

amfori BSCI Code of Conduct

I. Introduction

The amfori BSCI Code of Conduct is a commitment document for amfori members and their business partners to exercise human rights due diligence and environmental protection in their global supply chains in line with internationally recognized principles. This document gives a direction to the amfori members and their business partners in order to conduct responsible business, and to identify, prevent, mitigate, account for and remediate adverse human rights, as well as environmental, impacts in their supply chains. It is supported and supplemented by the amfori BSCI System Manual, amfori Member Commitment Programme, and the amfori Sustainability Platform. This document, and all the supporting and supplementary material, integrates the characteristics of due diligence as listed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

amfori members and their business partners, including upstream and downstream producers, intermediaries and those involved in worker recruitment processes, can become signatories of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct. Throughout this document, the term “signatories” will be used synonymously to refer to amfori members and their business partners.

This version of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct has been approved by amfori, and overrules all previous versions of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct in all its translations. The English version of this document is the legally binding one.

The amfori BSCI Code of Conduct v.2021 enters into force on Q3 2023 (date to be confirmed in Q1 2023). The responsibility to embed this Code of Conduct into their operations, and implement due diligence, lies with the signatories.



II. Values

The amfori BSCI Code of Conduct, as well as its supporting documents and tools, are based on, and refer to:

- United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions and Recommendations
- UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR)
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- UN Children's Rights and Business Principles
- Gender Dimensions of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
- OECD Sectoral Guidance Documents

By endorsing the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct, the signatories confirm that their commitment will follow the values below:

- **Continuous improvement:** The signatories undertake to implement the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct in a holistic approach, embedded in their management systems and company culture, to ensure the continuous improvement of due diligence within their organisations and supply chains in a progressive manner.
- **Cooperation:** The signatories will have a greater impact on, and better chance of identifying, preventing, mitigating and remediating human rights and environmental violations in their organisations and supply chains by working together and taking a holistic approach to due diligence. The spirit of cooperation is crucial in the engagement between the signatories and stakeholders at different levels, particularly to create leverage. amfori supports the signatories by creating relevant and meaningful partnerships.
- **Empowerment:** A central aim for amfori is to enable its signatories to develop their organisations and empower supply chains in a way that respects human rights and enables continuous improvement. To this end, amfori provides the needed tools, and expects its signatories to use and cascade these tools within their organisations and supply chains.
- **Code observance:** Complying with national legislation is the first obligation of business enterprises. In countries where the national legislation sets a different standard of protection than the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct and its references, the signatories shall abide by the principles that provide the highest protection to the workers and the environment, without contradicting the legal framework of the country.
- **Protection of vulnerable persons:** The signatories commit to the protection and empowerment of vulnerable individuals, and members of vulnerable groups and communities, to the best of their influence. The signatories understand that vulnerability can depend on the context, and certain individuals, groups, and communities may be vulnerable in more than one aspect.
- **Transparency:** The signatories commit to being transparent:
 - With each other, with amfori and with any third party involved as relevant (e.g. auditors, quality partners), and within the context of identification, prevention, and remediation of adverse human rights and environmental impacts. The signatories actively inform each other and amfori on any critical incident, as well as the effectiveness of any responses to an adverse impact to values and principles of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct,
 - Through reasonable disclosure to shareholders, stakeholders, and governments regarding their impacts on the supply chain and in the surrounding communities, in line with national legislation requirements where available.

The amfori BSCI Code of Conduct and its values are implemented through the set of principles as explained below:



Social Management System and Cascade Effect

The signatories commit to:

- Adopt and publicly communicate a written human rights policy statement, in line with the complexity and size of operations, approved at the most senior level,
- Implement a process- and risk-based due diligence management system in their business practices in line with the UNGPs, and adjusted to the business model of the company. The expectations set in this Code of Conduct should be embedded in the system,
- Actively communicate their endorsement of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct through all the functions in their company, as well as to their business partners and relevant stakeholders,
- Train and incentivize all relevant departments and individuals in a manner that allows them to integrate the principles of responsible and gender-responsive business and purchasing practices in the company culture, and cascade it to their business partners,
- Require their business partners to cascade the information to the relevant business partners and stakeholders in the supply chain,
- Require and follow-up with their business partners to work towards full observance of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct within the sphere of their influence, including intermediaries that are involved in the worker recruitment process, such as brokers, recruiters and recruitment agencies,
- Include all workers in their due diligence, especially the vulnerable parts in their supply chain such as home-based workers, smallholders, as well as temporary and migrant workers; identify the challenges at these levels, and partner with amfori and other relevant stakeholders for improvements,
- Have the strategy, processes, and sufficient resources in place to meet the responsibilities related to the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct and ensure that there is continuous improvement in its implementation,
- Exercise responsible and gender-responsive purchasing practices, and avoid putting their business partners in a position that prevents them from adhering to the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct.

