



GoodWeave International Standard-Setting System Report



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<http://goodweave.org/proven-approach/standard/development/>

GoodWeave International – a nonprofit organization founded in 1994 by Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi – is the leading global institution with a mission to end child labor, forced labor, and bonded labor in global supply chains. This report provides an overview of GoodWeave’s certification Standards and highlights the standards development and revision process, and demonstrates compliance with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code.

1. Standard

1.1 Why is it needed

For the past 25 years, GoodWeave has helped to combat child labor in South Asia’s handmade rug industry by certifying child-labor free rugs and providing educational opportunities to rescued and at-risk children. The GoodWeave Generic International Standard for Rug Producers v. 3.0 (Rug Standard) expanded the scope of the certification baseline from solely child labor to also include forced and bonded labor, as well as the transparency required to ensure compliance. The Rug Standard was approved by the GoodWeave Standards Committee in 2016 and published later that year.

In May 2019, the GoodWeave International Generic Standard (New Standard) was approved by GoodWeave’s Standards Committee and [published on the GoodWeave website](#). The New Standard ensures that products are made without child labor, forced labor, or bonded labor across all levels of a supply chain, including the informal sector and in home-based production. While there are a wide range of efforts and standards to eliminate child labor and forced labor and improve working conditions, most do not identify and address the significant worker abuses in subcontracted units, including home-based work, where carpets, home textiles, embellished apparel, and fashion jewelry are often produced. The Standard is designed to avoid duplicating the work of others by focusing on filling gaps in the coverage of existing compliance standards, particularly with informal workers in decentralized and subcontracted units of production.

1.2 Scope

The scope of the Rug Standard applies to all rug-making processes carried out at production sites in a company’s supply chain, including factory, subcontractor, and home-based work. In order to earn the GoodWeave label, carpet producers must meet GoodWeave’s certification standard and agree to independent, unannounced inspections. Since the Rug Standard went into effect in 2016, no revisions have been made to it. More details about the Rug Standard can be found in the GoodWeave Standard Setting System Report, v. 1.1.

In 2017, GoodWeave began the standard development process of determining whether to expand the scope of the Rug Standard to the apparel, home textile, and fashion jewelry sectors, or to develop entirely separate standards for these industries. After testing the Rug Standard’s methodology in the field in these sectors, GoodWeave decided to create an integrated, generic standard – the New Standard -- with targeted certification requirements applicable to all sectors at all the production tiers of the supply chain, from the exporter, subcontractor, and home-based worker levels. Currently, the New Standard only applies to home textiles producers. Starting in May 2020, carpet licensees, who still adhere to the Rug Standard, will also come under the scope of the New Standard and will have up to 12 months to demonstrate full compliance with any new certification requirements.

The New Standard and the Rug Standard are applicable in all countries where GoodWeave operates, which currently includes India and Nepal.

1.3 Sustainability outcomes

Both GoodWeave Standards aim to address key sustainability outcomes, specifically:

- Eliminate child labor, forced labor, and bonded labor in high risk production sectors by ensuring compliance with the Standard and implementing effective and sustainable remediation procedures;
- Provide a coherent and consistent Standard that may be applied across all countries within the scope of the Standard, taking into account different production methods;
- Bring benefits to workers, particularly home-based workers who are often the most vulnerable in the supply chain;
- Facilitate transparent monitoring and verification of working conditions;
- Encourage positive changes in communities by reducing child labor, forced labor, and bonded labor, and increasing children's access to education; and
- Provide an independent assurance through the GoodWeave certification for consumers worldwide that producers meet the Standard.

1.4 Performance level

GoodWeave requires that in order to be certified as compliant with both the Rug Standard and the New Standard, producers must comply with national legislation and regional or sector-specific regulations relevant to the certification principles set out in both standards. Where needed, GoodWeave will work with producers to support those seeking to meet the highest standards required.

1.5 Adaptations

The Rug Standard and the New Standard are applicable in all countries where GoodWeave operates; as a result, there are no national/regional standard adaptations. However, both standards require producers to comply with national legislation and regional or sector-specific regulations on the topics covered by the standards.

2. Standard-Setting and Revision Process

GoodWeave reviews its standards at least every five years, based on good practice guidance from the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code. The GoodWeave International Secretariat manages the process and coordinates input and research from relevant stakeholders, the Standards Committee, and GoodWeave field offices. The [Standard Operating Procedure – Development of GoodWeave Standards](#) describes the standard development process in more detail. The first version of the New Standard was published in May 2019, after three rounds of consultations soliciting feedback from stakeholders over the course of two years.

