco-labelling
- information related to the reuse/recyclability of the item
- QR code to a page assigned by the UNHCR

No company logo should be included with the manufacturer's marking.

**The final marking on the tag, letter size, and design needs to be approved by the UNHCR before production.**

### Marking on the bales

UNHCR logo + BLANKET, MT, G, 1.5x2m, number of pieces + PO number. No logo of the supplier is allowed. The marking must remain readable and well fixed on the bale after a minimum of 10 handlings. Other markings as specified in the contract/purchase order. The UNHCR visibility logo will need to be applied on all sides of the secondary packaging (excluding the bottom).

### Marking techniques

- Laser engraving
- Printing with water-based ink
- Printing on sustainable sticky tapes
- No harmful ink/colouring should be used

### Testing

**Organoleptic test:** No strong odour, no irritation to the skin and no dust.  $4 < \text{pH} < 9$ . Free from harmful VOC (Volatile Organic Components). Fit for human use.

**Sample for testing purpose:** Samples of blankets must be from compressed bales. All criteria are to be passed onto the same sample. Samples of compressed bales are to be prepared with only 5 blankets folded once more than in normal bales, at a 60% compression ratio, and are to remain compressed for one-week minimum before testing.

**Laboratory Testing Conditions:** The blanket must maintain a minimum thickness of 6.5mm (1KPa on 2000mm<sup>2</sup>) 24 hours after the bale opening. Following the bale opening, the blanket undergoes a 15-minute dry tumbling process in a dryer with a minimum capacity of 500 L, operating at temperatures below 30°C. Subsequently, it is conditioned per ISO139 standards, laid flat under ambient conditions for a minimum of 24 hours at a temperature of 20°C and a relative humidity of 65%.

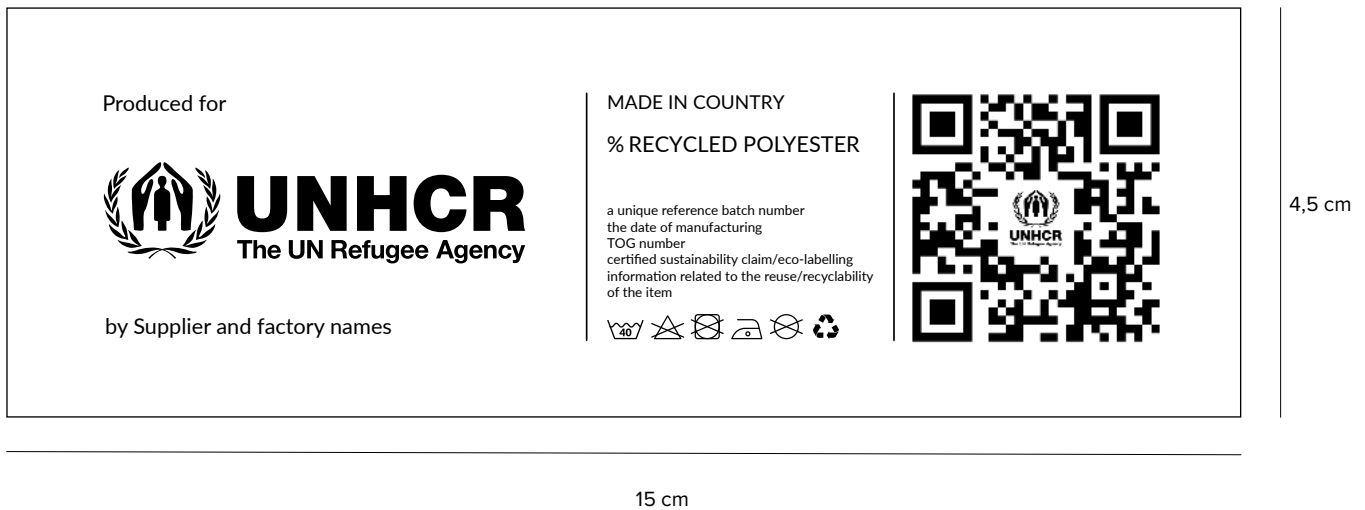
**Graphic Reference**

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**UNHCR Logo Application Reference**

**Horizontal logo**



**Minimum size**

