

CB Call – RCS/GRS Revision

March 7, 2017

Attendees:

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List of Issues

Length of audits (allocation of social, environmental, and chemical)

- Convergence tool, as the audit guidelines for the social section
 - Social Labor Convergence Project (by SAC) – TE is a signatory for the group. Members are beginning to work on the latest review.
 - Could be put in the Implementation Manual after the release.
- How do you determine the number of workers to interview?
 - Amount of time and numbers of interviews based on the number of workers
 - Length of audit also depends on the scope of the facility
 - Chemical issues are mostly in the washing/dyeing/finishing
 - Chemical and environmental – spinning and dyeing
 - Social and environmental – spinning
 - Social issues take more time in weaving/sewing/garments units.
 - We need a minimum number of hours for each section of the standard.
 - RJC – Responsible Jewelry Council
- How much time does SA 8000 spend on audits?
 - For 500 workers, the audit would take one man day (8 hours).
 - Risk-based, square root.

Review input verification criteria

- Reclaimed Material Supplier Agreements
 - TE added a “Reclaimed Material Supplier Agreement” as Appendix A to strengthen the ability for CBs to enter collector/concentrator sites or at least talk to them to confirm their material claims. This includes pre/post-consumer identification. One recycler has said that suppliers will not sign this.
 - How many of the Material Collectors and Concentrators should be visited/confirmed/audited?
 - Risk-based?
 - Announced visits only

- TE to keep list of Material Collectors and Concentrators in a private list, not connected to their customers.
 - It will help to have a list in the database to identify higher risk sites that have had previous issues. It will also help us have a better standard with better data.
- Reclaimed Material Supplier Declaration
- Review process for in-house recycling

Discussing whether sites need to be certified to both RCS and GRS

- GRS products can be labeled in accordance with the RCS logo
- 5% minimum for both RCS and GRS (GRS has been lowered from 20%)
- 50% minimum to label GRS
- Allow GRS certified companies to label with RCS for products that contain less than 50% recycled content

Recognition of chemicals approved by GOTS

- Should we keep this?
 - It is helpful to have some already approved chemicals, but it is not clear if they have many chemicals that can be used on synthetics.
- It may be affected by the level of conformance we accept as part of the MRSL
- Make sure this point is clear in the Public Stakeholder review
- Consider during the conformance review - Chemical

During a Brand certification, what elements of the GRS can be excluded?

- The GOTS model is to require everyone to be certified, very stringent, results in brands choosing not to label or get certified.
- The requirements covered should be adapted depending on the stage of production.
 - e.g. reduced audits for wholesalers, etc.
 - varied audit grades