2.1 Governance

GoodWeave's Standards Committee develops and decides on the content of standards.

GoodWeave's Executive Leadership Team appoints Standards Committee members to represent the key stakeholders for GoodWeave standards, which includes manufacturers, exporters, importers and retailers of carpets, home textiles, apparel and other relevant industries, as well as civil society, NGOs and other independent experts representing child rights, worker rights, and environmental protection. The Standards Committee makes final decisions about a standard's content and reports them to the Executive Leadership Team, which sets the Standards Committee's strategic priorities, provides policy guidance as appropriate, and reviews whether the correct procedures have been followed by the Standards Committee in its decision-making.

The Standards Committee consists of maximum fifteen (15) voting members and at least one (1) non-voting member. The number of voting members should always be uneven. The membership mandate is for a period of 3 years and is renewable.

2.2 Decision-making process

The Standards Committee decides on the content of standards based on the findings from research, consultations and pilot projects. Decisions are made by consensus where possible with a quorum of two-thirds members present, or by majority vote if consensus cannot be achieved. Once the content of a standard has been approved, the Executive Leadership Team decides whether the standard may be adopted based on whether a proper process was followed, and determines the steps necessary for implementation. This decision-making processes is described in more detail in the [Standards Committee Terms of Reference](#).

2.3 Stakeholder categorization and geography

When developing the New Standard, stakeholder interest groups contacted by GoodWeave during the consultation process to provide input included:

- Current and potential GoodWeave licensees
- Key standard setting organizations
- Importers, retailers & brands
- Exporters and producers
- Internal GoodWeave staff, certification and field teams, board members and committee members
- Funders working in the informal sector, production or child labor
- Subject matter experts on the informal sector, production or child labor
- Worker/Labor rights organizations
- Local and national NGOs
- Government organizations
- Workers

As part of the standard development process, all interested parties were invited to participate in at least two rounds of public consultations. During the first round of consultations, key stakeholder groups that

provided significant input included importers, retailers and brands (specifically those from apparel supply chains), internal GoodWeave staff, certification and field members, board members and committees members, governmental organizations, and local and national NGOs. In the second round of consultations, local and international NGOs and potential GoodWeave licensees made up the majority of the responses. The third round of consultations primarily included responses from NGOs and subject matter experts.

2.4 Summary of the revision process

The GoodWeave Standards Committee guides the development and revision of all standards. All comments are received and considered by the Standards Committee before their final approval. This approach ensures a variety of stakeholders are informed, involved, collaborated with, and empowered across the entire standard development process.

Types of mechanisms utilized for outreach to stakeholders during each round of consultations in development of the New Standard included:

- Online, electronic surveys
- Workshops, including one in India with over 45 supply chain actors (producers, brands, exporters), as well as local NGOs working in the informal sector and with child labor. GoodWeave India and Nepal also identified a list of priority stakeholders to contact directly, given many direct users and beneficiaries lack access to email/online communication.
- Email blasts, inviting to participate in an online survey
- GoodWeave newsletter
- Social media (LinkedIn, Facebook)
- Webinar
- Direct outreach and interviews with stakeholders located in North America, Europe, and India
- Internal outreach, including calls and discussions with GoodWeave team members

Throughout the consultation process, underrepresented stakeholder groups, such as workers, worker/labor rights organizations, and local and national NGOs, were solicited for feedback.

2.5 Review and revision process

In addition to public consultations, GoodWeave also engages a broad range of stakeholders on an ongoing basis through the participation of representatives on various committees, local and international boards, as well as ongoing communications and pilot projects. Feedback related to the New Standard, both external and internal, is accepted at any time and collected to inform future standard development. Any interested parties may also submit complaints against the standard or its development process as described in the [Standard Operating Procedure – Complaints and Appeals](#).

References

- A. [GoodWeave International Generic Standard](#)
- B. [Standards Committee Terms of Reference](#)
- C. [Standard Operating Procedure – Development of GoodWeave Standards](#)
- D. [Standard Operating Procedure – Complaints and Appeals](#)

More information about the standard development consultation can be viewed at:
<https://goodweave.org/proven-approach/standard/consultations/goodweave-standard-development-consultation/>.