The Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI)

April 2022 Status Report

Contents

I. Executive Summary

The Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI) is an initiative of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) and the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC, with the aim of having third party and brand/ retailer proprietary standards align across four key areas to help combat growing audit fatigue in the textile and footwear sector. The SCI does not intend to duplicate or replace existing efforts focused on alignment but rather to compliment them. Nor is it the intent of the SCI to have one common standard operating across the textile and footwear sector.

The goal of the SCI is to first have third-party standards *consider* – more in-depth – *opportunities for converging* with other third-party standards across their requirements, their quality assurance processes and their oversight methodologies (where feasible). Once alignment considerations are established it is the ultimate goal of the SCI to have third-party standards *act* on these opportunities for convergence. Once third-party sustainability requirements become more streamlined, SCI recommends Brands and Retailers replace their proprietary standards for these more streamlined processes.

The SCI, in collaboration with the ITC, has developed the SCI Principles & Criteria used to establish a spectrum of preparedness for convergence, and a Tool designed to illustrate where a given standard currently exists on that spectrum of preparedness for convergence.

The four SCI Principles are:

> **Principle 1:** Level of preparedness to harmonise standards
> **Principle 2:** Alignment with OECD Due Diligence Guidance and ILO Standards
> **Principle 3:** Level of preparedness for sharing audits
> **Principle 4:** Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight

Two virtual multi-stakeholder workshops were held to get feedback and input to the development of the SCI Principles & Criteria (a full list of which can be found in Appendix I). Outcomes of these multi-stakeholder collaborations have fed into the final development of the SCI Tool which is housed in the ITC Standards Map database.

Six third party standards, which operate in the textile and footwear sector and are currently housed in ITC's Standards Map, were then assessed using the SCI Tool and compared against each other to identify their level of preparedness for convergence across each of the four SCI Principles. Results show that most standards show a good preparedness to converge while there is some effort still needed.

The SCI Tool, developed by ITC, will be housed in ITC's Standards Map database. The tool will enable all users to identify, quickly and effortlessly, standards' current level of preparedness for convergence, and how well-placed standards are for establishing common ground across social sustainability efforts in the textile and footwear sector.

Finding common ground across the growing numbers of third-party standards operating in the garment and footwear sector will result in a significant decrease in audit fatigue and help manufacturers/ suppliers better focus their energy and resources on improving working conditions within their organizations and along their supply chains.

II. Background

The Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI) is an initiative of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) & the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF) in collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC). The aim of the SCI is to have third party and brand/ retailer proprietary standards align across four key areas to help combat increased audit fatigue in the textile and footwear sector.

A number of preventable and tragic incidences, like the 2013 building fire/ collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh[1], have highlighted the urgent need to address hazardous working conditions and high risk of worker injury in the global textile and footwear sector. Moreover, the ILO reports than an estimated 170 million are engaged in child labour, many of whom are working in the textiles and garments industry.[2] Consequently, third party and brand/ retailer proprietary standards have proliferated and subsequently, manufacturers/ suppliers find themselves facing multiple audits for standards that differ only slightly. Against the backdrop of this ever evolving and demanding landscape is COVID-19, which continues to cause expensive disruptions along global supply chains.

The drain on resources caused by numerous compliance mechanisms can take away from the resources necessary to actually *act* on improving working conditions. To alleviate this unnecessary burden, standard bodies should consider aligning their standards where feasible to do so, and brands/retailers should consider dropping their proprietary standards in favour of more streamlined third-party standards.

A number of initiatives have already made efforts to reduce audit fatigue and counter the increasing challenges faced by manufacturers/ suppliers in the textile and footwear sector. For example, the Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) is an initiative aimed at eliminating audit fatigue by allowing facilities to share accurate data across a common platform made accessible to different brands and standard bodies. These brands and standard bodies can then use this data to inform compliance with their Codes of Conduct and Standard requirements. Another example is the Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA). The audit is designed to encompass all aspects of responsible business practice enabling suppliers to share one audit with multiple customers. EcoVadis is another such initiative that provides a common platform with a universal scorecard, benchmarks, and performance improvement tools, enabling businesses to share their performance with stakeholders or monitor the performance of their upstream value chain.

