

Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI)

Standards convergence? An update
from ITC Standards Map

13 February 2022



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Introduction & background

What is the SCI?

An initiative of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) & the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF)

- Aimed at reducing audit and standard fatigue in the Garment and Footwear Sector

In order to:

- Reduce compliance costs to industry
 - Redirect freed-up resources toward improving working conditions
- While...
- Maintaining quality and integrity of compliance mechanisms

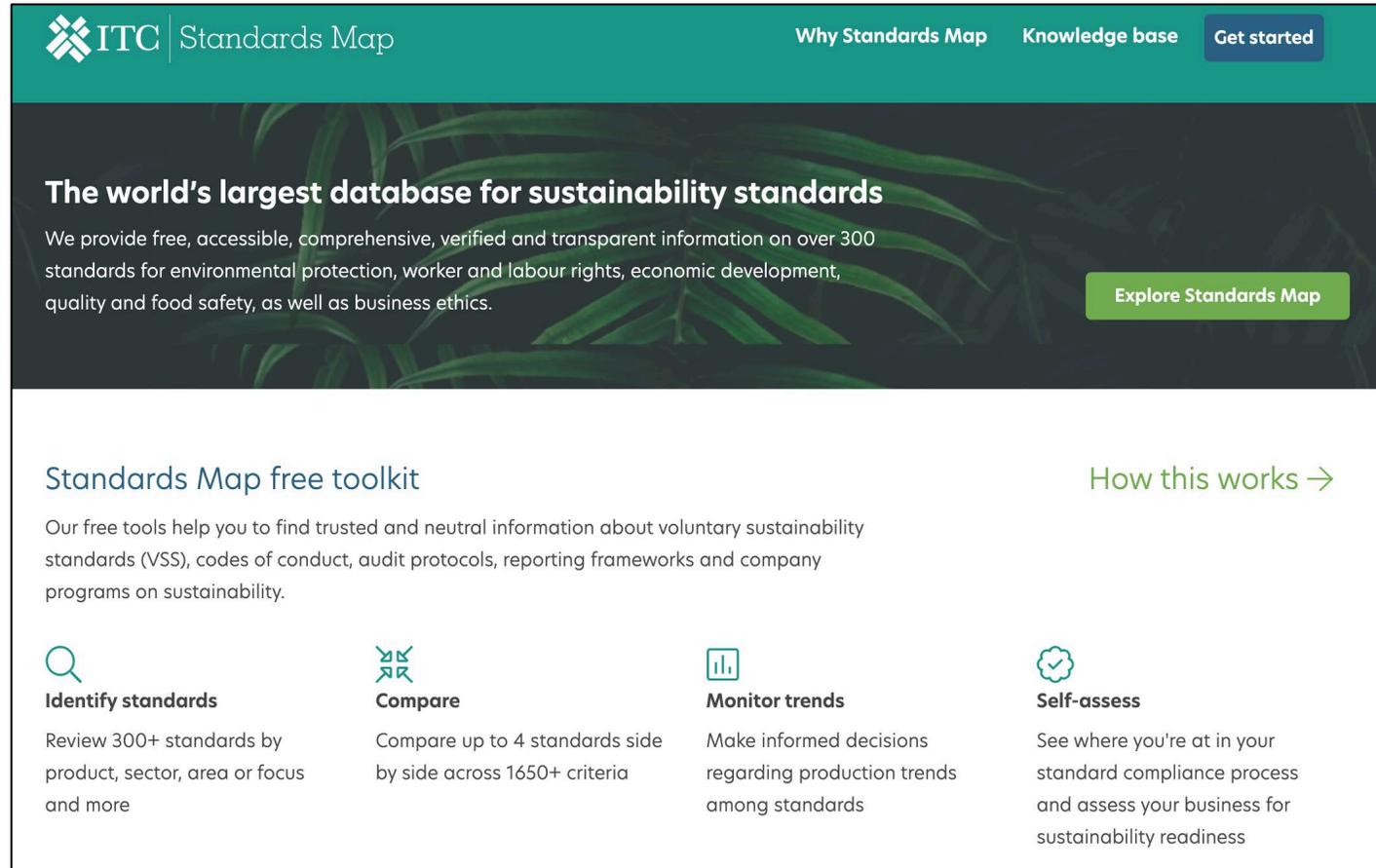
What is the SCI?

