Dear valued Business Partner,

With this letter we would like to update you on our social compliance program and what that means for you this year.

We are happy to announce our collaboration with the Social and Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) and the use of its tools and process for gathering data on working conditions in your facility. In this letter, we would like to explain SLCP in a nutshell, our goals & ambitions, and benefits for you (reduction of audits!). We will also update you on how to get started. We encourage you to read this carefully and start your SLCP journey today!

Thank you in advance,

<Brand name>

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**What is SLCP?**

[SLCP](http://www.slconvergence.org/) is an initiative led by the world’s leading manufacturers, brands, retailers, industry groups, inter-governmental organizations, service providers and civil society organizations. Together, these organizations develop the tools, process and system that can be used to measure working conditions in facilities such as your own.

The idea is that everyone can make use of the same set of data, so facilities only have to collect data once – no more duplicative audits! The SLCP Data Collection Tool collects all necessary data for a facility to satisfy all their brand partners’ needs. The Data Collection Tool together with the Verification Protocol and Guidance documents, is called the SLCP Converged Assessment Framework (CAF).

The CAF is used for the following process:

1. The facility conducts a self-assessment and answers the questions in the Data Collection Tool.
2. An external party known as the Verifier Body comes in for an on-site verification and ensures the correctness of the data.
3. The verified set of data is shared by the facility through the SLCP IT system to all its business partners.

Since its launch in 2019, many brands and organizations have publicly committed to accepting SLCP verified data in place of proprietary tools. Apart from <brand name> there are many other buyers also [accepting SLCP](https://slconvergence.org/slcp-data-acceptance). We hope that you will find many of your clients on this [list](https://slconvergence.org/slcp-data-acceptance). That way you will be able to share your SLCP verified assessment with multiple business partners and no longer undergo their individual social audits.

<Brand name> strongly believes in the objectives and future of SLCP. We are committed to supporting sustainable solutions for our suppliers by using industry tools and plan to phase out our proprietary social compliance auditing tool, replacing it with Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) by (x# of years/timeline).

We hope you are as excited as we are to be one of the first adopters of the tool and to be part of this journey together.

**Start your SLCP journey today!**

<Brand name> is preparing to announce the SLCP roll-out plan for the facilities in our supply chain. You can access the general country roll-out schedule on the [Gateway](https://gateway.slconvergence.org/home#rollout). You can start preparing right now:

1. Refresh your memory on how to complete an assessment by reviewing the [step-by-step guidance](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360015188993-Step-by-step-guidance-How-do-I-start-and-complete-the-SLCP-assessment-process-). This includes creating and account on the SLCP IT platforms: the Gateway and an Active Accredited Hosts.
2. Familiarize yourself with the tool by reviewing [resources to prepare you for CAF v1.4](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360018929979-Resources-to-prepare-you-for-the-Converged-Assessment-Framework-Version-1-4). You can also browse the other FAQs available on our [Helpdesk](http://www.slconvergence.org/helpdesk).
3. Get trained! Participate in one of the following trainings:
	1. Sign up for the upcoming training sessions, in which our SLCP team will be providing more information on CAF v1.4. The sessions are available in [English](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Register-English-Sessions), [Chinese](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Register-Chinese-Sessions) and [Turkish](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Register-Turkish-Sessions).
	2. Join an [upcoming training](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360024938214) hosted by an SLCP approved Training Body (TB) or request a 1-on-1 training session by a [qualified TB](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360035052834-Who-are-Training-Bodies-TBs-and-Trainers-and-what-is-their-role-).
4. Use [this letter template](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360012037460-Template-letter-for-facilities-to-communicate-to-buyers) to invite other brand partners to accept SLCP data.

As mentioned, detailed [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us) are available on the SLCP Helpdesk. You can also [submit a request](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/requests/new) if you have a question that is not answered by the FAQs.

In the meantime, if any another brand/customer requests you complete an assessment in CAF v1.4, please let us know (without identifying the brand), as **we will accept the SLCP verified assessment instead of doing our own social/labor audit at your facility**.

**Help from us!**

We can also offer you support and advice during the SLCP verified assessment process. Please contact <brand to fill in their contact info and/ or preferred method of supporting facilities>

Best regards,

<name contact person, name brand>

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<the below section could be inserted in the letter if relevant (e.g. Brand is BW member) >

**Link with Better Work**

Better Work and SLCP have a shared goal to end assessment duplication and produce actionable data that can be available for all industry stakeholders to act upon, including governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations. This will enable:

* Measurement of performance against national labor laws and international labor standards.
* Joint remediation focused on a common and consistent foundation.
* Sharing of trends and gaps for government action or action by other stakeholders.

Based on the above, both organizations have jointly reviewed the CAF Data Collection Tool in 2020. This resulted in an updated version, CAF v1.4. Better Work makes use of the CAF Data Collection Tool for their program, enabling Better Work facilities to share the data with other business partners via SLCP.

As a facility:

* If you are not enrolled in the Better Work program you may start your assessment on the Gateway or through an Accredited host.
* If you are in the Better Work program, there are no changes to the assessment process.

For more details, please check this page on the [SLCP Helpdesk](https://slcp.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/360003083319-ILO-Better-Work).