There are also several international guidelines considered best practice. These include, inter alia, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), the ILO Fundamental Conventions and the OECD Due Diligence Guidance. The OECD has further developed the OECD Alignment Assessments[3] aimed at determining whether written standards and multi-stakeholder initiatives are aligned with the OECD Due Diligence Guidelines through their approach as well as their requirements and activities.

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[1] https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/geip/WCMS_614394/lang--en/index.htm
[2] https://labs.theguardian.com/unicef-child-labour/
[3] https://www.oecd.org/corporate/industry-initiatives-alignment-assessment.htm

In collaboration with

The SCI Goals

It is not the intent of the SCI to duplicate or replace these initiatives focused on alignment but rather to compliment them. Nor is it the intent of the SCI to have one common standard operating across the textile and footwear sector.

The SCI has two goals:

1. It is **the initial goal of the SCI** to have third-party standards *consider* – more in-depth – *opportunities for converging* with other third-party standards across their requirements, their quality assurance processes and their oversight methodologies (where feasible).

2. It is **the ultimate goal of the SCI** to have third-party standards *converge in areas that are feasible* and that do not compromise the unique objective and focus of the standard. Standards should converge in areas that are the same or similar to other standards. Brand and retail proprietary standards should then consider replacing their standards with these more streamlined third-party standards.

   For example, if all third-party standard bodies operating in the textile and footwear sector required conformity assessment bodies to be ISO compliant, then standard bodies would have increased confidence that other audits meet their required level of rigor. A common base set of requirements has the potential to not only reduce audit fatigue for manufacturers/ suppliers but also free up resources for standard bodies. Convergence in feasible areas (similar or the same) will help eliminate repetitive processes and help manufacturers/ suppliers better focus their energy and resources on improving working conditions within their organizations and along their supply chains.

Standards that initially show a high preparedness for convergence, and subsequently work toward increased convergence, will be promoted on the SCI website. It is hoped that once standard bodies understand where they are on the spectrum of convergence, they will be interested in working toward a common goal of increased alignment across standard requirements, quality assurance processes and oversight methodologies (where this is indeed feasible).

III. How the SCI works

The SCI recognizes that in order to have standard bodies consider converging more in areas that can be considered common, **there needs to be a spectrum of convergence established and an understanding on where standards currently exist on that spectrum of convergence.** In other words, how prepared are standards currently to converge with other standards along the four SCI Principles?

In 2021, the SCI developed four overarching principles considered to best speak to aspects of convergence across voluntary sustainability standards requirements and processes, specifically across areas of harmonization, international standards, quality assurance and oversight methodologies. In order to be able to 'measure' performance against these principles, the SCI leveraged ITC's Standards Map database to select a set of criteria that best inform each of the four SCI principles.

If a standard covers a high number of these criteria, the standard is considered to have a high level of **preparedness** for convergence across these social requirements. **A high level of preparedness tells us that the standard has a good foundation from which to build**

toward convergence with other standards. Any standard housed in the ITC Standards Map can be assessed against the SCI criteria to determine its level of preparedness toward convergence. SCI Principles and associated criteria will be housed within the ITC database and posted on ITMF/IAF's project website.

IV. The four SCI Principles
See Annex I for the complete list of ITC criteria housed within each SCI Principle.

- **Principle 1:** Level of preparedness to harmonise standards

    For a standard to have a good level of preparedness to harmonize across standards they need to include requirements for the existence of established environmental and social management systems with clear strategies and objectives; they should require an organization to have a good understanding of who their stakeholders are and to appropriately engage and consult with these stakeholders; comply with international norms and best practices; encompass requirements related to equality and inclusivity and; be accessible to any and all organizations that share the standard's objectives and sustainability goals.

- **Principle 2:** Alignment with OECD Due Diligence Guidance and ILO Standards.

    For a standard to have a good level of preparedness to converge it must be aligned with internationally recognized guidelines and standards without undercutting national regulation. Requirements should not only address an organization's primary activities but also those of their business partners along the supply chain; human rights and workers' rights need to meet or exceed the internationally agreed upon level of best practice; all business practices must be legal in terms of land rights, payment of wages and operational permits; grievance mechanisms need to be established so organizations can be responsive to their work force and surrounding community; monitoring and evaluation systems should be established to promote continuous improvement and; businesses must operate ethically.

