

Review – Progress Update, January 2018

The IGEP standard ISES 2000 / 2020 has been started with major emphasis on excluding child labour and bonded labour, following the regulations about proper payment (in cash and at least corresponding to the official regulations of minimum wages) and sticking to the maximum working times including regulations for overtime and work on Sundays and official holidays. Based on the experience of the audits strictly carried out without prior announcements questions and indicators have been adjusted / changed after discussions with the stakeholders and additional social and environmental aspects were included. This has been done always within 5 years periods. Following the GiZ requirement to do a comprehensive review every 4 years, this period was taken over.

The latest Standard Review process started in October 2017, in line with the 4-year review cycle. A dedicated multi-stakeholder review group was established in October 2017. Under the oversight of a multi-stakeholder Steering Group (SG), they were tasked with the review of the standard.

To date, the review group has had four physical meetings, with an initial focus on reviewing the content of the standard. A first draft was presented for a 60-day public consultation in October/November 2017. Comments from the public were collected online and in physical consultation workshops, together reaching more than 1000 stakeholders.

The review group analyzed and discussed the comments received from the public one-by-one and incorporated them into the next draft of the standard, where appropriate and based on the result of the discussion. Draft 2 of the standard was then agreed by the review group in February 2018.

In September 2017 the Board of IGEP approved the further analysis of the current standard and a recommendation to revise the structure of the ISES 2020 and further streamline the requirements with a view of achieving an outcome-based standard. This is also in line with comments received during the public consultation calling for a simplification of the standard. The review group will furthermore explore which elements of the standard may be appropriate to help establish shared responsibility across the industry, as this is one of the key backbones of the standard.

This substantial additional work, particularly the necessary restructure of the standard in order to align with the international and local laws, has meant an adjustment of the standard review process and timeline to allow for one more review group meetings. Therefore, the date for the second round of public consultation has also been adjusted and is now expected to be in February 2018, again both online and with physical consultation workshops to present the next draft of the standard in its new structure. Despite the addition of further review group meetings, the overall target to have the new standard presented to the General Assembly in June 2018 is still being maintained.