Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI)

Standards convergence? An update from ITC Standards Map

13 February 2022
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- Introduction & background
- ITC Standards Map
- IAF / ITMF Standard’s convergence initiative: Principles & Criteria
- Preliminary results from Feb. 2022 vs Updated analysis in Feb 2023
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Introduction & background
What is the SCI?

An initiative of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) & the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF)

- Aimed at reducing audit and standard fatigue in the Garment and Footwear Sector

In order to:

• Reduce compliance costs to industry
• Redirect freed-up resources toward improving working conditions
  While...
• Maintaining quality and integrity of compliance mechanisms
What is the SCI?

• SCI has developed **four principles for assessing a standard level of preparedness for convergence across social requirements**
  
  • For each principle, **a set of measurable ITC Standards Map criteria that best represent the SCI principles has been selected**
  
  • Any standard can be assessed against the SCI criteria to determine the level of preparedness of that standard toward convergence
  
  • If a standard body addresses most or all the selected criteria, then the standard illustrates a propensity for convergence
  
• Principles and associated criteria can be found on SCI website [www.standard-convergence-initiative.org](http://www.standard-convergence-initiative.org)
ITC Standards Map
ITC Standards Map

The world’s largest database for sustainability standards
We provide free, accessible, comprehensive, verified and transparent information on over 300 standards for environmental protection, worker and labour rights, economic development, quality and food safety, as well as business ethics.

Standards Map free toolkit
Our free tools help you to find trusted and neutral information about voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), codes of conduct, audit protocols, reporting frameworks and company programs on sustainability.

Identify standards
Review 300+ standards by product, sector, area or focus and more

Compare
Compare up to 4 standards side by side across 1650+ criteria

Monitor trends
Make informed decisions regarding production trends among standards

Self-assess
See where you’re at in your standard compliance process and assess your business for sustainability readiness

https://www.standardsmap.org/
Standards Map Criteria: requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Human Rights</th>
<th>Labour rights</th>
<th>Local communities</th>
<th>Management and Ethics</th>
<th>Quality</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>More information / Notes</td>
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</table>
Social criteria coverage in Standards Map: an example

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Social</th>
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<th>Criticality</th>
<th>Explicit</th>
<th>More information / Notes</th>
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<td>WORKPLACE CODE PROVISION: Employers shall provide a safe and healthy workplac... More Info</td>
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<td>Criteria on existence of publicly available policy defining workers’ rights</td>
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<td>Major</td>
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<td>Excerpt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ER.1.1 Employers shall have in place written policies and practices and maintain prope... More Info</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standards Map Criteria: Operational requirements

**Overview**

The standard owner shows independence from its certificate holders. Supply chains actors, NGOs or civil society do not participate in the standard's decisions.

The standard is revised, through a private consultation.

**Details**

**Standard management**

Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making.

**Transparency & Credibility**

Click here to know if standard’s policies, processes and documents are communicated.

**Standard Setting**

Click here to read about the standard setting process.
The SCI Principles & Criteria
Convergence

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

- E&S management/ strategy/ objectives
- Stakeholder mapping/ engagement/ consultation
- Recognitions and accreditations
- Compliance with international norms/ best practices
- Equality/ inclusiveness
- Accessibility

**Principle 2:**
Readiness to start Alignment review against OECD DD & ILO Standards

- Supply chain due diligence
- Human rights and workers’ rights
- Legality of business operations (permits, land, wages)
- Grievance mechanisms
- Continuous improvement
- Ethics
- Impact assessments

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

- Recognition and acceptance
- Audit transparency
- Audit access
- Auditor requirements
- Quality requirements/ accreditation
- Auditor assessment

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

- Accreditation body membership
- International accreditation
- Regional accreditation groups
- Independence of oversight
- Oversight audits
- Oversight complaints and appeals
- Oversight competency/ skills

Types of criteria:

- Accreditation body membership
- International accreditation
- Regional accreditation groups
- Independence of oversight
- Oversight audits
- Oversight complaints and appeals
- Oversight competency/ skills

SCI Principles & Criteria

There needs to be convergence across conformity assessment processes as well
Preliminary findings (Feb. 2022)
Standards’ preparedness for convergence: A comparison of 6 standards (February 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Principle 1: Level of preparedness to harmonise standards</th>
<th>Principle 2: Readiness to start Alignment review against OECD DD &amp; ILO Standards</th>
<th>Principle 3: Level of preparedness for sharing audits</th>
<th>Principle 4: Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight</th>
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Updated analysis (Feb. 2023)
Standards’ preparedness for convergence: A comparison of standards (February 2023)

<table>
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<tr>
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▲  Improved by at least 5 % since 2022
▶  Status quo (no worse nor better by 5%) since 2022
▼  Worsened by at least 5 % since 2022
Conclusions

• ITC has facilitated the process of assessing standards against SCI principles and criteria

• 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

• Standards assessments show a slight improvement from February 2022 to February 2023 with a higher propensity for convergence
Proposed next steps

1. Stakeholder feedback based on OECD Forum Side Session
2. IAF/ ITMF to address all stakeholders feedback (e.g. potential update of SCI principles and criteria)
3. IAF / ITMF to encourage standards to build on the good efforts and augment their propensity to converge
4. IAF/ ITMF to promote standards illustrating high level of preparedness for convergence
5. Continued dialogue and action toward convergence across standards operating in the textile and garment sector
Thank you!

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