Sustainably Grown Standard, V2.0:  
Revision and Stakeholder Review Process Overview

Introduction

SCS initiated a process to update the Sustainably Grown Standard, leading to the development of the Draft Standard Version 2.0. The objectives of the revision are to incorporate the latest best practices in responsible agricultural production, foster continuous improvement, and align with other industry-level initiatives related to sustainable agriculture and social responsibility.

SCS built on key areas of strength in Sustainably Grown Version 1.3, and used the following as primary references for the content development of the revised Standard:

• The American National Standard for Sustainable Agriculture (ANSI/Leo-4000), the first ANSI-accredited national standard for sustainable agriculture, published in November 2015; and

• The Global Social Compliance Programme (GSCP), a widely accepted global platform for responsible working conditions in supply chains.

In addition, a critical aspect of the revision process involves public consultation through a transparent process in alignment with SCS Procedure 13: Standards Development and Modification and ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards.

Standard Revision and Stakeholder Review Process: January to August 2016

Step 1: SCS committee meets to develop recommendations for revisions to the Draft Standard V2.0.

Step 2: SCS solicits and receives feedback from stakeholders on proposed revisions during 60-day public consultation.

Step 3: SCS committee analyzes input received during public consultation and incorporates feedback from pilot audits.

Step 4: As necessary based on feedback during Step 2 and changes made in Step 3, SCS solicits and receives comments from stakeholders during a 30-day period.

Step 5: SCS publishes Version 2.0 of the Sustainably Grown Standard and communicates implementation plan to stakeholders.
Stakeholder Review Details

SCS approaches diverse stakeholders in the supply chain, including producers, retailers, industry partners, NGOs and other groups interested in sustainable agriculture. The formats of communication are an online comments form, a summary overview of Draft Standard V2.0, and phone calls or face-to-face meetings as needed. All of the stakeholder review materials are available on the SCS website.

- Stakeholders completing the online comment form can attach their specific comments in a variety of uploadable file formats.
- SCS provides slide deck that provides an overview of changes between V1.3 and the Draft Standard V2.0, including scope, framework, conformance levels, and content.

Once the consultation process is complete, SCS will collect, sort and process all comments through a systematic review process. SCS prepares a summary of comments, responses, and revisions; this summary is made publicly available.

How to participate

Stakeholder feedback is a critical step in the revision process to ensure a robust Standard V2.0. SCS invites comments from the general public and interested stakeholders. To access documents pertaining to participation in public consultation, please visit SCS’ Stakeholder Review of SCS Standards webpage: https://www.scsglobalservices.com/stakeholder-review-of-scs-standards.