

A photograph of several workers in a textile factory, wearing white shirts and face masks, working on a production line. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

Fair Wear Foundation

How our clothes are made matters

The leading independent verification initiative in Europe, for improving labour conditions along the supply chain.

Erica van Doorn, Director

World Congress on Organic Cotton
Interlaken, 23rd September 2009



Mission

- ✓ FWF strives for good labour conditions, joining forces with business associations, trade unions and NGOs (multi-stakeholder approach);
- ✓ FWF stimulates sound industrial relations worldwide, while aiming to harmonise policies and methods with other initiatives.

A background image showing several workers in a factory setting, wearing white shirts and face masks, working at a table. The image is overlaid with a blue semi-transparent rectangle.

Supply chain responsibility

Brands share responsibility for labour conditions along their supply chain.

Brands should know what goes on in the factories of their suppliers.

They have a role to play in the improvement of the conditions.

Adjusting their management system to make change possible is one aspect.

Working together with factory management is another.

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Supply chain responsibility

For FWF, the key is cooperation.

For labour conditions to change, brands need to work together with factory management.

Workers need to be involved, be aware of their rights. Local organisations are essential for information, as monitors, as sounding boards. They also play an essential role in the empowerment of workers.



Example: Factory training programmes

Together with various stakeholders and interest groups, FWF is defining tailored trainings to:



- Increase awareness of workers rights among workers and management;
- Improve worker representative's effectiveness in communication and negotiations with management.



Supply chain responsibility

Social engagement...

Leading brands are aware that a coherent monitoring system goes beyond auditing and needs to be embedded into the DNA of the company;





Example: Corporate CSR incentives

To embed CSR at all levels within the company, one of the FWF affiliates has started to include targets related to CSR in its annual performance plans for staff. Company staff are thus incentivized to include CSR objectives into their daily work.



Independent verification

The world needs accountability, transparency and real change.

FWF verifies the efforts and results of its member companies towards better labour conditions. Are they doing enough?





Independent verification

FWF verification tools include:

- ✓ Factory audits and management system audits at the brand level;
- ✓ Ongoing dialogue and consultation with labour NGOs, unions and other organisations in the EU and in production countries;
- ✓ An accessible complaints procedure for factory workers



Founding principles of FWF

- ✓ Multi-stakeholder approach;
- ✓ Supply chain responsibility;
- ✓ International labour standards;
- ✓ Process approach to implementation;
- ✓ Involvement of stakeholders in production countries;
- ✓ Transparency.

