



Putting the new agenda for ethical trade into practice: **examples of ETI members' activities**

The new agenda for ethical trade has five core components. Given below are those components, and examples of where ETI members are already putting theory into practice.

Getting smarter at auditing

When the ethical trade team from one ETI member visits factories, they ask the supplier to be present so they can explain to them what they are looking for, why certain issues are important and how improvements can be made. The company has also developed a Factory Assessment Guidebook for suppliers which can be used for both assessing conditions and providing guidance to suppliers on what can be done.

Making codes work for suppliers

Brandix, a Sri Lankan garment manufacturer, was encouraged and assisted by **Gap Inc.** to put in place a system for complying with labour standards. The result has been not only improved conditions for workers, but has also real business benefits. These include increased productivity (achieved for example through shortened production cycle times and more reliable product quality) and improved labour retention (labour turnover is now under two per cent per month).

Putting workers centre stage

Chiquita International Brands has been working with trade union organisations at all levels, including signing an International Framework Agreement with the International Union of Food Workers (IUF), and taking practical steps to educate workers about the company Code of Conduct. This includes producing and distributing a worker booklet which explains the code and the rights it contains, and providing training for trade unions and workers on the code and on health and safety issues specifically. Outcomes have included greater worker awareness of codes and labour rights, increased union membership, a dramatic decline in strikes and stoppages, and a new culture of co-operation between management and workers.

Making sure business practices support ethical sourcing principles

Gap Inc. is building labour standards directly into their buying decisions through the use of an 'integrated sourcing scorecard'. Each approved factory will be assigned a compliance score based on their history of compliance with labour standards, which will be considered along with other indicators to determine whether a factory is suitable for production

Joining forces with others

Premier Foods (best known in the UK for Branston Pickle) auditors systematically consult trade union organisations at all levels. Regular contact with regional and national trade union offices has helped provide them with invaluable contacts and background information on labour issues in sourcing countries. Including on-site trade union representatives in audits and follow-up work has led to more effective identification and resolution of problems.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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