



ORGANIZATION

Assent Compliance, Canada
pledges to

**Support efforts to eradicate child labour
by improving the capacity of businesses to
address child labor in their supply chains**

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Name:

Industry-Standard Child Labor Due Diligence Tool

Description:

Assent Compliance declares its commitment to help eradicate child labor in supply chains. We recognize that there are over 150 million children involved in child labor, including the worst forms of child labor, around the world. We also recognize that child labor in supply chains is a business issue and that businesses have a responsibility to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for all adverse human rights impacts in their operations and supply chains, including child labor.

We resolve to support efforts to eradicate child labor by collaborating with various stakeholders around the world to improve the capacity of businesses to address child labor in their supply chains. We will do this by helping to bring to market in 2021 a freely available, industry-standard survey for the collection and sharing of child labor risk data across supply chains. Modeled after the widely adopted Slavery and Trafficking Risk Template (STRT), this tool will be designed to minimize survey fatigue through its universality, ease of use, and brevity. It will offer businesses a cost-effective and quick tool to kick-start a collaborative process to protect their supply chain workers from child labor — all without having to travel anywhere. The tool will be available for download at sraglobal.org.

Implementation plan:

We believe that it takes joint effort and a collaborative approach to make a real impact. As a member of the Social Responsibility Alliance (SRA), Assent Compliance commits to working with other members of the SRA to develop and maintain a freely available, industry-standard survey for the collection and sharing of child labor risk data across supply chains. This work will benefit from the technical expertise of the International Labour Organization (ILO) as well as the established processes and protocols of the SRA for launching and maintaining industry-standard data tools. The tool will be available for download at sraglobal.org.

The SRA is a multi-stakeholder initiative made up of organizations in the private sector, civil society, academia, and law firms. It exists to provide companies throughout the supply chain with trusted, open-source tools needed to build socially responsible supply chains in

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response to regulatory requirements and stakeholder expectations. Founded in 2017, it aims to empower companies to catalyze continuous improvement in their supply chains. The pledge has been signed off by the STRT Development Committee and enjoys its full support.

Impact:

This work will leverage the experience of the SRA and the technical expertise of the ILO to bring to market a free, industry-standard survey for the collection and sharing of child labor risk data across supply chains. This will offer the industry a cost-effective and quick tool to kick-start a collaborative process to protect their supply chain workers from child labor – all without having to travel anywhere. Central to due diligence are risk assessment, risk mitigation, supplier engagement, and public disclosures of efforts to combat child labor. The new tool will be designed to support companies with all these essential aspects of due diligence. The tool will be available for download at sraglobal.org.

Companies have seen an exponential increase in supply chain data requests over the past five years, with one company reporting over 1,500 requests in 2019 compared to just 23 in 2014. This has become a major impediment to the supply chain due-diligence programs as it has made it difficult to get good quality data from suppliers if they respond at all. The new tool will be designed to minimize survey fatigue through its universality, ease of use, and brevity, thus enhancing the effectiveness of due diligence programs.

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