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SOCIAL & LABOR CONVERGENCE

SLCP Communication Guide

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Introduction

This guide has been developed to support SLCP signatory brands to communicate about SLCP. This guide may be useful to you if you are responsible for leading SLCP implementation across your brand; or if you are responsible for implementing SLCP within a specific team or geographic location. This guide can help you communicate successfully about SLCP with your:

- Colleagues and field teams
- Leadership team
- Suppliers
- Customers
- Other brands/ retailers

This guide was last updated on **25 September 2020**. The most recent version of the guide can always be downloaded by SLCP signatories from the Connect platform. If you have any feedback on this guide, please contact info@slconvergence.org.

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Communicating about SLCP within your Brand: Colleagues & Field Teams

Intro to SLCP: Onboarding your Colleagues

Is SLCP completely new to some of your colleagues? Here are some suggestions of steps to take to help them understand the program:

- Send them the latest SLCP Info Pack
- Recommend they sign up for an Intro to SLCP webinar
- Suggest they sign up for SLCP newsflashes (email info@slconvergence.org to sign up & add this email to your contacts)
- Field teams might also find it helpful to sign up for the bi-weekly email newsletter that SLCP sends directly to facilities
- Signpost them to the SLCP e-learning
- Explore training available from SLCP Training Bodies
- Signpost them to the brand FAQs on the SLCP Helpdesk
- Hold a meeting to discuss SLCP: prepare yourself by reading the SLCP FAQs and the benefits of SLCP sections
- Allow colleagues to provide feedback/ ask questions about SLCP: address any concerns or fears raised (see addressing concerns & myth-busting section)
- Share your brand's commitment to SLCP and details of your implementation plan (see section on brand commitment & implementation)

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SLCP Basics: SLCP in a Nutshell - FAQs

Below is a list of basic FAQs about SLCP – you can share these with colleagues or use them as talking points during meetings and discussions.

1. **What is SLCP?**

SLCP – the Social and Labor Convergence Program – is a multi-stakeholder initiative that was established to tackle the issue of audit fatigue in the apparel & footwear sector. SLCP has developed and is now implementing a Converged Assessment Framework (CAF), designed to replace all proprietary social audit programs with one single assessment to collect and verify social and labor data. By eliminating duplicative social audits, SLCP can help users to free-up resources currently spent on auditing, so that they can be redirected to improving working conditions.

2. **What are the aims of SLCP?**

SLCP aims to eliminate duplicative and repetitive social audits through implementation of the Converged Assessment Framework. The program has four specific aims to achieve by 2023:

- **Industry adoption:** 25,000 verified assessments per year by 2023.
- **Resources unlocked:** potential to create annual audit savings of $134m by 2023, that can be redirected to improvement actions.
- **Data access and comparability:** SLCP will be the number one source of trusted, comparable verified social and labor data in the apparel and footwear supply chain.
- **Financial resilience:** SLCP will be fully self-sustaining through earned income.

3. **Why is SLCP needed?**

Most stakeholders in our industry now agree: while the current compliance-focused approach to auditing has played a significant role in improving social and labor conditions over the past two decades, it has also led to a proliferation of different standards, codes and protocols, and in turn to a proliferation of audits. We all recognize that audits alone do not create systemic change. We have much further to go to create sustainable remediation. SLCP's Converged Assessment Framework will free up resources currently tied up in auditing and promote collaboration that will make tangible and lasting improvements to working conditions and workers' lives.

4. **Who is involved in SLCP?**

SLCP has over 200 signatories in the apparel and footwear sector. This includes over 50 leading brands and nearly 40 manufacturers, as well as a range of other stakeholders including audit firms, civil society groups, industry associations and many more. A full list of signatories is available on the SLCP website as is a list of all the brands, retailers and standard holders that currently accept SLCP. SLCP is owned by its signatories and the Converged Assessment

Framework has been developed collectively, by and for the signatories. SLCP signatories have committed to the Signatory Charter, which includes a commitment to redirect any savings made through implementation of the Converged Assessment Framework to improving working conditions.

