



apparel Water Quality

Working Group

The Apparel Water Quality Working Group (AWQWG) is dedicated to responsible practices around water use and wastewater discharge in global textile and apparel supply chains. Today, this group is a partnership of seven global apparel companies committed to responsible practices surrounding water use and wastewater discharge in global textile supply chains. Using industry-developed Water Quality Guidelines, the AWQWG aims to mitigate the potential harmful impacts and business risks faced by companies operating globally where regulations and enforcement can vary dramatically from country to country.

EMERGENCE OF AN INDUSTRY STANDARD

- Provides clear and consistent expectations for the environmental performance of textile mills and laundries regarding wastewater.
- Reviewed by environmental and textile industry experts to ensure adequacy and technical feasibility
- Designed to allow individual companies to implement a water effluent treatment or monitoring program that fits their business objectives.

AWQWG WATER QUALITY GUIDELINES

The Guidelines offer textile mills and industrial laundries performance guidelines that:

- Reduce potential environmental and health impacts
- Are achievable using widely available technologies
- Apply globally
- Cover 17 water quality parameters
- Provide guidance on testing parameters

GUIDANCE ALONG WITH GUIDELINES

- **Testing:** To help companies offer testing guidance to suppliers, the AWQWG researched different testing options and created a detailed set of recommendations on how to effectively test for each of the parameters included in the Guidelines.
- **Fact Sheets:** The AWQWG created a fact sheet for each parameter included in the Guidelines that includes a general description, common causes, and potential health/environmental impacts.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

Coldwater Creek Inc.
The Gap Inc.
H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB
J.C. Penney
Levi Strauss & Co.
L.L. Bean, Inc.
NIKE, Inc.
Nordstrom, Inc.
Timberland

BENEFITS OF AWQWG MEMBERSHIP

- Improves credibility & effectiveness of effort
- Provides faster “access-to-market”
- Reduces costs
- Offers the use of validated Guidelines, consistent across the Apparel Industry
- Improves input quality
- Builds strong relationships with suppliers
- Reduces the risk of supply chain disruption
- Provides a venue for regular consultation and learning with industry peers
- Allows for positive environmental and reputational impacts for your brand
- Demonstrates public commitment towards environmental protection
- Provides implementation guidance and assistance for performance testing and improvement.

JOIN THE AWQWG

AWQWG is currently recruiting new members to join the process and collaboratively implement this growing industry standard. Please contact rmisra@bsr.org or visit www.bsr.org/waterquality for more information.