



GoodWeave International Generic Standard Frequently Asked Questions

Why did GoodWeave develop a new Standard?

In May 2019, GoodWeave launched the new International Generic Standard (GoodWeave Standard) to allow our organization to certify products beyond carpets, such as home textiles and apparel. The GoodWeave Standard also strengthens requirements associated with GoodWeave's principles of no child labor, no forced or bonded labor, and transparent business practices.

Who does the new GoodWeave Standard apply to?

Since May 2019, the new GoodWeave Standard has applied to home textiles and apparel producers. Starting in May 2020, carpet licensees will also be assessed under this Standard.

When will the new GoodWeave Standard apply to carpet licensees and their producers?

As of May 2020, all GoodWeave participants across all sectors (carpets, home textiles, and apparel) will be assessed for compliance with the new GoodWeave Standard and will have up to 12 months from their first audit to demonstrate full compliance with any new requirements.

How is the new GoodWeave Standard different from the Generic Standard for Rug Producers?

The new GoodWeave Standard introduces several key changes, including:

- New and strengthened requirements to ensure that adult workers are not vulnerable to forced and bonded labor, including:
 - Provision of written employment agreements, referencing specific terms and conditions, between employers and all employees, including contractors
 - Prohibition of harsh, inhumane, or inappropriate treatment and creation of an anonymous grievance mechanism
 - Restrictions on the provision of loans and advance payments to workers
 - Criteria for the responsible use of labor brokers in worker recruitment
 - Requirements to ensure young workers are not engaging in hazardous work, including requirement for a risk assessment
 - Restriction on retaliation against workers for providing GoodWeave with information on working conditions
- Clarity on how the criteria applies to all actors in the supply chain, including the expectations for employers of home-based workers as well as the homebased workers themselves.

Will there be increased costs in order to comply with the new GoodWeave Standard?

The cost of GoodWeave certification itself is not increasing despite our increase work portfolio to manage the new GoodWeave Standard. While producers may incur some incremental costs to comply with the Standard, our research shows that any increased costs would be marginal and easily offset by improved management systems, skilled worker retention, and greater productivity. GoodWeave will also provide support and training to licensees and their producers as they make the transition.

How will GoodWeave support existing licensees as they transition to the new GoodWeave Standard?

GoodWeave will offer existing licensees and their producers several resources, including:

- A reference document outlining the key changes to the certification requirements
- A comprehensive Guidance for Users to support compliance with the GoodWeave Standard. Templates and sample documents to support the implementation of the Standard
- A webinar on key changes for producers
- Need-based training for further orientation upon request by exporters and their producers

Who was consulted when the new GoodWeave Standard was developed?

Starting in 2016, GoodWeave began the Standard development process in accordance with the practices defined by [ISEAL Alliance](#). The process was guided by a multi-stakeholder committee consisting of manufacturers, exporters, importers and retailers of carpets, home textiles, and apparel, as well as non-governmental organizations and independent experts. GoodWeave conducted three rounds of public consultation soliciting diverse stakeholder feedback, including importers and retailers, licensees and producers, and government and non-governmental organizations, and consumers and the general public. GoodWeave received input from approximately 50 individuals representing these stakeholders. A review of the Standard will take place initially one year after implementation across all sectors starting May 2020, and then at least every five year thereafter.

Who do contact if I have questions or comments?

Direct any questions or comments to standards@goodweave.org.