Workers Involvement and Protection

The signatories commit to:

- Establish responsible and gender-responsive management practices that involve all workers and their representatives in sound information exchange on the due diligence process,
- Define long-term goals to protect workers in line with the aspirations of the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct,
- Take specific steps, such as trainings, to make workers aware of their rights and responsibilities, with special attention to vulnerable persons. When relevant, intermediaries such as brokers, recruiters, and recruitment agencies should play an active role in achieving these steps,
- Build sufficient competence among the managers, workers, and worker representatives within their company, as well as in the supply chain, in order to embed the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct in their company culture, and promote continuous education and training at each level of work,
- Establish or participate in effective operational-level grievance mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely impacted, and maintain accurate records. The operational-level grievance mechanism must be in line with UNGP Article 31. Where relevant (e.g. when a migrant worker population is present), the operational-level grievance mechanism should be accessible in relevant local languages, and should allow to address and remedy the issues effectively across jurisdictions through partnerships and coordination.

The Rights of Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining

The signatories commit to:



- Respect the right of workers to form and join trade unions – or to refrain from doing so – and bargain collectively, in a free and democratic way, without distinction whatsoever and irrespective of gender,
- Ensure meaningful representation of all workers, without distinction whatsoever and irrespective of gender,
- Not discriminate against workers because of trade union membership,
- Not prevent workers' representatives and recruiters from having access to workers in the workplace or from interacting with them,
- Respect this principle by allowing workers to freely elect their own representatives with whom the company can enter into dialogue about workplace issues, when operating in countries where trade union activity is unlawful or where free and democratic trade union activity is not allowed.

No Discrimination, Violence or Harassment

The signatories commit to:

- Treat all workers with respect and dignity,
- Ensure that workers are not subject to any form of violence, harassment, and inhumane or degrading treatment in the workplace, as well as threats of violence and abuse, including corporal punishment, verbal, physical, sexual, economic or psychological abuse, mental or physical coercion, or other forms of harassment or intimidation,
- Understand the possible grounds for discrimination in their specific context, and not discriminate or exclude persons based on sex, gender, age, religion, race, caste, birth, social background, disability, ethnic and national origin, nationality, membership in unions or any other legitimated organisations, political affiliation or opinions, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, marital status, pregnancy, diseases, or any other condition that could give rise to discrimination,
- Establish disciplinary procedures in writing and explain them verbally to workers in terms and language which they understand. The disciplinary measures must be in line with national legislation,
- Provide gender-sensitive and equal opportunities and treatment throughout recruitment and employment,
- Verify that workers are not harassed, disciplined, or retaliated upon for reporting issues on any of the grounds listed above.

Fair Remuneration

The signatories commit to:

- Comply, as a minimum, with wages mandated by governments' minimum wage legislation, or industry standards approved based on collective bargaining, whichever is higher. The wages shall refer to standard working hours,
- Pay wages in a regular, timely and stable manner, and fully in legal tender. Partial payment in the form of allowance "in kind" is only accepted in line with ILO specifications,
- Assess the pay gap accurately, and work progressively towards the payment of a living wage that is sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the workers and their families,
- Reflect the skills, responsibility, seniority, and education of workers in their level of wages,
- Where a pay rate for production, quota or piece work, is established, allow workers to earn at least a wage which respectively meets or exceeds applicable legal minimum wages, industry standards, or collective bargaining agreements (where applicable) within standard working hours,
- Ensure that workers of all genders and categories, such as migrant and local workers, receive the same remuneration for equal jobs and qualification,
- Implement deductions only under the conditions and to the extent allowed by law or fixed by collective agreement,
- Provide the workers with the social benefits that are legally granted, such as without negative impact on their pay, level of seniority, position, or promotion prospects.



Decent Working Hours