

WRAP's Standard Setting Process

Introduction

WRAP's origins trace back to a multi-stakeholder engagement exercise in the late 1990s that involved extensive consultations with brands/retailers, suppliers, NGOs, academia, and government officials. The end result was the formulation of 12 Principles to tackle sweatshop conditions in facilities around the world, and the creation of an independent, non-profit organization (WRAP) to promulgate and monitor compliance with those Principles, free of government or corporate influence. At the time of its founding in 2000, WRAP's 12 Principles were drawn from the spirit or language of relevant conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO). Subsequent revisions have drawn on additional resources in the form of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. The current version of the standard can be found [here](#).

WRAP has maintained a multi-stakeholder approach to standard setting and revision ever since. As part of its internal management systems, WRAP regularly conducts a thorough review of its Certification Program to make updates as needed to adapt to the changing social compliance landscape. All stakeholders are also welcomed to provide feedback on the Certification Program anytime, independent of the scheduled two-year review cycle, by directly contacting WRAP's Senior Director of Compliance Assurance, Ms. Hong Mei (hmei@wrapcompliance.org).

Process for Standard Setting/Revision and Stakeholder Consultation/Feedback

WRAP policies mandate a re-examination of its Certification Program at least once every two years; should circumstances warrant, WRAP also conducts this exercise more frequently. The process includes a thorough review of the 12 Principles, the WRAP Audit Report Template, and the standard operating procedures of the Certification Program, for any necessary updates to address new and evolving developments in social compliance auditing. The methodology employed requires WRAP to carry out a multi-stakeholder consultation process, including seeking feedback from WRAP's monitoring partners, brands/retailers, facilities, NGOs and academia. Depending on the situation, consultation with independent third-party experts might also be involved.

To aid in the process, WRAP has two standing bodies as resources – the Monitors' Council (comprised of WRAP-accredited third-party monitoring firms) and the International Advisory Group (comprised of sourcing/supply chain professionals and academia) – which meet on an annual basis (even in non-review-cycle years). Ultimately, WRAP, and its Certification Program, is governed by an independent Board of Directors, which is itself a multi-stakeholder body; current members include representatives from NGOs, brands, academia and retired government officials (WRAP's Bylaws mandate that its Board of Directors' must always have a majority of its members coming from outside the sewn products industry).

Between formal review cycles, WRAP's own staff are constantly gathering topics and information for consideration during the next revision exercise, through ongoing knowledge sharing, training, capacity building and dialog with monitoring partners, facilities, industry associations and brands/retailers. Emphasis is given to feedback obtained during audits and assessments, including from workers in the facilities (WRAP staff reviews every single audit report as part of the certification process).