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Friday April 24, 2009

Introduction

The past 12 months have been great for the FFC and we think it is important to tell our members and the rest of the community what we have accomplished and what we are working on for the future. We genuinely appreciate your continued support and always welcome your feedback.

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Organizational Highlights

- The FFC revisited its mission and vision, with broad input from staff, our members and our stakeholders. **New vision and mission statements** were adopted by the Board, and are available on our website at fairfactories.org/what-we-do/
- Our first ever **membership drive was a success** and we happily welcomed new company members including: ASICS Europe, Burberry, Dress Barn, and Wal-Mart
- We **expanded membership categories** to include membership for universities, non-profit organizations and suppliers.
- We **pilot tested new membership model** for each category: University of Southern California, the Fair Labor Association and TAL Group, which was a success and look forward to moving towards a new membership model that is inclusive of all supply chain actors.
- We **received a research grant** from the Levis Strauss Foundation, to develop an action-oriented business plan to answer the question: What technology tools can get industry working together to share information on their factory audits and to collaborate on improving conditions, such that economies of scale and efficiencies ultimately lead to easier/better monitoring and improved factory conditions? We are still working on this project and look forward to seeing the results this year.
- **Member-driven working groups were launched** to share tools, discuss best practices and find practical solutions to workplace improvement challenges. The Tools Committee is currently working with the FFC to develop "best-in-class" audit and CAP tool templates for the FFC software for member's collective use. The Collaboration Committee is working with the FFC to

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Also This Month

Continued Technology & Collaboration Research

Please participate, if you have not yet done so, in a short survey to tell us about your current collaboration practices and future aspirations, as well as your perceptions on drivers and/or barriers to sharing & collaboration. We will also ask you what you think about a few technology tools we think might facilitate current and future collaboration. Your input is invaluable!

Please take the survey:
www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx

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enable information sharing among members, and to identify changes to the FFC Sharing Platform that will further enable current and future collaboration initiatives.

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Software Releases & Updates

The FFC development team has been working very hard to continually give members an enhanced platform, improved features and a more user-friendly interface. Some of the past year's highlights include:

- **Sharing platform** that allows members to easily identify opportunities for collaboration, send messages to initiate contact, access shared compliance documentation and share audits or CAPs with other members, anonymously or not
- **Factory overlap reporting tool** that allows members to quickly determine which factory has other active FFC members and shared compliance documents
- **User bulk import of suppliers and audits**, putting control in member's hands and allowing them to maintain control with external databases
- **Online help desk tool** that allows members to know that their support request is being correctly logged, assigned and actioned within a specialized computerized system. Moreover, personal history is recorded for future reference so that trends and trouble areas can be quickly identified and addressed.
- **Audit Calendar enhancements** including the request, scheduling and deployment of audits
- **Offline module** so auditors can create and edit audit and CAP records in the system without being connected to the Internet
- **Contact management tool** to allow members to maintain unlimited shared and private contacts for members, suppliers and organizations in the system
- **Dynamic user roles and security**, so members can create their own custom system roles and assign user security rights to system functionality and audit records
- Other minor enhancements to audit functionality, code provisions, sourcing solutions, key word search, supplier merge, reporting filters and fields, and overall usability, including audit printing and exporting

FFC Software Statistics*	
Factories	21280
Intermediaries (Licensees, Agents, Vendors)	4810
Users	3028
Countries	127
Audits	38034
Self Assessments	10090
Compliance Documents Total (Audits + Self Assessments)	48124
Audits (last 12 months)	9126
Self Assessments (last 12 months)	3352
Compliance Documents (last 12 months)	12478
Factories with Audits	11460
Factories with Self Assessments	8484
Factories with Audits (%)	53.85
Factories with Self Assessments (%)	39.87
Factories with Compliance Documents (%)	93.72
Factories Shared by More Than One Member	1917
Compliance Documents Stored on Shared Factories	8162
Shared Documents (Sharing Platform)	1156

* Valid as of January 15, 2009

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What's Coming Down the Pike in 2009

We will continue to build on the momentum from refining our mission and vision and have several projects and strategy sessions planned. The FFC will also:

- Focus on growing our membership
- Pilot test a new partnership membership model, where all supply chain actors can become members of the FFC for a small fee, contributing to the collective whole
- Continue with our research project on the role of technology in compliance collaboration, including expanded stakeholder engagement
- Work with like-minded institutions to address critical issues in compliance, such audit quality transparency
- Release a case study on the drivers, barriers and benefits of compliance and collaboration
- Launch full dynamic user role capability
- Launch new best in class audit tools based on best practices for members collective use and fully customized audit questionnaire templates
- Launch the next release of our sharing platform, further enabling current and future collaborative activity in compliance

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