

AIM-PROGRESS¹ MUTUAL RECOGNITION

TO REDUCE AUDIT FATIGUE AND ALIGN ON KEY ISSUES OF RESPONSIBLE SOURCING, SEVERAL BRAND MANUFACTURERS AGREED TO MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF SOCIAL COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS²

The companies listed below are part of a forum under AIM - the European Brands Association, called AIM-PROGRESS which seeks to promote responsible sourcing while reducing the duplication of supplier assessments. These companies have responsible sourcing programs which may include the request for on-site assessments of suppliers. The companies listed below agree to recognize supplier audits completed on behalf of another company and will review submitted assessment reports to confirm it meets internal company requirements.

Suppliers are therefore encouraged to share their assessment reports directly with these companies upon request or upload them via the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (Sedex) platform, which provides a secure online data exchange between suppliers and customers. A supplier may only share assessment reports³ which they own the rights to or which they have received prior authorization to share.

Companies that agree to mutually recognize responsible sourcing assessments include:



The companies listed here promote suppliers' sharing of assessment results while retaining the following rights:

1. To accept or not accept any audit or part of an audit.
2. To require additional follow-up or conduct a full assessment
3. To verify the scope and integrity of a report. The audit report must have the auditor's name, affiliation and contact information. Other relevant information such as the standards used to measure compliance may be deemed necessary for a company to accept any report.

¹ AIM-PROGRESS is a forum of leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods manufacturers (FMCG) promoting responsible sourcing practices and sustainable production systems. http://www.aim.be/responsible_sourcing.htm. It is managed by AIM – the European Brands Association in co-operation with GMA (Grocery Manufacturers Association) in the US.

² Social compliance audits covers the four pillars of Labor Standards, Health and Safety, Environmental Management and Business Integrity

³ The data contained in such reports must be confined to social and environmental compliance information only, and must be free of information confidential to the supplier-buyer relationships, such as any reference to commercial terms (prices, volumes) and indeed free of any descriptions of materials or services provided etc.