Country (Insert country of origin of your company / organization or its headquarters' location)

France

Submitting Organization/Company

ICS

If Organization or Company, please indicate the approximate number of employees

< 10

Please indicate the number of employees

5

Title of the action

Environmental Checklist

Upload your logo or an image

Relevant Website

https://ics-asso.org/

Other Partners

ITC, UNEP, Earthworm Foundation

Type of initiative

Civil Society

Description of action

In early 2023, after 18 months of piloting and reviews conducted by UNEP and the Earthworm Foundation, ICS unveiled its Environmental Checklist on its internal system.

The ICS Environmental Checklist is a user-friendly, declarative tool designed to gather raw environmental data directly from factories and share it with retailers. It allows factories to report on five key areas related to their energy and water consumption, as well as their production of wastewater, solid waste, air emissions, and CO_2.

Factories have the flexibility to respond partially to the checklist, focusing only on relevant chapters or those for which they have data available.

This initiative is closely linked to the Factory Profile tool, which plays a critical role in ICS's Transparency & Traceability Project. When integrated with the Factory Profile and supply chain mapping, the environmental checklist facilitates the collection of data on environmental performance for specific products and production processes.

In 2024, ICS plans to collaborate with auditing partners to conduct desk verifications of the data submitted through the environmental checklist. Additionally, there are plans to develop comprehensive dashboards for retailers to monitor factory performance and improvements, as well as for factories to pilot their consumption and assess their environmental performance compared to similar market participants.

Type of action

Traceability & Transparency

Please select the specific area/s of the action

Norms and standards

Research and Development of Innovative Solutions

Awareness and Education

Collaborative Initiatives

Business Management Systems or Instruments

Scope of the action, including a description of the value chain processes that are covered

Objective (max 200 words): Build on internal transparency and traceability system to create a broad environmental data gathering tool.

Commitments (max 200 words): ICS is committed to simplifying the process for factories to declare environmental data and enhancing retailers' confidence in environmental claims pertaining to their scope 3 impacts through this project. By integrating transparency and traceability with environmental declaration, we reduce uncertainties in calculating product environmental footprints. This fosters improved piloting opportunities for both factories and retailers, leading to more accurate assessments of environmental impacts and greater accountability throughout the supply chain.

Value Chain Scope: The project revolves around an internal tool within ICS's system. While data accessibility and retrieval for retailers and brands are restricted to ICS members, any factory linked to an ICS member can declare its environmental performance using this tool.

Timeframe and/or milestones for the action

The project commenced in mid-2021 and underwent a pilot phase until late 2022. It was officially launched on ICS's system in early 2023 and has been widely shared with factories within the ICS system ever since.

Key milestones for 2024 include the development of a structured API to provide organized data directly usable by brands and retailers. Plans also entail allowing factories to have their declared data verified by auditors to validate environmental claims.

Furthermore, there are plans to create adaptable, comprehensive dashboards to support factories in continuous improvement and self-benchmarking of their environmental performance. Additionally, a piloting dashboard for brands and retailers to monitor environmental performance within the supply chain is scheduled for publication in the coming year.

Reference instruments and sources used

ICS Framework and Methodology
https://ics-asso.org/resources/

Expected benefits and impact for the stakeholders involved

Enhanced visibility of compliance with sustainability requirements by industry actors/partners along the entire value chain

Enhanced traceability of the social/environmental/ethical attributes of product(s)/materials along the value chain; for example, for origin, quality, sustainability performance, and compliance with health and safety requirements for consumers and workers

A measurable impact on sustainability in value chains over time, eventually verified through life-cycle assessments and/or sustainability certifications

Enhanced environmental and socially responsible consumption and production, and circularity of the value chain, that may be relevant to and inspire other countries and industry actors/partners

Management of reputational risk for manufacturers, brands and retailers who are selling the products concerned

Stakeholders involved

Business and industry associations

Intergovernmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Key performance indicators for the action

Amount of data gathered through checklists' use
Number of factories invited to declare their environmental performance data by brands and retailers
Factories having submitted improvement targets within the checklist

Good practices

https://ics-asso.org/resources/

How has this UNECE-UN/CEFACT Call to Action contributed to strategic engagement and/or public awareness in support of your commitment?

The recommandations provided by the UNECE were followed to de ne the project.

Link to relevant goal(s) and specific target(s) of the United Nations

| 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION | 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | 13 CLIMATE ACTION |

| 14 LIFE BELOW WATER | 15 LIFE ON LAND | 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS |