

Audit Collaboration

We accept the audits of several leading industry programs as a substitute for audits otherwise conducted by third-party auditors on behalf of Responsible Sourcing. The following audit programs are approved and in use as of September 2015:

International Council of Toy Industries (ICTI) CARE Program

The ICTI CARE (Caring, Awareness, Responsible, and Ethical) Process is the international toy industry's ethical manufacturing program. ICTI CARE seeks to promote safe and humane workplace environments for toy factory workers worldwide by requiring fair labor treatment and employee health and safety.

Responsible Sourcing accepts ICTI CARE audit reports and certification seals in place of Responsible Sourcing audits. ICTI ratings that Walmart considers to be acceptable to maintain an Active factory status are ICTI-Approved or ICTI-Probation.

Walmart allows suppliers the flexibility to choose between a Responsible Sourcing or ICTI audit. Once a factory elects an audit program, the factory will not be eligible switch back for a period of 3 years. This policy is designed to allow time for the chosen audit system's remediation measures to become effective, instead of allowing the facility to switch audit systems to avoid remediation or consequences. Facilities that have an ICTI Unapproved status must wait a minimum of 6 months to request a Responsible Sourcing audit.

Suppliers bear all costs related to ICTI Audits and maintaining their Seal of Compliance. Walmart still reserves the right to conduct an announced or unannounced Responsible Sourcing audit at any time.

International Labor Organization (ILO) Better Work Program

The ILO Better Work program is focused on garments, the value-added processes related to garments and shoe manufacturing facilities. Walmart works with the Better Work program in several countries. The Better Work program is a subscription program which requires a yearly fee for access to the audit reports. Better Work audit reports are assessed with program-specific ratings so that Responsible Sourcing can monitor and track progress separately from facilities undergoing the standard Responsible Sourcing audit program.

Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA)

Walmart will accept a SMETA audit for an Initial-New or Initial-Reactivation audit for non-Walmart Global Sourcing/Direct Sourcing Group facilities in the United Kingdom (UK) retail market only, if the audit was performed within 6 months of the submission date. All subsequent audits must be administrated and assessed by Responsible Sourcing, and must follow the SMETA-Walmart combination audit protocols.

Brazilian Association of Textile Retail (ABVTEX)

Walmart will accept audits conducted under the Brazilian Association of Textile Retail (ABVTEX) program. This substitution will be accepted only for Suppliers and facilities located in Brazil (whether direct import, domestic import or domestic) and supplying for the commercial clothing, household textiles (bed, table, and bath), bags, fashion accessories and shoe departments. Audit results submitted under this substitution policy must be submitted once a year, and all audit reports should be less than 12 months old.

The Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety (Alliance)

Walmart is a member of the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety. The Alliance is a binding five-year undertaking to improve the safety in ready-made garment factories in Bangladesh. As of September 2015, Responsible Sourcing allows the Alliance to conduct fire safety, structural safety, and electrical safety audits in Bangladesh on Walmart's behalf. Separately, social audits are arranged by Walmart at Bangladesh facilities within the scope of the Responsible Sourcing audit program.

For more information on Responsible Sourcing's involvement with the Alliance, [click here](#).

Safe Quality Food (SQF)

Walmart partners with SQF for audits of participating food production facilities in the U.S. SQF aims to consolidate multiple retailers' audit requirements to reduce audit fatigue and overall supply chain costs. Walmart accepts SQF audits in place of Responsible Sourcing audits, and the SQF program is recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI).