

Section 1 Introduction

Background

This Standard (the Standard) has been developed in response to a need identified by RugMark International (RMI), the international non-governmental organization committed to ending illegal and exploitative child labour in the handmade carpet industry through the GoodWeave™ certification programme.¹ After extensive research, RMI determined that it could better serve its mission by expanding its standard focused solely on illegal child labour, to encompass broader criteria that address adult labour and environmental standards as well. Stakeholders in producer communities and in the marketplace agreed that a broader standard was needed and desirable.

The Standard and its principles are based on international labour laws and environmental norms and have been developed to be compatible with and support other standards, but to address those specific needs of the rug making industry.

The Public Summary, a more detailed introduction to the Standard, includes initial findings based on background research and field studies commissioned by GoodWeave, and can be found on www.GoodWeave.net. Users of this Standard and other stakeholders may request clarifications and interpretations, submit feedback and complaints on the process or content, as well as propose revisions by contacting standards@goodweave.net.

In order to ensure that the best international standards are met, GoodWeave is an associate member of the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling (ISEAL) Alliance and through the development of the new international Standard is striving to meet the requirements of the ISEAL Standard Setting Code of Good Practice.

Feedback on this draft is welcomed at www.GoodWeave.net This site also holds information on the standard development process, history and contact details.

Objectives

The broad aims of the new Standard are as follows:

- To end illegal child labour in the handmade rug industry and offer educational opportunities to children.
- To have a positive impact on rug workers' lives, working conditions, and the industry as a whole and to promote the application of other fundamental human rights in the workplace identified as root causes of child labour.

¹ RMI re-branded its certification programme and label to GoodWeave in 2009. In 2010 the organization will also re-brand to GoodWeave and for the purposes of this Standard, the name GoodWeave will be used when referencing the certification programme, the label and the organization.

- To ensure there are changes in the community growing out of the programme, particularly reduction of child labour and increase of children's education.
- To provide a coherent and consistent standard that may be applied across all rug producing countries and takes into account different production methods.
- To facilitate transparent monitoring and verification of working conditions and environmental impact.
- To provide an independent assurance (label) for rug consumers worldwide.

Scope

This Standard applies to rug making processes carried out in factory, homework and village-based cottage industry situations and addresses social and environmental issues as well as the transparency needed to ensure implementation.

The Standard does not include the raw material supply chain for the producers; however, it does include some elements where information from suppliers must be sought, e.g. Manufacturing Safety Data Sheets.

The boundary of the Standard are those processes for which the producer is responsible.

- Where the main material for manufacture is bought ready spun or dyed the Standard is valid at the point of entry to the facility, however the Standard does include these processes where they are sub-contracted by the producer or carried out within the facility.
- Where all processes are carried out at vertically integrated manufacturing sites, and for other sites which use subcontractors, the scope includes the main site plus subcontracted weaving and wet processes.

Producers are expected to ensure that suppliers are made aware of the GoodWeave Standard.

The Standard is generic and therefore applicable to all countries of production and to production sites of differing sizes and levels of capabilities. Variations in the local manufacturing conditions and types of workplaces, as well as differences between countries, are covered in the guidelines and inspection and monitoring documents. This will ensure that interpretation of the Standard is consistent while addressing the specific needs of different types of workers and workplaces, and recognizing certain criteria are higher risk in one type of workplace over another. This Standard covers all workers and workplaces in which rugs are produced.

The Standard applies to all operations for which the licensee is responsible. This includes all processing activities from receipt of raw material until the finished product and includes sub-contracted processes. The producer is liable for the operations of its subcontractors and is encouraged to continuously monitor the compliance of the Standard at the subcontractor level.

The Standard is a product standard and attests to the conditions under which the product was produced.

Responsibilities for Adherence to the Standard

The responsibility for adherence to the Standard lies with the producers / license holders. While all parties along the supply chain are responsible for ensuring the success of the Standard, it is not the function of the Standard to detail these responsibilities.

More detail about these broader responsibilities is included in the Guidelines for the GoodWeave Generic Standard for the Rug Industry (the Guidelines), which will accompany the Standard. These will ensure that those implementing the Standard are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Standard Structure

The structure of the Standard is designed to specify the licensing requirements for producers, in order to be understood by users of the GoodWeave label, the certification body, partner organizations, customers and the general public.

- **Principles** - The Standard is based on seven Standard Principles covering labour conditions and the rights of workers, environmental management and transparency. The Principle Clarifications in Section 2 detail each Standard Principle.

These principles are supported by the detailed requirements at two levels:

- **Core Requirements** - These are minimum entry level requirements, which all companies must meet from the moment they apply to be licensed.
- **Development / Progress Requirements** – These are requirements against which companies must demonstrate efforts towards long-term improvement and which should be developed according to a plan agreed by the company’s management and GoodWeave, within a specified period of time. A report on the achievement of progress requirements will be made available to GoodWeave each year.
- **Supporting documents** – References, definitions and further documents for information are attached as Appendices.

Guidelines and Support for Producers

In order to produce a Standard that may be implemented globally, the language is by necessity very technical and not user friendly for a general audience. Those implementing the Standard may need additional support and in-depth explanation of how to implement it in practice.

To address this, two separate documents to aid interpretation and implementation of the Standard are available:

- The Synopsis Document outlines the practical implications of the Standard.
- The Guidelines to the GoodWeave Generic Standard for the Rug Industry help producers implement the Standard with specific instructions on how to use them in factory and homework situations.

Based on feedback from producers in implementing the Standard, GoodWeave will evaluate whether producer support programmes are needed to aid in the implementation of the Standard, and what type of programmes would be needed.

Auditing documentation will detail the requirements for inspectors and auditors.

References

Many other related standards have been referenced during the development of this one, including international labour standards, in particular Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO). A full list of references is provided in Appendix 1.

Definitions

A list of definitions for terms used in this Standard is provided in Appendix 2.

Application

This version of the Standard supersedes all previous versions. It becomes **applicable from xx/xx/20xx**.

Existing licensees are given one year to implement the core requirements of the Standard, allowing time for awareness of the new Standard to be disseminated, to allow producers time to implement the requirements and for monitoring to ensure compliance. The deadline for compliance with all core requirements, is xx/xx/ 20xx.

Where existing licensees experience difficulties addressing the Standard in all subcontract levels, they may apply for an extension if they can demonstrate good intent and difficulties. Extension requests will be decided on a case by case basis taking into account all considerations including the impact of the non-compliance on the GoodWeave Standard's credibility.

All new licensees are expected to comply before licenses are awarded.

Standard Review

The Standard will be reviewed 6 months after coming into force, allowing for practicalities of implementation to be acknowledged and the Standard to be revised, if deemed necessary. The Standard will then be reviewed annually for two years to ensure feedback during implementation is taken into account in the initial phase.

Following that, a review will take place at least every five years or:

- As circumstances change that require update
- To address complaints that have been upheld
- To reflect extension of the products included in the Standard
- When operations commence in new producing countries

GoodWeave will follow the Operating Procedure (OP) Development of GoodWeave Standards for the process of reviewing and revising the Standard (The current version is available online at <http://www.goodweave.net/documents/13>). As a result of this process, requirements of the Standard may be added, deleted or otherwise modified.

Changes will be communicated to licensees; however, those who have to meet the GoodWeave Standard are responsible for monitoring pending and finalised revisions on the GoodWeave website (<http://www.goodweave.net>).