

# REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN STANDARDIZATION

## Update from amfori

**29<sup>th</sup> UNECE WORKING PARTY ON REGULATORY COOPERATION AND STANDARDIZATION POLICIES**

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## What is amfori?

We are the leading non-profit business association of global commerce that enables organisations to enhance **human prosperity**, use **natural resources** responsibly and drive **open trade globally**.

**We call this Trade with Purpose**



## Who are our members

Our strength is our members – their expertise, their passion and their diversity.

Our members come from all corners of the world – from all industries, all sectors and in all sizes.

amfori members (Jan 2018)

  
**2,400+**  
members

  
**1.5 trillion EUR**  
combined annual turnover

Representing:  
 **50,000**  
Factories and farms

3

amfori   
Trade with purpose

## Snapshot of our membership



4

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## amfori across the world

44

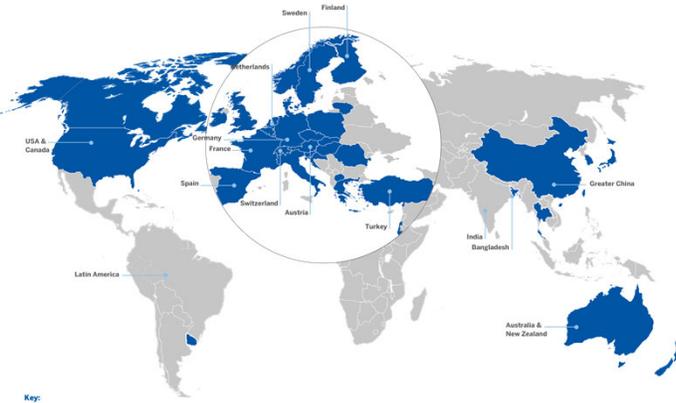
Member countries

14

Local representations

+100

Countries where we have sustainability operations



Key:  
■ amfori Members  
■ amfori Local Networks and Network Representatives

5



## What we believe in



### Our Vision

A world where all trade delivers social, environmental and economic benefits for everyone



### Our Values

**Leadership:** Be a leading force for creating positive change

**Collaboration:** Foster collaborative networks that empower stakeholders worldwide to achieve a common vision

**Excellence:** Deliver the best we can in everything we do

6



## Our Products

amfori BSCI

To enable companies to monitor and improve social performance in their supply chains.

amfori BEPI

To enable companies to monitor and improve environmental performance in their supply chains.

amfori Advocacy

To engage at a local and global level to shape an environment where our members can trade openly and sustainably.

7



## What is amfori BSCI?



Founded in 2003, it enables companies to drive sustainability by helping them monitor and improve social performance in their supply chains



8



## amfori BSCI – Code of Conduct

The amfori BSCI Code of Conduct aims at setting out the **values** and **principles** that amfori BSCI participants strive to implement in their supply chains.

The code is based on international labour standards:

- International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions
- The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

## Social Responsibility at the Core of Business



### Code Observance

Producers of amfori members who take part in amfori BSCI commit to protect workers' rights as mandated by the law and the code.



### Worker Involvement and Protection

Producers of amfori members who take part in amfori BSCI keep workers informed about their rights and responsibilities.



### Supply and Cascade Effect

Producers of amfori members who take part in amfori BSCI use the amfori BSCI principles to influence business partners.



### Grievance Mechanisms

Producers of amfori members who participate in amfori BSCI provide a system to collect complaints and suggestions from employees.

## The BSCI Scheme

BSCI is **neither an auditing company nor an accreditation system**:

- Provides companies with a social auditing methodology and report
- Does not organise audits but provides a network of external accredited, experienced and independent auditing companies.
- Social audits only represent one pillar of activity, complementary to capacity building and strong relations with stakeholders of supply chain.

BSCI is **not a certification scheme**:

- Provides a system that helps companies to steadily improve working conditions in their supply chain.
- Producers are encouraged to go further and achieve our best practice, the SA8000 social management certification developed by [Social Accountability International \(SAI\)](#)

## What is amfori BEPI?



Founded in 2013 it provides a comprehensive range of services that enable companies to drive focused environmental improvements in their supply chain.

