BUSINESS CHALLENGE

As companies expand their manufacturing and sourcing capabilities around the world, supply chain workplace conditions are increasingly scrutinized, particularly in developing countries. The conditions under which products are manufactured have become a dimension of quality and an important part of the business value proposition. The lack of a process for managing risks related to supply chain social compliance can have a direct impact on a company’s financial results, especially for those organizations in consumer markets where image and brand names are critical assets.

OUR APPROACH

The Bureau Veritas approach to social compliance recognizes that working conditions can be managed in a manner consistent with other elements of quality. The most effective compliance programs are comprised of three essential elements:

1. An objective, measurable code of conduct standard that clearly defines expectations and requirements;
2. Processes and controls at the company and manufacturing facility to manage activities and ensure compliance; and
3. Independent on-site monitoring to verify compliance and the operation of compliance-related processes and controls.

Bureau Veritas utilizes recognized protocols for on-site monitoring, including confidential employee interviews, record testing, observations and management feedback. With a multipronged approach, monitors are able to consider various sources of information and utilize proven investigative techniques to corroborate evidence.

KEY BENEFITS

A social audit program can assist your company to:

- Assist with better decision support based on real-time data and knowledge management
- Strengthen brand image
- Respond to critics and customers by articulating process and information about working conditions
- Improve work conditions for a more content, healthier and productive workforce
OUR SOLUTION

Bureau Veritas has the capability and resources to support companies throughout the process of developing an effective social compliance program, performing independent audits of compliance-related processes and controls, and reporting on results.

• **Compliance Advisory Services:** Bureau Veritas has extensive experience in designing and implementing programs for organizations of varying sizes and operational perspectives that takes into consideration the critical elements of compliance. In addition, Bureau Veritas has a proven methodology that covers all elements of supply chain social compliance programs, and is designed to instill confidence that key issues and challenges for the design, development and implementation of the program have been met.

• **Independent Auditing of Working Environments:** With over 1,300 laboratories and offices across more than 140 countries, Bureau Veritas is strategically positioned to provide independent social compliance audit services utilizing local auditors who are familiar with complex issues related to social compliance, including local social conditions, cultures and languages of workers, standard industry practices, and the applicable laws and regulations.

• **Broad Range of Assessments:** Bureau Veritas evaluates supplier compliance with a variety of social compliance standards, including various corporate codes of conduct, a Bureau Veritas-developed code of conduct containing standard industry compliance elements, and a range of industry standards established by organizations such as Initiative Clause Sociale (ICS), Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP), the British Retail Consortium (BRC), the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), and the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (SEDEX). This gives you the option of including additional value-added assessments that can benefit both you and your suppliers.

WHY BUREAU VERITAS?

• In-depth knowledge of, experience with, and core competencies in – compliance monitoring, manufacturing issues, labor standards and local practices and customs

• Years of experience developing and implementing solutions for high-profile multinational companies

• Web-based solutions for real-time access to audit status, audit results, and supply chain trends

• Architects of comprehensive code of conduct programs for the most sophisticated organizations

• The knowledge and understanding of important issues of concern to stakeholders

• Proven ability to deliver seamless global services – with rapid response capabilities

• Proven ability to provide collaborative visits for multiple clients to share costs and remediation efforts