

# Fair Trade and Fair Supply Chains

We support our clients acknowledging their business responsibility in their efforts to build, maintain and monitor fair trade practices in their supply chains and to implement systems for supply chain due diligence

## The issue

Numerous companies have engaged for decades - on a voluntary basis – to ensure observance of fair-trade standards, human rights due diligence, and environmental protection, taking responsibility for their supply chains, guided by international frameworks such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (“UNGPs”) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“UN SDGs”).

Recently, legislators worldwide are increasingly debating and passing legislation to turn voluntary standards into hard law at the sectoral level and beyond, such as:

- The Modern Slavery global framework and national laws (such as the UK 2015 Modern Slavery Act and Australia’s Modern Slavery Act)
- The EU legislative initiative on sustainable corporate governance and new UK Listing rules
- National rules on fair pay requirements for supply chain companies
- National Employee Protection legislation on terms and discrimination
- The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act
  - the French 2017 law on the duty of vigilance,
  - the German supply chain act
  - the EU legislative initiative on sustainable corporate governance.

These are just a few examples of the constantly-evolving body of regulation that is driving fundamental changes to the way companies around the world do business.

## What we do

We have a leading practice advising clients on strategies to build, maintain and monitor fair trade practices in their supply chains and implement systems for supply chain due diligence.

The future brings new opportunities for human rights due diligence and strengthening environmental protection. Multinational companies can have an immense impact and important positive effects on human and labour rights, drive development and create jobs.

We advise on:

- developing strategies for transparency regarding suppliers and working together with them to ensure compliance with fair trade practices, human and labour rights and environmental protection;
- meeting specific regulations as well as reporting requirements and systems that need to be put in place for documentation;
- communication with regulators, consumer protection organisations and competition associations demonstrating compliance with fair trade practices, human and labour rights and environmental protection;
- complying with new laws and regulations requiring increased transparency, disclosure and documentation on supply chain due diligence; and
- sustainability and social impact principles and best practices.

## Our impact

We partner with our clients to support them in their efforts to ensure fairness in their supply chains. Examples include:

- Advising a multinational food manufacturer on their strategy for compliance with the EU UTP Directive
- Advising a multinational manufacturer of consumer goods on implementation of anti-corruption obligations in their distribution system and agreements
- Advising a leading online food retailer on development of strategies to implement requirements of the EU UTP Directive
- Advising The Mekong Club, an organization that fights modern slavery, with research into child labour laws and its implications on business operations and for business in these jurisdictions

## Useful links

- [Business Integrity Group](#)
- [Business integrity for consumer companies](#)
- [Business Integrity and Sustainable Development](#)

## Relevant contacts



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