- SCI has developed **four principles for assessing a standard level of preparedness for convergence across social requirements**
 - For each principle, **a set of measurable ITC Standards Map criteria that best represent the SCI principles has been selected**
 - Any standard can be assessed against the SCI criteria to determine the level of preparedness of that standard toward convergence
 - **If a standard body addresses most or all the selected criteria, then the standard illustrates a propensity for convergence**
- Principles and associated criteria can be found on SCI website www.standard-convergence-initiative.org



ITC Standards Map

ITC Standards Map



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ITC Standards Map website. The header is teal with the ITC logo and 'Standards Map' text on the left, and navigation links 'Why Standards Map', 'Knowledge base', and a 'Get started' button on the right. The main content area features a dark green background with a leaf pattern. A prominent headline reads 'The world's largest database for sustainability standards', followed by a descriptive paragraph and an 'Explore Standards Map' button. Below this, a section titled 'Standards Map free toolkit' describes the tools available, with a 'How this works →' link. The toolkit is presented in four columns, each with an icon, a title, and a brief description of the tool's function.

ITC Standards Map Why Standards Map Knowledge base [Get started](#)

The world's largest database for sustainability standards

We provide free, accessible, comprehensive, verified and transparent information on over 300 standards for environmental protection, worker and labour rights, economic development, quality and food safety, as well as business ethics.

[Explore Standards Map](#)

Standards Map free toolkit

Our free tools help you to find trusted and neutral information about voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), codes of conduct, audit protocols, reporting frameworks and company programs on sustainability.



Identify standards

Review 300+ standards by product, sector, area or focus and more



Compare

Compare up to 4 standards side by side across 1650+ criteria



Monitor trends

Make informed decisions regarding production trends among standards



Self-assess

See where you're at in your standard compliance process and assess your business for sustainability readiness

[How this works →](#)

<https://www.standardsmap.org/>

Standards Map Criteria: requirements

Environment 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
Social 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
Human Rights 				
Labour rights 				
Local communities 				
Management and Ethics 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
Quality 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes

Social criteria coverage in Standards Map: an example

Social 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
Labour rights 				
Criteria on working conditions overarching principles	Immediate	Major	yes	Excerpt WORKPLACE CODE PROVISION: Employers shall provide a safe and healthy workplac... More Info 
Criteria on existence of publicly available policy defining workers' rights	Immediate	Major	yes	Excerpt ER.1.1 Employers shall have in place written policies and practices and maintain prope... More Info 

Standards Map Criteria: Operational requirements

Overview Requirements How to comply **Governance** Resources

Overview

*The standard owner shows **independence** from its certificate holders. Supply chains actors, NGOs or civil society **do not participate** in the standard's decisions.*

*The standard is revised, through a **private consultation***

Annual report:
Yes

Documents and policies:
Yes

Details

Standard management
Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making

Transparency & Credibility
Click here to know if standard's policies, processes and documents are communicated

Standard Setting
Click here to read about the standard setting process

Overview Requirements How to comply **Governance** Resources

Overview

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Annual report:
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Documents and policies:
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Details

Standard management
Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making

Independence ✓
Is the standard owner economically independent from the certificate holders?

Participation ✓
Can stakeholders participate in the governance of the standard?

Members ✓
Can members participate in the organisation of the standard? (for instance through a General Assembly)

Control ✓
Does the standard owner carry out annual internal audits of its management system and operations?

Employees ✓
Does the standard define publicly the members of its staff, and their responsibilities and roles?

Decision-making ✓
Do the voting procedures of the top decision-making body ensure that there is a balanced representation of



