

THINK GREEN AND GROW

INTERTEK HELPS FACTORIES MINIMISE ENVIRONMENT FOOTPRINT

In line with the growing need to be sustainable across the supply chain, Intertek has developed the Think Green Initiative (TGI) program to help global brands and retailers to manage and track both environmental and sustainability performance in their supply chain.

The Think Green Initiative arose out of a need to reduce the complexity and redundancy involved in assessing and ultimately minimizing factories' environmental footprint throughout the extended supply chain. **David Horlock, Vice-President, Global Inspection & Auditing, Consumer Goods, Intertek Hong Kong** explains, "The goal was to create environmental assessment and reporting tools – as well as support services that would facilitate and enhance suppliers' efforts to improve and showcase their environmental performance." Intertek's TGI program is based on intensive expert and cross-industry collaboration to offer both a standardized performance baseline as well as a 'platform' for engaging multiple stakeholders globally and across the extended value chain. TGI is founded on the belief that 'thinking green' opens the door to practical action and a pathway to actually 'being green'.

The challenges suppliers face is numerous as consumers, governments and communities alike become increasingly concerned on how the

manufacturing of consumer products impacts the environment. While retailers and brands work to demonstrate good environmental governance across their supply chains, suppliers are continuously being asked to showcase their sustainability commitment and reduce environmental footprint while simultaneously keeping costs down.

Intertek and its accompanying TGI program provide solutions to suppliers with the capacity to showcase environmental good practice while reducing costs, improving material efficiency, practicing green manufacturing best practices and ensuring that the organization meets the requirements of tomorrow's employers, communities, investors and customers.

Think Green Initiative (TGI) Tool Kit

"With Intertek's web-based platform and deep environmental expertise, TGI has emerged as the perfect tool for evaluating, reviewing, monitoring factory's environmental performance and ultimately assuring improved performance," says David. The Think Green Initiative Toolkit



David Horlock,
Vice-President,
Global Inspection
& Auditing,
Consumer
Goods, Intertek
Hong Kong

HIGHLIGHTS OF TGI GOOD PRACTICES FROM 40 TGI PILOT FACTORIES

- Use of energy saving bulbs,
- Set minimum temperature control for AC as 26°C,
- Use of a solar heating system,
- Switch off lights/computers when leaving workplace or during breaks,
- Adapt to energy-efficiency technologies/purchase of new equipments,
- One factory provided 40 bicycles for workers to use for free to reduce carbon emissions,
- Double-sided printing and use of paper,
- Recycle scrap, fabric, plastics and cartons to vendors,
- Purchase of paper to replace polyethylene,
- Product environment certificates such as hazardous chemical certificates,
- Potential cost saving opportunities.

HOW DOES TGI BENEFIT A SUPPLIER'S BUSINESS?

Providing greater visibility on environmental commitment and performance by:

- Meeting environmental regulatory requirements,
- Reducing both environmental footprint and costs,
- Improving material efficiency through better resource management, including recycling, reuse of materials, and waste reduction,
- Acquiring sustainable business practices,
- Leveraging insights for green production and sustainable purchasing,
- Achieving good corporate governance and preferred supplier status,
- Demonstrating commitment and robust "Green" credentials to stakeholders.

WCA ADDRESSES THE FOLLOWING:

- Labour (Child Labour/Forced Labour, Discrimination, Discipline, Harassment/Abuse, Freedom of Association, Labour Contracts),
- Wages and Hours (Wages and Benefits, Working Hours),
- Health and Safety (General Work Facility, Emergency Preparedness, Occupational Injury, Machine Safety, Safety Hazards, Chemical and Hazardous Material, Dormitory and Canteen),
- Management Systems (Documentation and Records, Worker Feedback and Participation, Audits and Corrective Action Process),
- Environment (Legal Compliance, Environmental Management Systems, Waste and Air Emissions).

WCA BENEFITS YOUR BUSINESS BY ENABLING:

- Improved working conditions for a more content, healthier and productive workforce,
- Better decision-making support based on real-time data and knowledge management,
- Good corporate governance and 'preferred supplier' status for implementing a program that is in full accordance with the industry's best practices,
- Improved confidence in partnerships with suppliers through greater transparency and trust,
- Reduction in excessive auditing and duplication ("audit fatigue"),
- Suppliers to showcase progress with a 'Record of Achievement' Award.

consists of eight essential Core Compliance Modules. The first is Environmental Legal Compliance Performance Overview to assess the facility's overall environmental legal compliance performance and analyze its risk profile through a set of key indicators. The second is Environmental Management System (EMS) Review to assess the completeness and effectiveness of the facility's environmental management system through a set of key indicators. Others include Water consumption, wastewater discharge and wastewater pollution prevention and control; Energy savings management practices and carbon emissions management and calculation; Hazardous materials, equipment and waste including solid waste management, hazardous chemicals management and reduction as well as radioactive materials, equipment and waste; Air emission management and pollution prevention; Noise emission management and prevention; and finally, Sustainable production to assess the factory's sustainability awareness and practices across managerial and operational levels including recycling opportunities, renewable resources, material efficiency, and clean production.

Workplace Conditions Assessment (WCA)

Another program devised by Intertek, known as Workplace Conditions Assessment (WCA), emerged directly as a result of brand and international buyers' increasing demand for more effective measures for evaluating suppliers' workplace conditions. Factories are also becoming more proactive in finding ways to benchmark themselves and track their progress against

competitors and to national standards. "WCA helps in meeting good practice social performance requirements and improving work condition for a more content, healthier and productive workforce. It helps to achieve sustainable business practices along with acquiring insights on social compliance monitoring and sustainable purchasing," explains David.

The Workplace Conditions Assessment (WCA) program provides a powerful, cost-effective solution for companies and facilitates in seeking to improve workplace conditions efficiently and in accordance with widely accepted industry standards and best practices.

The WCA standard is aligned with the Global Social Compliance Program (GSCP), which, in turn, is endorsed by the world's largest retail association.

Furthermore, WCA offers greater visibility into the supply chain along with mechanisms for continuous improvement of supplier workplace conditions – via benchmarking, measurement and continuous improvement tools. "We have seen a significant shift toward greater transparency and the implementation of sophisticated, yet practical, tools for assessing continuous improvement," observes David

The WCA program is supported by a web-based platform that automates and streamlines the auditing process – increasing efficiencies for all supply chain partners.

Raising the confidence in supplier partnerships through greater transparency and effective risk mitigation is key and something Intertek is engaging in strongly in order to provide their customers good corporate governance and preferred supplier status.