5. How does SLCP's Converged Assessment Framework work?

The Converged Assessment Framework includes a Data Collection Tool, a Verification Protocol and Verifier Guidance. Facilities complete the questions in the Data Collection Tool through a self-assessment (on their own) or a joint-assessment (with external support). This FAQ explains the type of data that is collected via the Data Collection Tool. An SLCP approved Verifier then verifies every answer provided by the facility in the self-assessment and provides corrected answers where necessary. The Verifier does not pass judgement on the data – they do not conclude if the data is good or bad, or if the facility has passed or failed. The outcome of the verification process is a high-quality verified standard agnostic data set. SLCP works with a Verification Oversight Organization which oversees the quality and integrity of the verification process and conducts a series of quality assurance activities. SLCP enables the facility to share their verified data set via the SLCP Gateway and a network of Accredited Host platforms. The facility selects an Accredited Host platform to use for the assessment and verification process. Brands/ other stakeholders select which Accredited Host platform they want to use to access the verified data. The Accredited Hosts all provide additional services to help brands and other stakeholders use the data (e.g. scoring/ mapping to a Code of Conduct/ identifying issues to build a remediation plan).

6. When did SLCP launch and where is it operating?

SLCP signatories developed the Converged Assessment Framework between end 2015 and the middle of 2018. The process involved several prototypes, pilots and consultations. At the end of 2018, SLCP ran a Light Operation in China and Sri Lanka to pressure test the full SLCP system. The Converged Assessment Framework was then updated to integrate the learnings and feedback received during Light Ops. SLCP officially relaunched in June 2019, at first in China & Taiwan, Sri Lanka and India. By the end of 2019, SLCP had rolled out to twelve countries. As of September 2020, SLCP is active in over 30 countries/regions worldwide. Roll-out will continue in 2021. Visit the SLCP Gateway for a full list of countries/regions where SLCP is available.

7. Does SLCP provide certification?

SLCP is not a standard and does not provide certification. The Converged Assessment Framework is used to collect and verify social and labor data from facilities. The result is a verified data set without any scoring/ ranking which is compatible with existing standards. Brands and other stakeholders are able to apply their own scores or Code of Conduct to the SLCP verified data. The Accredited Hosts provide services to help brands use the SLCP verified data, such as scoring, mapping to a Code of Conduct, or identifying issues to build a corrective action plan.

8. Does SLCP include remediation/ follow-up with the factory?

Remediation is not included in SLCP's Converged Assessment Framework. However, the Accredited Hosts provide services to help brands and other stakeholders make use of SLCP verified data and, in many cases, this can include support to build a corrective action plan and follow-up with the facility. For more information about the services of the Accredited Hosts, visit the SLCP website.

Benefits of SLCP

It is important that your colleagues and teams understand how SLCP can benefit your company and be of benefit to your supply chain partners. You can share an infographic of some of the major benefits of SLCP with your colleagues or use the points listed below in meetings or discussions. You might also wish to add to this list any benefits that are specifically relevant to your company (see section on brand commitment & implementation).

- **Efficiency:** reduction in time and money spent on audits; reduction in audit fatigue
- **Comprehensive tool:** SLCP covers all the data points / questions collected in nearly all other assessments & audit schemes
- **Enabling comparability:** SLCP provides common and comparable data – a first in the industry
- **Multi-stakeholder:** SLCP has been developed collaboratively by brands, manufacturers and other stakeholders
- **Credibility:** high quality, reliable verified social & labor data
- **Flexibility:** brands can score the data according to their own code of conduct
- **Facility ownership**: facilities own their data & control how it is shared

Brand Commitment and Implementation Plan

Each SLCP signatory has their own approach to implementing SLCP within their company and within their supply chain. While SLCP can provide information about the SLCP assessment process and systems, you will need to provide context to your teams by sharing with them details of your company's implementation strategy. To help you do this, here is a list of questions to answer so you can share the information with your colleagues. You may need to consult internally to define your company's answers to these questions.