- **Principle 3:** Level of preparedness for sharing audits

    Standard bodies should require audit processes to be internationally recognized and accepted (e.g., ISO accredited); audit processes should be transparent and sites fully accessible; auditors should comply with a specific list of requirements related to competencies, skills, and experience; auditors should be regularly assessed to ensure they continue to meet expectations.

    SLCP exemplifies opportunities in this area. As an agnostic tool with a standard methodology for data collection and verification, SLCP's Converged Assessment Framework (CAF) enables rigorously verified data to be shared across brands/retailers and standard bodies, which significantly reduces the need for duplicate audits. Brands/retailers and standard bodies can then assess this verified data against their Codes of Conduct and Standards for compliance.

- **Principle 4:** Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight

    For a standard body to have a good level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight methodologies they should require membership of an internationally accepted accreditation body or a regional accreditation group; independence of oversight processes; oversight audits of conformity assessment bodies; established oversight complaints and appeals mechanisms; and regular assessment of oversight auditors' competency and skills.

V. The SCI – A Multi-stakeholder Process

The SCI and its four principles were launched during the OECD Garment Forum 2021 (February 5, 2021).

From that point, IAF, ITMF and ITC began to build the measurement framework of the SCI. Leveraging the ITC Standards Map database, a set of measurable criteria were selected to best inform each of the four SCI Principles. The process involved ITC internal and external experts to who came to an agreement on the final set of criteria.

Once the criteria were selected, IAF, ITMF in collaboration with ITC held the virtual **SCI Stakeholder Technical Workshop**, November 26th, 2021 to present the SCI Principles & Criteria to stakeholders. Rather than providing granular feedback on the list of selected criteria presented, stakeholders provided high level comments around terminology and the need to reference, and not undercut, national regulation. Additional comments were provided beyond the SCI Principles & Criteria which may help to provide further direction as the project advances (e.g., issue of power imbalances and the unequal burden placed on suppliers).

The SCI methodology was then developed (see section V below), and a weighting methodology applied to the criteria depending on its degree of relevance and what type of response is required from the criteria. Six voluntary sustainability standards operating in the global textile and footwear sector were selected to test the methodology. **An automatic tool was developed that can be used to compare any standard housed in the ITC Standards Map against the SCI Principles & Criteria by simply typing in the name of the standard to assess.**

The IAF and ITMF in collaboration with ITC held the virtual **"Measuring Convergence with ITC's Standards Map" Workshop**, February 22, 2022 at a side session at the OECD Forum. The SCI Principles & Criteria were again presented (incorporating feedback from the initial workshop) and the methodology was explained. There was some confusion around the overall aim of the SCI and how it differed from existing initiatives that address alignment. The intent of the SCI has been clarified in this report and emphasis placed on the initial and ultimate goals of the initiative (see above "SCI Goals" in section I. Background).

VI. The SCI Methodology and Tool

The SCI Tool developed by ITC applies a **weighting methodology** to assess standards against the SCI Principles & Criteria. There are **two parts to this weighting methodology**.

1. **Response weighting**. Criteria within Standards Map have different response options depending on the type of question. Some response options are yes/ no and others are multi-select. For example, if responding "yes" produces a positive response toward convergence then "Yes" is weighted at 100% and "No" is weighted at 0%. For multi-select questions the degree of criticality is weighted with the highest weighting applied to the response option considered most critical for achieving convergence (e.g., "frequency of standard revisions" produces a higher weighting for the answer that represents a higher frequency than the answer "ad hoc" since the more frequently a scheme revises its standard the more quickly it can adapt, improve, and align with other initiatives). Each criterion selected within each SCI Principle is approached using this response weighting.

2. **Relevance weighting**. Each criterion has a relevance rating of high, medium, or low – depending on how important the criterion is in achieving convergence. Relevance ratings are weighted 100% for high, 80% for medium, and 50% for low. For example, the criterion "Stakeholder representation in standards decisions" is considered high relevance because harmonization speaks to collaboration and inclusivity in decision making. Alternatively, the criterion "Is the scheme open to all applicants?" refers to a policy or a requirement for assurance providers to ensure that their applications procedure is non-discriminatory and accessible to all types of applicants (in function of the scope of the scheme). Although this is an important criterion in and of itself, it is not of high relevance when deciding if a standard is well prepared to harmonize with other standards. Therefore, the criterion has been assigned a relevance level of low. This weighting is also applied to all criteria housed within each SCI Principle.

Scores are then calculated in two steps:

1. All criteria are first scored according to their response rating (yes/ no, multi-select, etc.).

2. Once all criteria have a response weighting score the criteria are then scored based on their level of relevance. All scored criteria that are of "High relevance" are added together then multiplied by the high relevance weighting (100%); in this case scores remain the same. Likewise, all "medium relevance" criteria scores are added together then multiplied by the medium relevance weighting (80%); in this case scores become 80% of full strength. All "low relevance" criteria scores are added together then multiplied by the low relevance weighting (50%); in this case scores are halved.

Each standard assessed is then assigned an overall percentage for that specific SCI Principle. **The formula is as follows**:

[(sum of high relevance criteria scores x high relevance weighting) + (sum of medium relevance criteria scores x medium relevance weighting) + (sum of low relevance criteria scores x low relevance weighting)] divided by the total number of scored criteria.

VII. Preliminary findings

Preliminary findings assessed six prominent standards operating in the textile and footwear sector, specifically: amfori BSCI, Fair Labor Association (FLA), Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Made in Green by Oeko-Tex, SA8000 and WRAP. Figure 1 below illustrates these findings.

Figure 1: Six standards compared

Standard	Principle 1 Level of preparedness to harmonise standards	Principle 2 Alignment with OECD Due Diligence Guidance and ILO Standards	Principle 3 Level of preparedness for sharing audits	Principle 4 Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight
amfori BSCI	88%	83%	90%	67%
Fair Labor Association (FLA)	52%	58%	70%	60%
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	70%	81%	60%	76%
Made in Green by Oeko-Tex	50%	76%	80%	71%
SA8000	68%	78%	70%	92%
WRAP	89%	72%	70%	76%

Colour	Level of preparedness for convergence
Green	Good preparedness to converge (70%-100%)
Orange	Some effort still required (50%-69%)
Red	Much effort required (0%-49%)

Based on the methodology explained in section V, standards are assigned an overall percentage for each SCI principle based on their coverage of each of the SCI criteria. Green scores represent a score of 70%-100% within each SCI principle and illustrate a good preparedness to converge. Orange scores represent a score of 50%-69% within each SCI principle and show that some effort is still required. Red scores (shown in the legend box under the Figure 1) represent a score of 0% - 49% within each SCI principle and show that much effort is still needed toward preparedness to converge. None of the six standards assessed fall into this category, which suggests that standards have already begun to lay the ground work, intentionally or not, for more converged efforts.

It is important to reiterate here that this analysis is not intended to duplicate efforts put forth by other initiatives focused on alignment. This is an exercise to have standards consider how they can come together on shared processes to ease up unnecessary burdens on manufacturers/ suppliers during certification/ verification processes. **The SCI initiative is intended to complement existing efforts focused on alignment and work in tandem toward the common goal of improving working conditions in the global textile and footwear sector.** Standards are not expected to compromise on their unique objectives and goals. It is expected that the exercise will not only help free up resources needed to *act* on improving social and labor conditions in facilities but also free up resources for standard bodies to focus more efforts on areas such as, for example, increased technical support and trainings.

VIII. The SCI Tool on ITC's Standards Map

The SCI Tool, developed by ITC, will be housed in ITC's Standards Map database. The tool will enable all users to identify, quickly and effortlessly, standards' current level of preparedness for convergence, and if standards are well placed to move toward finding more common ground in the textile and footwear sector.

The SCI will promote continued dialogue and action toward convergence, as well as promoting, on the SCI website, those standards that show a propensity toward convergence.

IX. Conclusion

The proliferation of third-party and proprietary standards has led to global textile companies being immersed in a landscape of multiple, slightly different standards. Textile companies, therefore, must undergo additional, unnecessarily duplicative audits. It is the aim of the SCI to maximize the convergence of standards in the garment and footwear supply chain.

Third-party standard bodies should consider aligning their standards where feasible to do so and brands/retailers should consider dropping their proprietary standards in favor of more streamlined third-party standards.

