Social & Labor
Convergence Program (SLCP)


Driving audit convergence: An update from SLCP
What is the Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP)?

SLCP is a multi-stakeholder initiative implementing the Converged Assessment Framework (CAF) to:

- reduce audit fatigue
- provide high quality social and labor data

in order to improve working conditions
SLCP signatories – 273
February 2023

SLCP is a signatory-driven multi-stakeholder initiative.
You can find the full list of signatories here.

53 Brands | Retailers
44 Manufacturers
108 Audit Firms
19 Consultancies
29 MSIs | Standard Holders | Civil Society
6 Agents
12 Industrial Associations
2 National Governments
Program goal and overall objective

**Converged Assessment Framework**

**Improved working conditions**

- Mutual trust and respect, accelerated & collaborative improvement actions
- Measured and understood working conditions
- Comparability of results across industry

**Redeploy resources towards improvement actions**

- Unlocked resources
- Reduced duplications and improved quality

**Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals:**

8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
17. Partnerships for the Goals
Scaling of SLCP

- **9000+** facility profiles in SLCP Gateway
- CAF available in **56 countries and regions**
- **68 approved Verifier Bodies and 700+ Verifiers**

### Growth in SLCP verified assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Target</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>4440</td>
</tr>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>7200</td>
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<td>2023</td>
<td>11000</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>GOAL</strong></td>
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2023 Target: 25,000
Growing acceptance of SLCP data

Number of companies and standard holders publicly accepting SLCP rose from 50 to 65 in 2022

(See website for full list)
Evidence of reducing audit fatigue

2022 Signatory survey results
Brands & manufacturers (53 respondents)

- 50% of manufacturers had been asked to share SLCP data by 6 or more brands (Last year: 31%)
- 70% of manufacturers reported reduction in total number of audits through SLCP adoption in 2022. In some cases, over 20 reduced audits.

We have been able /will be able to use the CAF instead of our proprietary tools

- 49% significantly
- 42% to some extent
- 4% not sure
- 6% not at all

2023
Evidence of redirecting resources
Shifting resources from auditing to improvements

Better Buying Purchasing Practices Index 2022
Findings

- SLCP questions included in 2022 supplier surveys
- Over a fifth (22.5%) of respondents reported their buyers are accepting SLCP
- Many reported saving thousands (up to $20,000) as a result
- Savings are being reinvested in workplace improvements, new programs for workers & higher wages.

Read more about the findings here.

Collaboration with BBI – find out more here.
Example of SLCP Adoption: Shahi Exports

**SHAHI**

- **42** facilities (76% of all Shahi factories) have completed SLCP Verification.
- **5** additional factories will adopt SLCP in 2022.
- **35%** customers have replaced traditional audits with SLCP.
- Embedding a culture of SLCP within the company has resulted in benefits:

Since adopting SLCP, Shahi Exports has saved approximately **4,416 hours** due to reduced audits.

**Supporting SLCP:**

- In 2019, Shahi Exports adopted a new approach to social compliance by becoming an SLCP signatory.
- Hosted the SLCP India launch in 2019 to bring different stakeholders together.
- Member of two SLCP Technical Advisory Committees: Stakeholder Engagement & Communications and Converged Assessment Framework.

**Why Shahi Exports believes in SLCP:**

- **Value-add**
  - Wide acceptance brings down the turnaround time for onboarding of new factories
- **Autonomy**
  - Leaner auditing system, reduced dependence on multiple third-parties; ready tool for post-pandemic compliance
- **Credibility**
  - Robust and standard framework; vetted by multi-stakeholder technical committees; data customizable to different needs
- **Capacity**
  - All HR, compliance, sustainability teams trained on a standard process; allows resources saved to be diverted towards worker well-being
Convergence with standard holders

SLCP is in dialogue with multiple standard holders to explore compatibility and potential convergence.

In June 2022, SLCP and Fair Wear Foundation jointly announced a collaboration agreement with two defined projects to explore alignment. Work is underway on both projects.

In 2022, SLCP and amfori issued a joint public statement to inform mutual stakeholders of our plans to refresh work on our roadmap to explore convergence in early 2023.

Began accepting SLCP verified data in Apparel and Home Goods program in late 2021.

OEKO-TEX and SLCP are in discussions to explore potential alignment between the CAF and STeP.