1. Why are we implementing SLCP? What is the specific benefit for our company and how does it fit into our wider strategy/ethos?
2. What is our overall SLCP implementation vision/ goal (e.g. full SLCP implementation by 2023?)
3. What at the details of our SLCP implementation plan? (timeline, countries, tiers, communication to suppliers)
4. Who will be involved in SLCP implementation within our company? What will their roles be?
5. Do we plan to collaborate with other brands on SLCP implementation and what is our strategy for doing this?
6. How will we use the SLCP verified data (which Accredited Host, which services, how will data be integrated into existing systems?)
7. How will we measure success?
8. How will we track & redeploy savings made through SLCP implementation?

Addressing Brand Concerns & Myth Busting

Your colleagues may raise concerns or fears about SLCP. Some of these might be specifically about SLCP implementation at your company – e.g. what will happen to the in-house audit team if you phase out your proprietary audit and replace it with SLCP? You might want to think about how to address these concerns if and when they come up. The table below addresses some of the possible misconceptions that might exist about SLCP as well as information to help address common concerns.

Myth/ Concern	Truth about SLCP
Myth: SLCP is only applicable for big brands/ retailers and/ or big manufacturers	• SLCP signatories include big and small brands & manufacturers. SLCP is applicable, relevant and useful to companies of all sizes. • SLCP may be of particular interest and benefit to small brands that do not have the resources to implement their own proprietary audit system. • The number of recommended verification days is tailored to the size of a facility, so a smaller facility will require less verification days. • In 2020 SLCP has reviewed the Converged Assessment Framework (CAF) with a view to making it more streamlined and more in line with the needs of stakeholders. CAF v1.4 which will launch in February 2021 will increase applicability for SMEs.
Myth: SLCP is only used by American brands	• Leading adopters of SLCP include many European brands • SLCP is relevant, applicable and useful to brands globally
Myth: SLCP is a self-assessment only tool	• Verification is an essential step in the SLCP assessment process • Every single SLCP assessment goes through a verification process and this always includes an on-site visit by SLCP approved Verifiers
We've seen this all before. There have been previous attempts at audit convergence, and they haven't worked. Why is SLCP different?	There are key differences between SLCP and previous initiatives: • SLCP has been developed using a truly collaborative & multi-stakeholder approach where there is consensus among and buy-in from different stakeholder groups • SLCP doesn't impose a standard – it offers a verified data set that can be used flexibly by brands and other stakeholders. This allows brands to still apply their own proprietary code of conduct and make their own conclusions about the data. • SLCP signatory charter prescribes transition towards the Converged Assessment Framework. Significant progress has already been made and many organizations are adapting their internal

