



Factory Standard for Apparel and Home Goods Update Announcement

Fair Trade USA

November 15, 2017

It is with great pride that Fair Trade USA announces the publication of the updated Factory Standard for Apparel and Home Goods (Factory Standard). For the past year, the Fair Trade USA team, in collaboration with field staff, has been working diligently on a minor revision to our Factory Standard for Apparel and Home Goods to improve clarity and consistency to better meet the ever-evolving needs and expectations of the factories and workers we serve.

The main updates to the Factory Standard for Apparel and Home Goods include:

- Format alignment with Fair Trade USA's other Standards –The previous Standard and Compliance Criteria documents were combined into a single document;
- Guidance added – a separate Intent & Clarification column was added to further drive Compliance Criteria comprehension and implementation;
- Clarified language and terminology – the terms “Certificate Holder” and “Premium Participants” were introduced to clarify roles, responsibilities and benefits of various entities in the Apparel and Home Goods Program; the terms “General Assembly”, “subcontractors” and various forms of temporary workers were further clarified; and,
- Five new annexes were created to provide in depth guidance on core elements of the Fair Trade program, such as: The composition and eligibility to serve on the Fair Trade Committee (Annex 1), The Constitution (Annex 2), The Fair Trade Premium bank account (Annex 3), Fair Trade Premium Expenditure (Annex 4), as well as the Needs Assessment (Annex 5).

These updates were made based on feedback and questions received from applicants and clients, as well as Fair Trade USA staff and field staff who support the implementation of the Factory Standard. They are intended to drive improved clarity of our Factory Standard and do not represent significant changes to the intent of the Standard – minor revisions do not require significant change in practice by certified clients.

Effective January 15, 2018, all audits will be conducted against the updated Factory Standard (version 1.3.0). The updated Factory Standard and Compliance Criteria are currently available in English, with translations for Spanish, Hindi, Chinese and Vietnamese following in late 2017 or early 2018.

To download the Factory Standard version 1.3.0, other associated policies, and guidance documents, please visit our [standards page](#). Questions or comments about the updated Factory Standard and associated documents can be sent to standards@fairtradeusa.org.