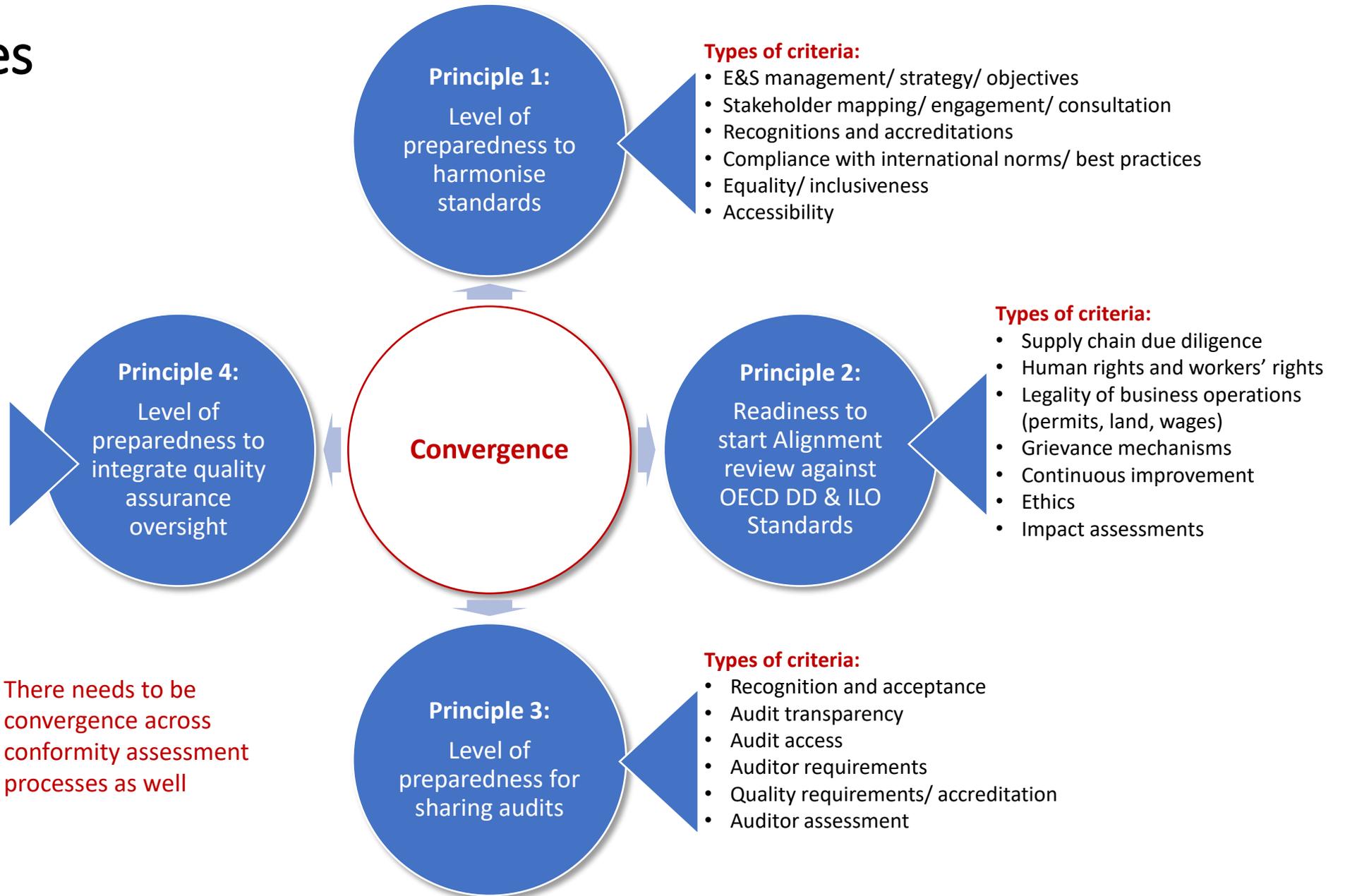
The SCI Principles & Criteria

SCI Principles & Criteria

Types of criteria:

- Accreditation body membership
- International accreditation
- Regional accreditation groups
- Independence of oversight
- Oversight audits
- Oversight complaints and appeals
- Oversight competency/ skills

There needs to be convergence across conformity assessment processes as well





Preliminary findings (Feb. 2022)

Standards' preparedness for convergence: A comparison of 6 standards (February 2022)

Standard	Principle 1 Level of preparedness to harmonise standards	Principle 2 Readiness to start Alignment review against OECD DD & ILO Standards	Principle 3 Level of preparedness for sharing audits	Principle 4 Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight
amfori BSCI	88%	83%	90%	67%
Fair Labor Association (FLA)	52%	58%	70%	60%
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	70%	81%	60%	76%
Made in Green by Oeko-Tex	50%	76%	80%	71%
SA8000	68%	78%	70%	92%
WRAP	89%	72%	70%	76%



Updated analysis (Feb. 2023)

Standards' preparedness for convergence: A comparison of standards (February 2023)

Standard	Principle 1	Principle 2	Principle 3	Principle 4
	Level of preparedness to harmonise standards	Readiness to start alignment review against OECD DD & ILO Standards	Level of preparedness for sharing audits	Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight
amfori BSCI	92%	89%	90%	79%
Fair Labor Association (FLA)	75%	73%	82%	70%
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	80%	81%	71%	82%
Made in Green by Oeko-Tex	79%	85%	90%	83%
SA8000	78%	92%	80%	94%
WRAP	93%	82%	80%	84%
Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability (ICS)	89%	92%	83%	81%
Fair Wear Foundation	77%	88%	87%	81%
Textile Exchange GRS	73%	79%	80%	71%

- Improved by at least 5 % since 2022
- Status quo (no worse nor better by 5%) since 2022
- Worsened by at least 5 % since 2022

Conclusions

- ITC has facilitated the process of assessing standards against SCI principles and criteria
- The comparison informs a standard's level of preparedness for:
 1. Harmonization of standard content
 2. Alignment with existing international standards and guidelines
 3. Sharing audit outcomes
 4. Integration of oversight processes
- Standards assessments show a slight improvement from February 2022 to February 2023 with a higher propensity for convergence

Proposed next steps

1. Stakeholder feedback based on OECD Forum Side Session
2. IAF/ ITMF to address all stakeholders feedback (e.g. potential update of SCI principles and criteria)
3. IAF / ITMF to encourage standards to build on the good efforts and augment their propensity to converge
4. IAF/ ITMF to promote standards illustrating high level of preparedness for convergence
5. Continued dialogue and action toward convergence across standards operating in the textile and garment sector



Thank you!

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