	systems to make the shift to SLCP. SLCP recently launched a list of all of the brands that already accept SLCP verified data instead of requesting their own audit. • SLCP's unique model of hosting & sharing verified data maximizes the choices available to manufacturers and brands, allowing them to work with the platform of their choice. • SLCP works with credible and trusted UN partners on this model, such as ITC and ILO-Better Work.
SLCP has no scoring, so how can we make use of the data?	• SLCP is standard-agnostic (no scoring) to allow brands & other stakeholders the flexibility to apply their own scores or rating systems • SLCP is compatible with existing scoring systems • SLCP works with a system of 'Accredited Hosts' that provide value-added services such as scoring/ analysis/ mapping to a Code of Conduct on top of the standard-agnostic SLCP data set
SLCP doesn't address the issue of remediation; audit fatigue is one issue, but what about remediation fatigue?	• SLCP itself is not engaged in remediation/capacity building programs, but its partners and stakeholders are, using the CAF as source of information • By becoming a trusted source of reliable verified social & labor data, SLCP can provide a foundation for joint remediation initiatives
There are too many Verifier Bodies in the SLCP system – how can they possibly all deliver high-quality, consistent verification?	SLCP has a well-developed verification oversight mechanism, managed by the Verification Oversight Organization (VOO). The VOO: • assess applications from Verifier Bodies (VBs) and Verifiers against a strict set of eligibility criteria; • administer an online proctored exam for all SLCP Verifiers • conduct a range of QA activities including counter verifications, shadow verifications and duplicate verifications; • provide the VBs with scoring for the VB and individual Verifiers • provide regular 'Calibration' webinars for VB and Verifiers to discuss and provide guidance on issues that are discovered during QA. • Run a VB check on all active BNs to review Quality Assurance procedures and policies and make suggestions for improvements.
In the SLCP system, the facility gets to choose the Verifier Body – isn't this a recipe for bribery & corruption?	• Facility ownership and accountability are key principles of SLCP • According to this principle, generally the facility will pay the verification costs and must therefore be able to select a Verifier Body (VB) that meets their needs in terms of cost and availability

	• Although the facility can select the VB, they cannot choose the individual Verifier. The system automatically assigns a different Verifier from the last verification and, if possible, a Verifier of a different gender • SLCP has strict rules against bribery and corruption in the Terms of Use for facilities and VB contracts
In the SLCP system, verifications are announced or semi-announced; doesn't this increase the risk that the Verifier won't see what's really happening in the facility?	• Facility ownership and accountability are key principles of SLCP • Verification requires the presence of middle and senior management on site, and therefore needs to be pre-planned. • During the public consultation (end 2017/early 2018), most parties were satisfied with this conclusion. • For SLCP, trustworthiness of the verified data is key. There are many checks & balances in the SLCP verification oversight model.
There's no guarantee the Verifier won't be shown double-books, especially if the stakes are high as the data set is being shared with multiple brands	• SLCP has been developed with consistency and trustworthiness of data as the primary concerns. • There is a system of checks and balances in place throughout the verification process; this ranges from the strict criteria for Verifiers and Verifier Bodies to the QA activities carried out by the Verification Oversight Organization which includes desktop reviews & counter-verifications. • SLCP includes commitment to honest data in the Terms of Use that facilities sign when applying for an SLCP Gateway account. This point is also highlighted in the e-learning. • The SLCP Signatory Charter also includes a commitment to 'true data' by all SLCP signatories.

Summary: Checklist for Communicating with Colleagues about SLCP

To summarize the information provided in this chapter, you will find below a checklist for things to think about when communicating with your colleagues about SLCP. You may also wish to add your own points to the checklist.

How is your internal communication about SLCP going? Have you:

☐ Shared resources to help colleagues understand the basics of SLCP? (e.g. Info Pack; Basic FAQs; Benefits)

☐ Signposted colleagues to additional resources (e.g. E-learning; Helpdesk; Gateway; Training Bodies)

☐ Informed colleagues how they can stay informed about SLCP? (e.g. newsflash; SLCP webinars)

☐ Defined and explained why SLCP is important to your company?

☐ Defined and explained your company's SLCP implementation plan?

☐ Defined and explained how your company will use SLCP verified data and integrate it into your internal systems?

☐ Given colleagues the opportunity to ask questions about SLCP and to raise any concerns?

☐ Addressed any misconceptions or concerns about SLCP?

