



Monitoring compliance with social criteria in contracts in the United States, Denmark and Sweden



Public Procurement Principle: **Accountability, Balance**



Procurement Stage: **Tendering, Post-award**



Audience: **Policy maker, procuring entity**

Description

United States

The Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium (SPC) comprises 14 US cities and three US states, and seeks to ensure that apparel products bought by the US government are made without sweatshop labour. The SPC provides procurement authorities with model procurement policies and codes of conduct, purchasing guides, labour compliance questionnaires and online worker compliance forms.

Participation in the programme also requires suppliers to be independently monitored for compliance with codes of conduct, showing that they are making credible efforts to address abuses. Several cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, require apparel contractors to disclose factory locations and retain the services of the Worker Rights Consortium to produce monitoring reports on compliance with each city's code of conduct.

Denmark

Following a report by Danwatch that exposed forced labour and hazardous working conditions in the information technology (IT) supply chains of the Danish state and municipalities, public authorities in Denmark, Sweden and other jurisdictions were forced to re-evaluate public procurement contracts and conduct-significant due diligence of their contractors and suppliers. This included initiating third-party audits, on-site factory visits, and ongoing reporting on suppliers' efforts to address abuses.

Sweden

In the case of Sweden's municipal-level health authorities, the procurement agency sends out questionnaires to suppliers of medical equipment to determine if proper supply chain due diligence practices are in place. Authorities then follow up on these questionnaires by asking for audit results, and by asking whether a risk mitigation strategy was being used. In some cases, the public procurement agency can hire third party auditors to conduct on-site evaluations of suppliers.

Source: OECD (2019), [Public Procurement in Germany: Strategic Dimensions for Well-being and Growth](#), OECD Publishing, Paris

