

17 December 2013

Target Australia unveils new plans to boost factory conditions and sourcing transparency

Target Australia has initiated a series of activities to further improve working conditions and building safety in its supplier factories globally.

Target has committed to publishing a list of its supplier factories on its website, with details of its Bangladesh factory partners to be published within six to nine months, and factories in other countries to follow. Target is also currently reviewing and strengthening its Ethical Sourcing Code to reflect its ongoing commitment to lift standards in its sourcing factories around the world.

Target has also joined Impactt's Benefits for Business and Workers Program, which works with factories in developing countries to make business improvements that ultimately lead to better training, conditions and pay rates for factory workers.

Managing Director Stuart Machin said that Target Australia was committed to a program of continual improvement in its ethical sourcing program, and to working with its factory partners to improve conditions for factory workers.

"Our partnership with Impactt's Benefits for Business and Workers program will help make a real difference to factory worker skills, training and pay rates," Mr Machin said.

"At Target, we believe that our presence in Bangladesh and other developing countries can be a catalyst for improving the lives of thousands of workers," Mr Machin said.

"We want our customers to be confident that the products they buy from us have been produced in safe, fair and equitable working conditions," Mr Machin said.

"Over the past six months, we have conducted hundreds of factory audits to ensure workers are being treated properly, and that their working conditions are safe and secure.

"Over this time, our business has been particularly focused on our Bangladesh factory suppliers. While only about five per cent of our store range is sourced from Bangladesh, the factory tragedies of the past 12 months have reinforced the need for retailers operating in that country to ensure they play an active role in improving working conditions and safety standards.

"All our Bangladesh factory partners have been audited to ensure they meet our fire and safety standards, and we are currently conducting detailed structural audits of key factories.

"We're also in the process of putting our own people on the ground in Bangladesh to work collaboratively with our factory partners on compliance and continuous improvement initiatives."

Mr Machin said that Target was proud to be one of the first Australian retailers to sign the Bangladesh Fire and Safety Accord.

"These latest initiatives are the next logical steps in our journey to building a world-class, transparent and ethically-driven sourcing program," Mr Machin said.

Further information,

Jim Cooper
General Manager Corporate Affairs
Ph (03) 5246 2546
Mob 0438 588 619