☐ Have you communicated with everyone who needs to know about SLCP to ensure successful implementation? (If you identify additional colleagues who need to know about SLCP, go back through the checklist with them in mind)

Communicating about SLCP within your Brand: Leadership Team

Intro to SLCP: Engaging your Leadership Team

Do you need to inform and update your Leadership Team about SLCP in order to secure their buy-in and engagement? Here are some suggestions of actions you can take to help them understand the program and its benefit to your company:

- Use SLCP resources to prepare for meetings with/ presentations to senior leadership colleagues. Helpful resources include:
  - SLCP Info Pack
  - SLCP basic FAQs to prepare a presentation about SLCP
  - Benefits of SLCP
  - SLCP signatory list & list of brands accepting SLCP verified data
- Explain how SLCP fits in to your company's wider strategy/ goals
- Provide examples of the impact SLCP has had to date for your company as well as outlining the potential future benefits
- Highlight the strong industry support for SLCP, emphasizing examples of reputable peers using SLCP

Communicating about SLCP with your Suppliers

Intro to SLCP: Onboarding your Suppliers

Are you introducing SLCP to your suppliers for the first time? Here are some suggestions of steps to take to help them understand the program:

- Inform them of your brand SLCP implementation plan & your expectations/ wishes in terms of supplier adoption (see section on Explaining your SLCP Implementation Plan to Facilities)
- Share with them some basic information about SLCP (e.g. Info Pack); general FAQs
- Highlight in particular the benefits of SLCP
- Highlight the list of brands accepting SLCP verified data
- Explain the steps facilities should follow to get started with SLCP (see section on General First Steps for Facilities)
- Highlight the additional support, training & resources available to them (see section on Supporting Facilities through the SLCP Process)
- Ask if they have been asked for SLCP assessments by other buyers and suggest ideas for communicating with their other buyers about SLCP (see section on Supporting Facilities to Communicate about SLCP)
- Arrange a supplier meeting/ training event to communicate with your suppliers about SLCP
- Direct them to the SLCP e-learning and recordings of Facility Training sessions (available in English, Chinese & Spanish on the Helpdesk)
- Direct them to upcoming training sessions provided by approved Training Bodies
- Encourage them to sign up for the bi-weekly email newsletter that SLCP sends directly to facilities
- Explain that manufacturers have the option (not mandatory) to become an SLCP signatory if they would like to have direct influence on SLCP; direct them to info@slconvergence.org to find out more

Getting Started with SLCP: General First Steps for Facilities

To help your suppliers get started with the SLCP assessment process, you might want to share with them some general information about the first steps to follow. The first three steps to take for all facilities are to:

1) Register on the e-learning platform
2) Create a profile on the SLCP Gateway
3) Select an Accredited Host

Detailed instructions on each of these steps can be found below. A full list of steps for facilities to follow to start and complete their SLCP verified assessment can be found on the Helpdesk. You should supplement this information with additional details about your brand's specific SLCP implementation plans – see section on Explaining your Implementation Plan to Facilities.

1) **Register on the e-learning platform** to enroll in the **Facility Course and Certificate.** This course rewards the trainee with a certificate after completion of three of the seven available e-learning training modules. These three modules aim to familiarize you with the SLCP process and system before you start the assessment:
   - Module 3: Data Collection Tool
   - Module 6: Gateway
   - Module 7: Accredited Host
   It takes about 3-6 hours to complete the three modules. After completing the modules within the Course, the facility receives a certificate with a unique CODE. This CODE needs to be added to the facility's Gateway profile within two weeks of registration on the Gateway.

2) **Create a profile on the Gateway**. **Click on "login" and then on "register" to create an account**. After filling in the initial information (and clicking on "**create account**") you will receive an automated email to confirm your email address. You must then:
   a. Continue your registration by clicking the link you receive over email
   b. Log into the Gateway and fill in your profile information
   c. Click save button at the bottom of the page

d. Request approval on top of the page

In order to have their Gateway profile approved, a facility must:
a. Not already have an approved profile on the Gateway
b. Be located in one of the countries/regions where SLCP is already operating – see the Gateway homepage for an updated list of countries/regions
c. Provide a general and official company email address (not a personal/non-business address like Gmail or Hotmail)
d. Fill in all information in English
e. Put the company name in the name field (and not an individual/employee name)

The general rules for a facility name are:

a. Name matches the name on business license;
b. If there are multiple factories under a manufacturing group, use group name first and then facility name like:- Group Name Company - Facility Name Factory
c. Name is not used by any other facility
d. Name has to be in English.

