



**Title: Black Diamond Equipment Ltd. Down Policy**

**No: PCD-3005**

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## **ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY**

Animal welfare is very important to Black Diamond Equipment and no animals should be harmed in the production of our products. We have a long-standing commitment to improve animal welfare across our global supply chains and we are working to source all animal derived materials from farms where the animals have been treated humanely and where the Responsible Down Standard has been implemented. All down and feathers used by Black Diamond Equipment must come from farms certified to the Responsible Down Standard.

The Responsible Down Standard aims to ensure that down and feathers come from animals that have not been subjected to an unnecessary harm. It is our hope that the standard can be used to reward and influence the down and feather industry to incentivize practices that respect the humane treatment of ducks and geese. We believe that education – through the RDS – is a meaningful way to drive demand for strong animal welfare practices. The standard also provides companies and consumers with a tool to know what is in their products, and to make accurate claims.

The intent and spirit of the standard is best reflected by one of Oxford Dictionary's definitions of responsible: "morally accountable for one's behavior." Not only farmers, but brands and supply chain members need to meet their obligations to respect the Five Freedoms of the animals that provide their down and feathers, and to meet the trust of consumers that are choosing RDS products. The Five Freedoms are:

- Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- Freedom to express (most) normal behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind
- Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

### **Key points in the standard**

1. Any removal of down and feathers from live birds (live-plucking or molt-harvesting) is prohibited
2. Force-feeding is prohibited
3. Holistic respect for animal welfare of the birds from hatching to slaughter
4. RDS down and feathers is properly identified; to ensures that non-RDS down and feathers are not mistakenly identified as RDS