



November 3, 2008

**FAIR FACTORIES CLEARINGHOUSE ANNOUNCES
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TO RESPOND TO COMPANY NEEDS:**

A NEW WAY TO SAVE COSTS & MAXIMIZE COLLABORATION IN COMPLIANCE

New York, NY, November 3, 2008 – The Fair Factories Clearinghouse (FFC) launched a new membership drive today—with up to 35% savings—in response to industry requests to maximize collaborative and cost-saving opportunities in compliance.

“In today's economic times, companies are seeking ways to reduce costs, while increasing the effectiveness of their ethical sourcing initiatives,” said Marianne Voss, the FFC’s Executive Director, and the FFC can help.”

Launched in 2004, the FFC is a non-profit organization and membership community of businesses dedicated to supporting factory compliance through the sharing of factory audit information. “Together we achieve more cost-effective, well-informed, ethical business transactions—and improved global workplaces,” said Voss. “We bring companies together to foster efficient and humane workplaces.”

The FFC provides its member companies with a web-based audit management system that allows members to manage their factory compliance programs. The Sharing Platform allows members to share non-competitive factory compliance information, such as audits, and coordinate on remediation efforts, thereby reducing unnecessary duplication. One of the unique features of the Sharing Platform allows companies that have their own compliance systems to connect with the FFC’s database and participate in sharing activities.

Join a community of companies exploring the potential for large-scale collaboration.

Starbucks, Reebok, Levi’s, The adidas group, Patagonia and LL Bean are already FFC members and software partners for responsible international workplaces.

Companies that sign-up by the end of 2008 receive up to 35% in savings on membership dues, joining for as little as \$4,000 and as much as \$17,500. We also encourage companies with similar supply chains to sign up in groups, receiving an extra 15% off, to maximize benefits of collaboration. By leveraging this offer, ROI is achieved upon collaborating on just a few audits or corrective action plans (CAPs).

“Facilitating collaboration to improve factory conditions is a fundamental goal of the FFC,” said Ms. Voss. “Since the launch of our Sharing Platform seven months ago, we identified 1,800 shared factories across our current members, with 5,987 compliance documents stored in the system. Some factories were audited as much as 35 times, and some not at all. This provides a world of opportunity, that could result in millions in collective cost savings to our members.”

Looking ahead, Ms. Voss said, “This experience demonstrates the opportunity of collaboration. Our members could now eliminate 4,157 duplicate audits next year. They can expand their monitoring coverage. They can pool expertise, identify common needs, prioritize them and work together with increased leverage on a single corrective action plan. They can reduce factory costs that result in increased product costs. In today’s business climate, I am proud to offer a unique solution that can help our members reduce workload and costs, while enhancing their performance. With this membership drive, we seek to grow our community, and expand our ability to maximize financial and operational efficiencies, to free up resources for improving factory workplace conditions across the world.”

The FFC's rapidly growing database currently contains over 19,000 factory records, with compliance data stored on 97% percent of factories in the system, including over 43,000 compliance documents. Our membership categories have expanded to include brands, manufacturers, non-profit organizations, universities, retailers, and factories.

Members are needed to scale up collaborative opportunities. Harnessing these learnings deserves our attention. The more we share (anonymously or not) the less waste and greater effectiveness industry will witness in protecting the rights of workers who make its products. Everyone is encouraged to join.

There's no limit to the positive impact that can be created when a group of people—in this case, our fellow FFC members—are united around a common goal. Our collective efforts to improve workplaces and communities will be better and stronger through the FFC.

For more information, see: www.fairfactories.org, or contact:

Marianne Voss
Executive Director
Fair Factories Clearinghouse
+ 888-332-6461
information@fairfactories.org