It takes about 2 working days to approve the profile after it has been submitted for approval.

3) **To start your self or joint-assessment** you need to choose the Accredited Host (AH) that you would like to use for the assessment and verification. **Create an account on the Accredited Host** platform of your choice. You can view your option in the Accredited Host menu item of your profile on the Gateway. To set-up an account on the Accredited Host, you need the facility ID from the Gateway (as per STEP 2).

To link to an Accredited Host:
- In your profile on the Gateway, click the AH link in the menu tab "**Accredited Hosts**" in your Gateway profile**,** to navigate to the AH website.
- Log in with your existing account, register, or, (in the case of FFC) ask your customer for login details.

For more information, see:
- How do I conduct a self/joint-assessment on FFC? What are the costs?
- How do I conduct a self/joint-assessment on Higg? What are the costs?

- [How do I conduct a self/joint-assessment on Sedex? What are the costs?](#)

Getting Started with SLCP: Explaining your Implementation Plan to Facilities

It will help your suppliers to implement SLCP if they understand why you are requesting an SLCP verified assessment with them and how you intend to use it. You may therefore wish to explain the following points in your communication with suppliers:

- Your implementation plan (countries/ tiers/ timeline)
- Which Steps of the SLCP assessment you would like the supplier to complete
- Why you are implementing SLCP – what the main benefits for you and for the supplier are
- Which Accredited Host (AH) you intend to use to access the SLCP verified data so that the supplier knows which AH to use or to share their verified data to (see important note on this below)
- How you intend to use the verified data (e.g. if you will be using scoring or mapping to Code of Conduct provided by one of the Accredited Hosts)
- What the supplier can expect to happen after an SLCP assessment (e.g. in terms of a remediation plan or any follow-up)
- The consequences of switching to SLCP (e.g. you will no longer be using your proprietary audit scheme)
- If you intend to pay for some or all of the verification costs, you should make this clear to the supplier at an early stage

Note: please remember that it doesn't matter if your supplier has already started or completed an SLCP assessment on another Accredited Host platform. Please **do not** ask them to switch to another Accredited Host. They will still be able to share their verified data with you, on your AH of choice, via the SLCP Gateway.

SLCP has prepared some templates of letters that you may wish to personalize and use as the basis of your written communication to facilities. The following templates are available on the Helpdesk:
- Template letter from brands to introduce facilities to SLCP
- Template letter from brands to facilities communicating acceptance of SLCP data

Supporting Facilities through the SLCP Process

It can take time to learn a new system and process. Your suppliers may require additional support from you to successfully complete the SLCP assessment process. Here are some suggestions of ways of supporting facilities on their SLCP journey.

- Hold a virtual or in-person information session or meeting about SLCP
- Seek training for your suppliers from one of SLCP's approved Training Bodies
- Or become an SLCP Training Body yourself
- Offer to complete a joint-assessment with the facility
- Offer to pay for some or all of the verification costs
- Become a Verifier Body and conduct the verifications via your in-house auditors
- Complete the SLCP e-learning so you are well-informed and can support the facility
- Check in regularly with the facility on progress during the assessment process and support on any questions they may have
- Report any issues or technical problems to the SLCP Helpdesk
- Signpost the facility to additional support from SLCP (see list of resources below)

SLCP has lots of resources and support available for facilities. You can signpost facilities to the following:

- SLCP Helpdesk FAQs (note that these are available in many local languages)
- SLCP Helpdesk Open Office Hours
- SLCP Support bi-weekly emails (to sign up)
- SLCP e-learning
- Recordings of Facility Training sessions in English, Chinese and Spanish
- Recording of Data Collection Tool Tutorial in English and Chinese
- Training sessions provided by SLCP Training Bodies
- Data Collection Tool (available for info in English, Chinese and Spanish. An informal Turkish translation is also available)
- SLCP events and webinars

Addressing Facility Concerns & Myth Busting

Your suppliers may raise concerns or fears about SLCP. You might want to think about how to address these concerns if and when they come up. The table below addresses some specific concerns that manufacturers might have about SLCP.

