

GoodWeave

Expanding the Standard, Expanding Our Impact

Founded 20 years ago, GoodWeave's mission is to end child labor in the rug industry and replicate its market-based approach in other sectors.

What Is the Expanded Standard?

GoodWeave has always certified carpets against its no child labor Standard. As of January 1st, 2016, the Standard will also include no forced or bonded labor, which means that carpets bearing the GoodWeave label are now certified as free of child labor as well as forced and bonded labor. In addition, the Standard requires the highest level of supply chain transparency, ensuring GoodWeave can verify these conditions. The expanded Standard also features enhanced child labor requirements, especially for young workers (adolescents of legal working age) to ensure they enjoy the protections afforded under the law.

CERTIFICATION PRINCIPLES AND SUMMARY OF PRIMARY REQUIREMENTS

A1: No Child Labor Is Allowed

- Children below the age of 14 are not employed or allowed to work.
- The producer displays notices prominently declaring that they will not allow child labor in the production of carpets.
- Producers verify the age of workers to ensure that no children are employed.
- Processes are in place for remediation where child labor is found.
- There is a register stating the age of young workers under 18 years and the work they do. All legal requirements for young workers are followed.

A2: No Forced or Bonded Labor Is Allowed

- Workers are not forced or otherwise compelled to work.
- Producers have a written or verbal agreement in place with the workers on terms and conditions of employment.
- Workers are not bound to the job through their debt.

A3: Conditions of Work Are Documented and Verifiable

- Producers disclose a fully traceable supply chain for all production processes.
- All production sites are registered with GoodWeave, including individual looms and subcontractors.
- Access is allowed to relevant documentation and personnel during verification visits.

In addition to the Certification Principles above, the Standard includes four Progress Principles which are designed to address a broader set of labor rights and environmental issues, but are not currently required for certification:

- B1) Freedom of association and collective bargaining are recognized;
- B2) No discrimination is practiced;
- B3) Decent working conditions are respected, including workplace safety and health, wages, working hours, and disciplinary practices;
- B4) Negative environmental impacts of production are identified and minimized.

Producers undergo an annual audit against the Progress Principles to help GoodWeave identify areas for capacity building and support. Progress Principles will be elevated to Certification Principles in future Standard revisions as producers demonstrate the ability to meet them.

Why Is GoodWeave Expanding Its Certification Standard?

Ending child labor in supply chains extends beyond prohibiting children from working. Addressing the root causes of child labor such as debt-bondage, trafficking, lack of decent working conditions and low wages must also be part of the solution. By prohibiting forced and bonded labor in GoodWeave-inspected supply chains, the expanded GoodWeave Standard aims to create conditions where adult weavers are better compensated for their work and are thus more likely to send their children to school.

Targeting forced and bonded labor in addition to child labor during routine inspections also adds value to the GoodWeave label, further protecting companies from reputational risks that are increasingly capturing global headlines. This evolution is an important next step in a long-term investment to help create a strong, sustainable and ethical carpet industry that is capable of lifting entire communities out of poverty.

How Did GoodWeave Develop the Expanded Standard?

In accordance with the ISEAL Alliance's Codes of Good Practice, GoodWeave develops and updates its Standard using a rigorously transparent and consultative process. Between 2010 and 2014, the Standards Committee – an impartial and multi-stakeholder group of diverse experts – worked with GoodWeave to develop and refine a working draft of the expanded Standard initially made up of seven principles that would help create a more stable, safe and ethical carpet supply chain. During this time, GoodWeave field teams pilot tested the Standard to determine the feasibility of widespread implementation in Nepal, India and Afghanistan.

By early 2015, the Standards Committee completed revisions based on the results of public consultations and pilots, and officially approved the expanded Standard, which now comprises three Certification Principles and four Progress Principles. The expanded Standard will be in effect from January 1, 2016.

Interested in Learning More?

GoodWeave has an extensive collection of online resources for those interested in learning more about our standards setting and consultations, our Certification Division, which implements our monitoring, inspection and certification program, and the ISEAL Alliance's Codes of Good Practice that guide our standards work. You can also read the full version of our expanded Standard and learn about our social programs that support survivors of child labor and their communities at: <http://www.GoodWeave.org/Standard>.

