



**FAIRTRADE**  
INTERNATIONAL

## Project Assignment

### Fairtrade Recognition of SA8000 standard and scheme against Fairtrade Textile Standard v1.0 and scheme

This project assignment contains the most important information about the project. For additional information on the project, please contact the project manager (contact details can be found below). The project will be carried out according to the Fairtrade International Standard Operating Procedure for Recognition and Recognition Work Instruction. More information on these procedures can be found on the website: [www.fairtrade.net](http://www.fairtrade.net)

#### **Rationale for and justification of need for the project:**

It is an agreed goal and ambition of Fairtrade International to be more efficient and effective in the pursuit of our mission, by reducing duplications in auditing and the cost and burden to certified operators. Fairtrade seeks to work together with other relevant sustainable standard certification and verification initiatives in the textile industry in order to build synergies where possible and achieve this ambition. As a first step in reaching this goal, the Social Accountability International (SAI) standard SA8000:2014 and scheme are assessed against the Fairtrade Textile Standard v1.0\_2016 and scheme

#### **Risk assessment:**

There are likely to be certain Fairtrade Textile Standard and SA8000 standard topics and procedures which are similar but not identical. On the one hand, if Fairtrade decides to recognize certain elements which differ a bit from the typical Fairtrade perspective or practice, it could be perceived as having a reputational risk for Fairtrade. On the other hand if Fairtrade only recognizes very few elements of the SA8000 standard and scheme for the same reason, the consequences are more administration, auditing times, higher costs and less efficiency.

#### Mitigation

Ensure solid implementation of the approved Fairtrade recognition procedure, including good "preparation" of the standard (and other areas for recognition) prior to applying the procedure. Ensure all decisions are taken with full understanding of the consequences.

#### **Project start event:**

Sharing draft project assignment with relevant stakeholders for feedback

#### **Project start date:**

09.12.2015

#### **Project end event:**

Signing agreement based on approved recognition proposal and implementation plans agreed

#### **Project end date:**

September 2016



### **Project goal and objectives**

The ultimate aim is to achieve ongoing “certificate acceptance” for part of SA8000 standard certification. This means that identified specific requirements or part of the recognized standard would be removed from the active scope of Fairtrade certification.

If certificate acceptance is not possible, a declaration of equivalency for certain parts would be sought, whereby SA8000 standard certification could be used as solid evidence in auditing and would therefore reduce auditing time.

### **Specific objectives**

1. To assess four scope areas for recognition

The four areas of the SA8000 standard and scheme are to be considered as part of the recognition procedure:

- Scheme
- Standard
- Assurance system
- Oversight system

The scope of recognition is open to operators that meet the criteria outlined in the Fairtrade Textile Standard, and are located in countries where freedom of association is possible.

2. Agree on ongoing oversight activities and its resourcing to implement and maintain certificate acceptance or declaration of equivalency.

### **Out of project scope**

Acceptance of certificates of specific operators.

### **Project timelines:**

#### Dec 2015

1. Creation of project team and plan
2. Signature of preliminary agreement
3. Application and preliminary definition of scope

#### Dec 2015 - Jan 2016

4. Preparation of standard for benchmarking
5. Preparation of assurance model for benchmarking
6. Analysis of scheme credibility
7. Analysis of standard equivalency
8. Analysis of assurance equivalency or credibility
9. Analysis of oversight credibility

#### Feb 2016

10. Conclusions of desktop analysis

#### March - April 2016

11. Onsite evaluation for corroboration of desktop analysis
12. Assessed scheme feedback
13. Overall conclusion and proposal

#### May - June 2016

14. Decisions - Oversight Committee (OC) and

### **Decision making process:**

Decisions are taken as follows:

- Standards & Pricing Director: recommendation on credibility of scheme
- Oversight Committee: recommendation on equivalency or credibility of assurance and on oversight credibility
- Standards Committee (SC): recommendation on equivalency of standard
- An overall decision is then taken by the SC based on the recommendations.



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<p>Standards Committee (SC) - end May</p> <p>15. Signature of contract/agreement</p> <p>16. Implementation of information management systems</p> <p>17. Implementation plan for audit and certification routines</p> <p>18. Plans for publication, communication and training</p>	
<p><b>Project owner:</b></p> <p>Andreas Kratz, Director of S&amp;P</p>	<p><b>Project manager</b> (<i>contact point for the project</i>):</p> <p>Elisabeth Bystrom, Senior Project Manager Standards  <a href="mailto:e.bystrom@fairtrade.net">e.bystrom@fairtrade.net</a>  +1(530)746 2182</p>
<p><b>Project team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ruth Fernández Audera, Senior Advisor Assurance and Oversight, Fairtrade International</li> <li>- Gelkha Buitrago, Head of Standards</li> <li>- Rossitza Krueger, Global Product Manager, Textiles</li> <li>- Debora Rosado, Certification Scheme Manager, FLOCERT</li> <li>- Social Accountability International</li> <li>- Social Accountability Accreditation Services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Project environment</b> (<i>stakeholder groups not part of the project team</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Additional Fairtrade assurance providers</li> </ul>