Myth/ Concern	Truth about SLCP
Myth: SLCP is only applicable for large facilities	• SLCP is applicable, relevant and useful to facilities of all sizes. • The number of recommended verification days is tailored to the size of a facility, so a smaller facility will require less verification days. • In 2020 SLCP has reviewed the Converged Assessment Framework (CAF) with a view to making it more streamlined and more in line with the needs of stakeholders. CAF v1.4 which will launch in February 2021 will increase applicability for smaller facilities.
If multiple brands might be accessing our data, how do we know which set of books to show the Verifier?	• Only true and honest data should be included in the SLCP assessment. • The SLCP Signatory Charter includes a commitment to 'true data' by all SLCP signatories: this means that all signatories to SLCP are committed to receiving the **real** data from a facility and are not interested in seeing double-books. • Facilities must commit to providing honest data when signing the SLCP Gateway Terms of Use.
If there is no judgement at the end of an SLCP assessment, how do we know if we have passed or failed?	• Facilities should talk to their brand partners to understand how they will be using the SLCP verified data and what type of scoring/ Code of Conduct they will apply as well as next steps in terms of remediation.
Only one or two of buyers will accept SLCP verified data – how can we benefit from a reduction in audits when this is the case?	• A growing number of brands & retailers accept SLCP verified data. SLCP maintains a list of all of the brands that already accept SLCP verified data. • SLCP can help with outreach to the brands you work with (brand representative to pass on ideas in Supporting Facilities to Communicate about SLCP)

Supporting Facilities to Communicate about SLCP

For manufacturers, the more buyers they can share their SLCP verified assessment with, the better, as this creates a reduction in duplicative audits and saves resources. Supporting your suppliers to engage with their other buyers about SLCP can make adoption easier for your suppliers and help boost overall SLCP adoption. Here are some suggestions of ways your suppliers can engage their other buyers and how you can help them.

Supporting facilities to engage with their other buyers about SLCP:
- Share with facilities the list of suggestions below of ways they can inform and engage their buyers in SLCP
- If appropriate, offer to reach out directly to their other buyers to explain the benefits of SLCP (share the Info Pack – download from Connect)
- If appropriate, ask the SLCP Secretariat to support on outreach to their other buyers or to invite them to upcoming SLCP events

Suggestions to share with facilities – how they can communicate with other buyers about SLCP:
- Use the template letter on SLCP's Helpdesk to let buyers know you have started or completed an SLCP verified assessment
- Signpost your buyers to upcoming SLCP events
- Encourage them to sign up for an "Intro to SLCP" webinar
- Show them the list of brands accepting SLCP verified data
- Signpost them to the brand FAQs on the Helpdesk
- Suggest they sign up for the SLCP quarterly newsletter
- Suggest they contact info@slconvergence.com to set up a call or to find out more about SLCP

Summary: Checklist for Communicating with Suppliers about SLCP

To summarize the information provided in this chapter, you will find below a checklist for things to think about when communicating with your suppliers about SLCP. You may also wish to add your own points to the checklist.

How is your communication with suppliers about SLCP going? Have you:

☐ Shared resources to help facilities understand the basics of SLCP? (e.g. Info Pack; Basic FAQs; Benefits)

☐ Explained your company's SLCP implementation plan and your expectations of suppliers (including which Steps you will require; which Accredited Host you will use; how you will use the SLCP verified data)?

☐ Explained why SLCP can be mutually beneficial to you and your supply chain partners?

☐ Explained to facilities how to get started with SLCP (i.e. e-learning; Gateway account; selecting an Accredited Host)?

☐ Addressed any misconceptions or concerns about SLCP?

☐ Provided ongoing support to facilities throughout the SLCP assessment process and signposted to additional resources?

☐ Offered facilities support to communicate with other buyers about SLCP?

Communicating about SLCP with your Customers

Referencing SLCP on your Website

If you would like to publicize your support for SLCP on your website, you can use one of the "badges" below. Please copy the code in order to embed the badges into your website.

Support Badge - Colored version to go on light backgrounds:
<img style="width:100%;max-width:250px;height:auto;" src="https://slconvergence.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/SLCP-Proud-Support-Badge-181031-Horiz-Black-1.png" alt="In-Proud-Support-Of-Social-and-Labor-Convergence-Logo-of-Unravelling-Thread">

Support Badge - White version to go on dark backgrounds:
<img style="width:100%;max-width:250px;height:auto;" src="https://slconvergence.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/SLCP-Proud-Support-Badge-181031-Horiz-White-1-1.png" alt="In-Proud-Support-Of-Social-and-Labor-Convergence-Logo-of-Unravelling-Thread">

Referencing SLCP in your Corporate Responsibility or Sustainability Report

We strongly encourage SLCP signatories to mention their SLCP implementation in their annual corporate responsibility or sustainability reports. Below you can find some standard text introducing SLCP, ideas for content to include in your sustainability report, and some good examples from other SLCP signatories that have referenced SLCP in their annual reports.

SLCP Standard Text:
The Social & Labor Convergence Program (SLCP) is a multi-stakeholder initiative of over 200 signatories including leading brands, manufacturers, standard holders and civil society. SLCP signatories have developed a Converged Assessment Framework (CAF) to eliminate duplicative and repetitive proprietary social and labor audits by replacing them with a single verified assessment that can be used by all stakeholders. The SLCP assessment and verification process results in a verified data set with no scoring. SLCP partners with a network of Accredited Hosts that provide value-added services (such as scoring) to meet the needs of end-users. SLCP signatories have pledged to redirect the savings made through implementation of the CAF towards improving social and labor conditions within their supply chain. For more information visit www.slconvergence.org.

Ideas for Content for Sustainability Report:
- How your brand is implementing SLCP – progress to-date
- Why your brand is implementing SLCP – what you hope to achieve
- Impact of SLCP – what have been the positive benefits in your supply chain so far?

Examples of SLCP in Signatory Sustainability Report:
- PVH 2019 Corporate Responsibility Report (pages 11, 16, 38 & 55)

Communicating about SLCP with your Peers

Introducing SLCP to Other Brands & Retailers

Perhaps you work closely with other brands & retailers or you are aware that you are sourcing from the same facilities as another brand. Help spread the word about SLCP to your peers to increase SLCP adoption and acceptance, and thus further reduce the audit burden on facilities. Here are some suggestions of ways to engage and inform other brands about SLCP.

- Send them the latest SLCP Info Pack
- Recommend they sign up for an Intro to SLCP webinar
- Highlight upcoming SLCP events or recordings of recent events
- Signpost them to the brand FAQs on the SLCP Helpdesk
- Tell them about your own experience of SLCP. Use the SLCP FAQs and the benefits of SLCP during your conversation
- Share your experience of working with SLCP Accredited Hosts and signpost them to information about Accredited Hosts on the SLCP website
- Introduce them to the SLCP team and suggest they contact info@slconvergence.org to set up a call
- Encourage them to speak to their suppliers to gain access to their SLCP verified assessments

Converged Assessment.
Collaborative Action.
Improved Working Conditions.

Additional Resources

- SLCP website
- SLCP Gateway
- SLCP Helpdesk
- SLCP e-learning
- SLCP Assessment Statuses
- SLCP Glossary
- What kind of data is collected in the Data Collection Tool
- SLCP Quality Assurance manual
- An example of a completed SLCP verified assessment report (excel)
- List of available Verifier Bodies
- Verifier Body Requirements