

# The Importance of Social Standards in the Textile Sector

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## Abstract

In today's globalization process, the textile industry is considered one of the most important sectors not only economically, but also socially. This sector provides employment to millions of people and serves as one of the factors shaping their living standards. Therefore, compliance with social standards in this sector is of great importance not only as a factor in ensuring human rights, but also as a factor in ensuring the stability of the entire industry.

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**Introduction.** Today, one of the most labor-intensive sectors in world industry is the **textile industry**. It is not only economically important, but also has significant **social responsibility**. **In particular, the majority of workers in this sector are women, young workers, and groups in need of social protection. Therefore, compliance with social standards in the textile sector** is one of the most pressing issues today. Social standards are general principles that define human rights, safe working conditions, fair wages, equality, and other social norms related to labor. They are developed by international organizations (ILO - International Labor Organization, UN, etc.) and are widely used in manufacturing industries, in particular in textiles.

Textiles are a labor-intensive industry that typically employs women and people from lower social classes. This exposes them to problems such as labor exploitation, unfair wages, unsafe conditions, and discrimination. Social standards serve to prevent these negative situations and create a humane and fair work environment.

Main directions of social standards in textiles

## 1. Fair and humane working conditions

Social standards create safe, healthy working conditions for employees. Workers are protected from harmful substances, dust, noise, and other negative factors.

## 2. Protection of labor rights

The basic rights of workers - working hours, rest, employment contracts, and union membership - are protected. In particular, the prohibition of child labor is an important requirement of social standards.

### 3. Support for women and vulnerable groups

Since the textile industry employs a large number of women, the principles of gender equality, maternity protection, and non-discrimination are very important. The rights of vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities and migrants are also protected through social standards.

### 4. Fair wages and social security

Social standards introduce a wage system that allows workers to earn a living wage. This not only improves the quality of life of the worker, but also increases motivation in production.

## Reasons for urgency

### 1. Ending labor exploitation

In textile factories, workers' labor rights are often violated. There are cases of low wages, harsh working conditions, lack of labor contracts, and violations of working hours. Social standards serve to identify these problems and systematically eliminate them.

### 2. The problem of child labor and forced labor

Child labor is prevalent in many developing countries. This poses a serious risk to international brands and partners. Social standards play an important role in preventing child exploitation.

### 3. Increasing competitiveness in international trade

Today's global market demands are not only focused on product quality, but also **on the compliance of the production process with ethical criteria**. Businesses that adhere to social standards:

- a) Cooperates with large international companies,
- b) Expands export opportunities,
- c) Improves brand image.

### 4. Women's rights and gender equality

Since women's labor is predominant in the textile sector, it is important to protect their rights and protect them from discrimination and violence in the workplace. Through social standards, attitudes towards women's labor will change in a positive direction.

### 5. Sustainable development and social stability

Social standards lead to healthy labor relations and the formation of a positive environment between employees and employers, which creates the basis for the long-term sustainable operation of enterprises.

Sedex is a global organisation that promotes responsible and ethical business practices in supply chains. It is a social compliance initiative developed by non-governmental organisations, trade associations and member companies in the UK. The development of this initiative aims to ensure that the working conditions of workers employed by companies manufacturing in the UK market comply with international labour standards, which has led to a rapid globalisation of social life.

Companies in the supply chain join Sedex, participate in working groups, participate in joint decisions, use a common database and connect with other members. The documents used by Sedex are being accepted as good practices that can be used as models for companies.

## Conclusion

Adherence to social standards in the textile sector is not simply a matter of preventing violations, but also a factor paving the way for the socio-economic sustainability of the entire industry. Through this:

Workers' rights are protected;

The principles of humanity and equality will prevail in the industry;

Product quality and company reputation are positively affected.

Therefore, social standards are not only a sign of social responsibility, but also a guarantee of modern and sustainable development of the textile industry.

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