The SCI has leveraged the International Trade Centre's (ITC) Standards Map to measure to what degree third-party standards are prepared for convergence. ITC has created an automatic tool for SCI comparison of any standard operating in the textile and footwear sector, which will be housed in ITC Standards Map. The comparison informs a standard's level of preparedness for:

1. Harmonization of standard content
2. Alignment with existing international standards and guidelines
3. Sharing audit outcomes
4. Integration of oversight processes

If a standard body addresses most or all the selected criteria, then the standard illustrates a propensity for convergence. The SCI plans to promote these standards, which will hopefully lead to greater alignment/ harmonization of standards and audit/ oversight processes.

Finding common ground across similar or same areas in the plethora of third-party standards operating in the garment and footwear sector will result in a significant decrease in repetitive compliance processes and help manufacturers/ suppliers better focus their energy and resources on implementing improvements to working conditions within their organizations and along their supply chains.

Appendix I: SCI Principles and Criteria

Table 1: Principle 1 Criteria

Principle 1. Level of preparedness to harmonise standards		Level of relevance	Response option	Description
1	24072 Criteria on Environment and Social (E&S) Management Systems: general principles (Principle 1 & 2)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
2	709021 Openness of participation in stakeholders consultations to all organizations who share the scheme's values and object	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
3	10002 Recognitions & accreditations (Principle 1, 3 & 4)	High	Multi-Select	GlobalG.A.P. fully approve standard, GFSI recognized scheme, GSTC approved, GSTC accredited, GSTC recognized, IAF Member, ISEAL Full Member, ISEAL Associate, IFOAM accredited, Other
4	700124 Stakeholder participation in governance (Principle 1, 3 & 4)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
5	709013 Existence of clear and public policies or procedures to ensure that no interest group can dominate decision-making	Low	Yes/ No	Select for yes and describe
6	2801 ISO 59 (Code of good practice for standardization)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
7	300809 Inclusiveness of standards development	High	Multi-Select	Members only, Invitation only, All stakeholders
8	700137 Stakeholder representation in standards decisions	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
9	2260 Frequency of standards revisions	Medium	Multi-Select	Annual, Every 2 years, Every 3 years, Every 5 years, Ad hoc basis
10	900031 Standards setting and update is subject to public consultation	Medium	Multi-Select	Yes, No, Not Applicable
11	7000168 Scheme is open to all applicants	Low	Yes/ No	Select for yes

Table 2: Principle 2 Criteria

		Principle 2. Alignment with OECD due diligence guidance and ILO fundamental conventions	Level of relevance	Response option	Description
1	24072	Criteria on Environment and Social (E&S) Management Systems: general principles (Principle 1 & 2)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
2	709021	Openness of participation in stakeholders consultations to all organizations who share the scheme's values and objectives (Principle 1 & 2)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
3	700416	Criteria on verification of mandatory certificates and permits related to water use	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
4	900023	Criteria on policies and procedures addressing human rights	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
5	1000015	Criteria on ongoing processes for human rights due diligence	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
6	30086	Criteria on human rights violations grievance mechanism	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
7	1986	Criteria on voluntary employment - No forced labour (ILO 29 & 105)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
8	1989	Criteria related to child labour and minimum age (ILO 138)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
9	1979	Criteria related to worst forms of child labour (ILO 182)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
10	30080	Criteria on child labour legal compliance policy	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
11	1987	Criteria on non-discrimination at work (ILO 111)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
12	1993	Criteria on freedom of association (ILO 87)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation**: Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality** : Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional

		Principle 2. Alignment with OECD due diligence guidance and ILO fundamental conventions	Level of relevance	Response option	Description
13	1996	Criteria on collective Bargaining (ILO 98)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
14	1988	Criteria on principles and practices to secure a Minimum Wage based on sector or region specificities	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
15	30048	Criteria on assessment of impacts of local activities on local human rights such as health, safety and security	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
16	30050	Criteria on impact assessment for local communities' access to basic services such as electricity, water, sanitation, etc.	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
17	4078	Criteria on land title and legal use rights	Medium	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
18	30049	Criteria on grievance mechanisms for affected communities	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
19	10160	Criteria on long term sustainability management plan / continuous improvement	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
20	300454	Criteria on stakeholder analysis and engagement planning in E&S management systems	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
21	30110	Criteria on organizational capacity for continuous improvement of environmental and social (E&S) management (e.g. through Monitoring and Evaluation)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
22	30112	Criteria on procedures to monitor and measure effectiveness of E&S management systems (e.g. social impact assessment)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
23	701325	Criteria on reporting on and making publicly available E&S management systems (e.g. annual social and environmental reports)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
24	2647	Criteria on establishing and making publicly available the management unit CSR policy	Medium	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
25	4074	Criteria on supply chain stakeholders mapping	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional

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Principle 2. Alignment with OECD due diligence guidance and ILO fundamental conventions			Level of relevance	Response option	Description
26	700419	Criteria for inclusion of suppliers and workers' voice in sustainability and human rights strategy	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
27	700420	Criteria for supply chain responsibility (beyond primary production)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
28	300477	Criteria on policies encouraging clients, staff and suppliers to consider sustainability issues (reduce GHG emissions, waste, water use...)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
29	1953	Criteria on compliance to International Conventions	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
30	34020	Criteria on compliance to national and regional environmental laws and regulations	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
31	4071	Criteria on obligation to comply with relevant local, regional and national laws and regulations (including legal land tenure, title, having legal rights to use the production or management unit)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
32	12252	Criteria on compliance with local zoning and protected or heritage area regulations and laws	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
33	1955	Ethics: general policy or set of principles	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
34	1954	Criteria on corruption / bribery prevention	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
35	34000	Criteria on anti-bribery - Procedures and risk-assessment	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
36	34002	Criteria on anti-bribery - Political contributions	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
37	34004	Criteria on anti-bribery - Charitable contributions and sponsorships	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
38	34006	Criteria on anti-bribery - Facilitation payments	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional

Principle 2. Alignment with OECD due diligence guidance and ILO fundamental conventions			Level of relevance	Response option	Description
39	34008	Criteria on anti-bribery - Gifts, hospitality and expenses	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
40	34010	Criteria on anti-bribery - Due-diligence assessment of business partners, incl. subsidiaries and contractors	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
41	34012	Criteria on anti-bribery - Staff/workers awareness, training and support	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
42	34014	Criteria on anti-bribery - Internal controls, records keeping, M&E	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
43	34018	Criteria on anti-bribery - Mitigation and corrective actions	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
44	10851	Criteria relating to verification of business license and legality of activities / settlement	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
45	701176	Criteria on review and assessment of all suppliers, contracts and services	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
46	701183	Criteria on suppliers' evaluation	Medium	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality:** Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
47	2790	Core - 87 - Freedom of association and protection of the right to organize (1948)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
48	2789	Core - 98 - Right to organize and collective bargaining (1949)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
49	2788	Core - 29 - Forced Labour (1930)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
50	2787	Core - 105 - Abolition of forced labour (1959)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
51	2786	Core - 138 - Minimum age (1973)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
52	2785	Core - 182 - Worst forms of child labour (1999)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
53	2783	Core - 111 - Discrimination (1958)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
54	2781	155 - Accidents and injury to health arising out of, linked with or occurring in the course of work.	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
55	10502	OECD Guidelines for MNEs	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
56	10506	U.N. Guiding principles on business and human rights	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
57	700274	Mutual recognition agreements	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
58	10024	The scheme unilaterally recognizes other standards as partially or fully equivalent	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes and provide details and source

