



FAIRTRADE
INTERNATIONAL

To: Fairtrade certified factories and traders
Fairtrade members
cc: Standards Committee
Fairtrade International staff
FLOCERT staff

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Textile Standard announcement from Fairtrade International - March 2026

Dear Partners,

The Standards Committee (SC) during meetings which took place in May and July 2025 approved a fully revised Fairtrade Textile Standard. You find the revised Standard, which becomes applicable on 1 September 2026, [here](#). In this letter, the Standards Unit provides you with an overview of the main changes which will be implemented with the revised Standard. The new Fairtrade Textile Factory Standard aims to strengthen the position of workers, firmly establish HREDD requirements, and make brands more accountable. At the same time, it aims to become more practical so that more companies can apply it.

Change in scope of the Standard

The Standard is now applicable to Fairtrade certified Tier-1 Factories (Cut-Make-Trim) only, for that reason sections of the former standard version were removed, along with definitions and annexes. The final stage of production (cut-make-trim/sewing) is the area with the greatest social impact and potential for change in textile production, as this is where most workers are employed. That is why the new standard focuses on this area instead of covering the entire supply chain as before. However, requirements focussed on subcontractors and other entities in the supply chain of a certified factory are part of the revised Standard on the topics of social indicators and wet processing. These have been added to ensure integrity of social and environmental compliance is met with in the supply chain leading up to the certified factory.

The revised Standard remains relevant for Brand Owners as well, who will be verified. Requirements for Brand Owners have been reviewed, and some new requirements were added. The added requirements make it mandatory for brands to work with the factory in not only paying Living Wage differentials to workers but also address grievances at the factory level.

Complying with legislation

A requirement was added which requires the certified factory to comply with national, regional, and local laws on the topics covered by the Standard.

Compliance Committee (CC)

Requirements detailing the role and responsibilities as well as the composition, etc of the CC were revised and is now strengthened. So, in future, workers in certified factories are to be more involved in decision-making and have more influence on cooperation with key sourcing partners.



Freedom of Association

The requirement detailing communication of Freedom of Association rights was strengthened.

Living Wage differential and Fairtrade Base Wage for Textiles

In future, brands and factories will share responsibility for ensuring that workers receive higher wages. Payment of a Living Wage differential applicable to brands was introduced and the distribution of the Living Wage differential in the factory as of first year of certification was added increasing the objectives on closing the living wage gap. Furthermore, a Fairtrade Base Wage for Textiles was introduced. Wage level increases for workers were also added.

Environmental Responsibility

Many requirements were removed from this section as they are only relevant for operators in the textile supply chain beyond Tier-1 Factories and hence not applicable any longer to operators certified against the revised standard.

Product Composition

Requirements on product composition were updated. Former requirements focused on sourcing were removed as this step in the supply chain is not relevant for Tier-1 Factories. Requirements detailing use of Responsible Fibres were amended for clarification.

Human Rights Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD)

The HREDD cycle was fully included into the Fairtrade Textile Standard. This new section comprises of requirements reflecting steps to commit to respecting human rights and the environment, to raise awareness, to assess risk, to address grievances, to develop and implement policies, to develop and implement an action plan, to have dialogue on collaboration, to support suppliers, and to track activities. To remove duplications, former requirements focussing on similar issues were removed.

Furthermore, the definitions included in the Standard were updated and some new annexes were added resulting from including new requirements. And finally, throughout the document, wording was simplified and improved and duplications were removed.

For more information, please contact Standards & Pricing at standards-pricing@fairtrade.net

Best regards,

Andreas Kratz