



GoodWeave's[®] Expanded Standard to Address Environmental, Adult Working Conditions

GoodWeave works to end child labor in the carpet industry and to offer educational opportunities to children in South Asia. The GoodWeave label is issued to rug manufacturers that adhere to GoodWeave's no-child-labor standard, agree to its independent verification and voluntarily join as licensees.

GoodWeave remains focused on its no-child-labor requirement; however, the expanded certification standard adds mandates to protect adults from abusive labor conditions, such as forced, bonded and exploitative labor. It also includes environmental criteria, such as managing run-off from dyeing and washing. The new standard is in response to consumers, industry and weavers, who wish to see more benefits associated with one label.

The broader scope of labor-related criteria helps to improve GoodWeave's efficacy in addressing the root causes of child labor. The lack of secure incomes for adults and the exploitation of children are interrelated, while fair work for adults translates into families having their own children in school.

The new standard is organized into seven principles:

Principle 1 – No child labor is allowed

At the heart of the GoodWeave certification is the prevention and rehabilitation of child labor. Under the new Standard, producers will:

- Refrain from hiring workers under age 15.
- Register all workers age 18 and below, listing tasks carried out and hours worked, to ensure all laws covering young workers are respected.
- Cooperate with any community-based projects GoodWeave organizes or supports, including withdrawing children from work and ensuring their education.

Principles 2-5 – A set of principles relating to working conditions for adults:

No forced or bonded labor is allowed

Freedom of association and collective bargaining are recognized

No discrimination is practiced

Decent working conditions are respected

Employers will need to demonstrate that good practices are respected for adult workers. This includes the issues of freedom to choose or leave employment, freedom of association, non-discrimination, health and safety, wages, hours worked and disciplinary practices.

As such, various policies and management systems may need to be developed or improved.

Principle 6 – Negative environmental impacts of production are identified and minimized

Licensee will be responsible for identifying any negative impacts of production and ways to mitigate them. Potentially harmful chemicals, materials and processes will need to be identified through Management Safety Data Sheets and effluent testing. Each producer will work with GoodWeave to develop a plan for improving environmental impacts over time. GoodWeave will collaborate with producers to the extent possible to identify appropriate environmental measures for different types and sizes of production facilities.

Principle 7 – Business processes are transparent and adhere to local regulations

Producers must demonstrate compliance with the standard's social and environmental criteria by cooperating with GoodWeave's monitoring and inspections system. This includes registering all production sites, providing the necessary documentation during inspections, allowing inspectors access to production sites for unannounced inspections, and allowing inspectors to conduct confidential interviews with workers.

For guidance in this process, GoodWeave is an associate member of the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance (ISEAL), which leads the development of good practices in certification globally. Multi-stakeholder consultations play a key role in the process under ISEAL's Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

The standard covers: Rug making processes in factory, cottage industry and homework situations from receipt of raw material until the finished product, including all sub-contracted processes, such as weaving, washing and dyeing.

Timeline for compliance: The new standard is comprised of both entry-level and progressive requirements. Once the standard comes into force in 2012, existing licensees will have one year to implement its core entry-level requirements and put a plan in place for working towards long-term progress requirements, which will be reviewed annually.

For more information, please visit www.goodweave.net or contact Biko Nagara at biko@goodweave.org.