## Environmental Performance Areas

### 11 Environmental Performance Areas



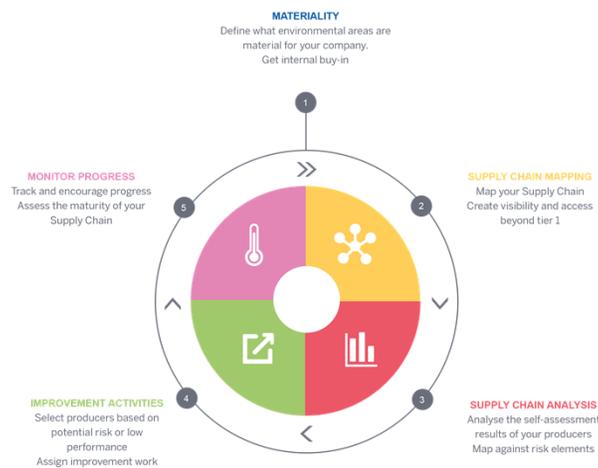
The amfori BEPI framework is based on the **Consumer Goods Forum - GSCP Environmental Module**:

- Based on industry best practice
- Harmonise existing efforts
- Deliver a common, consistent and global approach
- Across all sectors
- Continuous improvement
- 11 Environmental Performance Areas

13



## amfori BEPI Journey



14



## The BEPI Scheme

### Not an accreditation or certification system:

- We provide companies with an environmental assessing methodology and report.
- We do not organise assessments ourselves but provide a network of external, experienced and qualified assessing companies.
- We also have on-site capacity building which is provided by external companies.
- We develop relationships with key stakeholders.

## Broad Trends observed on Voluntary Sustainability Standards

- Since mid-1990s, voluntary sustainability standards have been propelled into mainstream markets due to rising demand among consumers, buyers and producers.
- Voluntary sustainability standards such as BSCI and BEPI offer explicit strategies to link trade with better practices.
- But better quality and more transparent data are needed and perhaps more harmonization. Better data will improve understanding of the state of sustainable markets, and better reporting will help round out the picture of sustainable supply chains.

## Gender and Voluntary Sustainability Standards

- VSS are rarely designed with gender equality as a key aim (UNECE Gender Responsive Standards Report)
- When gender is included, it is most often in relation to non-discrimination, which typically also applies to other forms of discrimination
- VSS systems have adopted general principles and process requirements on gender, such as commitments to gender equality and disaggregation of data, and requirements for gender policies and gender impact and risk assessments, in general,
- But there is a marked absence of management systems for detecting and addressing gender issues, including for collecting gender disaggregated data and processing complaints.

## Integrating Gender into amfori's work – Our Journey

- **July 2018: We published the BSCI System Manual Annex 14 : How to Integrate Gender Equality in the Due Diligence Strategy and Template 13: Self-Assessment on Gender Equality**
- **September 2018: We launched amfori's Women's Empowerment Programme with projects in amfori's three biggest sourcing countries:**
  - **China:** Research project in partnership with the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) to understand the situation and needs of female migrant workers.
  - **Bangladesh:** Partnering with CSR Centre and DBL Group in the Shobola Project to train management and female factory workers on issues related to gender, sexual harassment and discrimination in six amfori BSCI factories across Dhaka and Chittagong
  - **India:** A workshop and seminar series in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) to increase awareness among producers of labour rights and grievance mechanisms, with a focus on sexual harassment.



## UN Declaration on “Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development”



### May 14, 2019: Signing of UN Declaration on “Gender-Responsive Standards and Standards Development”

By signing the Gender Declaration amfori pledged to make its standards and the standards development process gender responsive by creating and proactively implementing a **Gender Action Plan** for our organization.

## Gender Action Plan and Next Steps

- Amfori Joined ISEAL/BSR Gender Working Group on Standard Setting - July 2019
- Amfori kicked off series of gender awareness training of staff – November 2019
- We will strengthen amfori’s Women Empowerment Program (WEP) particularly in areas that could influence standards such as in training of female social auditors, expanding training of male and female factory workers in amfori supply chains - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020
- Develop a roadmap on how amfori’s BSCI and BEPI could be made more gender responsive - 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2020
- Ensure all amfori policy positions have a gender lens - 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2020