Table 3: Principle 3 Criteria

		Principle 3. Level of preparedness for sharing audits	Level of relevance	Response option	Description
1	2794	ISO/IEC 68:2002 (Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
2	800024	Criteria on transparency across types of information obtained during audit (discrepancies between the interviews and types of records)	Medium	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality**: Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
3	800025	Criteria on audit access: general policy (auditor's freedom of access to facility grounds, workers, production areas)	Medium	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality**: Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
4	800026	Criteria related to denial of audit access (auditor prevented from fulfilling full scope audit requirements)	Medium	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	**Degree of obligation:** Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended **Degree of criticality**: Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional
5	2798	ISO/IEC 17021: 2006 Conformity assessment -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
6	2187	Calibration of auditing practices	Low	Yes/ No	Select for yes
7	3885	Requirements for auditors	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
8	700226	Continuing personnel training [CB auditors]	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
9	700230	Personnel standards training [CB auditors]	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
10	4001	Oversight body meets quality requirements - IAF /ISO 17021 (Principle 3 & 4)	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes
11	3807	Accreditation Body Member (Principle 3 & 4)	Medium	Yes/ No	Select for yes
12	700231	Auditing skills training (Principle 3 & 4)	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
13	700233	Auditor supervision (Principle 3 & 4)	Medium	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
14	10410	Specific educational background is requested (Principle 3 & 4)	Low	Yes/ No	Select for yes
15	10414	Experience and technical skills are assessed (Principle 3 & 4)	Medium	Yes/ No	Select for yes
16	10002	Recognitions & accreditations (Principle 1, 3 & 4)	High	Multi-Select	GlobalG.A.P. fully approve standard, GFSI recognized scheme, GSTC approved, GSTC accredited, GSTC recognized, IAF Member, ISEAL Full Member, ISEAL Associate, IFOAM accredited, Other
17	700124	Stakeholder participation in governance (Principle 1, 3 & 4)	High	Yes/ No	Select "Yes"

Table 4: Principle 4 Criteria

#	Code	Principle 4. Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight	Level of relevance	Response option	Description
1	4001	Oversight body meets quality requirements - IAF / ISO 17021 (Principle 3 & 4)	High	Yes/No	Select for yes
2	3807	Accreditation Body Member (Principle 3 & 4)	Medium	Yes/No	Select for yes
4	700231	Auditing skills training (Principle 3 & 4)	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
5	700233	Auditor supervision (Principle 3 & 4)	Medium	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
6	10410	Specific educational background is requested (Principle 3 & 4)	Low	Yes/No	Select for yes
7	10414	Experience and technical skills are assessed (Principle 3 & 4)	Medium	Yes/No	Select for yes
8	3822	Regional Accreditation Groups	Medium	Yes/No	Select for yes
9	2792	SO/IEC 17011 (Conformity assessment) -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies	Medium	Yes/No	Select for yes
10	3806	IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) Member	High	Yes/No	Select for yes
11	3986	Conformity Assessment body must meet specific quality requirements which are documented (e.g. ISO 65/17065)	Medium	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
12	700221	Personnel competencies [auditors of conformity assessment bodies]	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
13	700224	Personnel evaluation frequency [auditors of conformity assessment bodies]	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
14	700225	Personnel suspension [of CB auditors by oversight]	Medium	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
15	10540	Oversight body meets quality requirements - IAF / ISO 17011	High	Multi-Select	Yes, No, Not Applicable
16	700182	Proxy Oversight	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Yes assess scheme-specific competence Not Applicable
17	700183	Independence of Oversight from assurance provider	Medium	Multi-Select	Yes, No, Not Applicable
18	700184	Assurance providers application restrictions	High	Multi-Select	Yes, No, Not Applicable

Principle 4. Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight			Level of relevance	Response option	Description
19	700186	Oversight complaints and appeals	Medium	Multi-Select	Yes, No, Not Applicable
20	700189	On-site Oversight audit	Medium	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
21	700191	Oversight witness audit	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
22	700193	Frequency of Oversight audits	High	Multi-Select	<1 year, 2-3 years, 4-5 years, >5 years, Not applicable
23	700835	The Oversight organization conducts risk based auditing and surveillance of accredited certification bodies	High	Multi-Select	No, Yes, Not Applicable
24	700198	Oversight auditing skills	High	Yes/No	Select for yes
25	700199	Oversight auditor evaluation	Medium	Yes/No	Select for yes
26	709032	The Oversight organization verifies that certification bodies engage effectively with stakeholders during auditing and surveillance	Medium	Yes/No	Select for yes and provide description (709033)
27	10002	Recognitions & accreditations (Principle 1, 3 & 4)	High	Multi-Select	GlobalG.A.P. fully approve standard, GFSI recognized scheme, GSTC approved, GSTC accredited, GSTC recognized, IAF Member, ISEAL Full Member, ISEAL Associate, IFOAM accredited, Other
28	700124	Stakeholder participation in governance (Principle 1, 3 & 4)	High	Yes/No	Select "Yes"

SCI is a collaborative initiative between ITC, IAF and ITMF

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

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