



Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative



Trust in Sustainability Standards Worldwide

Benchmarking & Recognition of Standards

What We Do

To help meet the needs of our members, and to support the development of responsible global supply chains, the Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (SSCI) is the newest initiative developed by The Consumer Goods Forum. We are currently building the SSCI into a robust programme to benchmark and recognise sustainability standards. SSCI will streamline benchmarking processes across the CGF by replicating the successful approach of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) to recognising standards.

Why We Do It

Building and maintaining a sustainable supply chain remains a key challenge for the industry. Companies often use third-party audits and certification schemes as a source of assurance for social compliance. Yet, the wide array of schemes and programs can be difficult to differentiate. Our member companies need a way to sort through all of this information and focus on working with suppliers that provide decent working conditions and align with our industry expectations.

How We'll Do It

The Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative will provide buyers and suppliers with clear guidance on which

third-party auditing and certification schemes cover key sustainability requirements and apply robust verification practices. By undergoing benchmarking and achieving SSCI recognition, scheme owners signal a strong commitment to raising the bar while driving harmonisation.

The SSCI will enhance trust in the sustainable sourcing process, reduce the duplicative, parallel work that companies do to assess programs, and help companies identify potential risks in their responsible sourcing practices. The foundational scope is social compliance and SSCI is well-positioned to expand to include additional scopes.

There are two main sections of the SSCI benchmark criteria:

- **Social Criteria:** Criteria that are typically found in codes of conduct (e.g. child labour, forced labour, working hours, discrimination, etc.)
- **Scheme Management Criteria:** Criteria that ensure the robust performance of schemes and the effective implementation of the schemes' procedures and policies (e.g. standard-setting mechanism, independent oversight of audit firms, auditor competence requirements, etc.)

Objectives

- Support companies in their supply chain due diligence by recognising robust schemes that drive positive change and address the fundamental social compliance issues
- Allow companies to dive deeper into issues and risks facing their supply chain by providing key insights into currently available schemes
- Contribute to continuous improvement of sustainability auditing and certification schemes and encourage them to reflect CGF expectations in those schemes worldwide