



BRAND PERFORMANCE CHECK

FNG International NV

PUBLICATION DATE: JULY 2019

this report covers the evaluation period 01-01-2018 to 31-12-2018

ABOUT THE BRAND PERFORMANCE CHECK

Fair Wear Foundation believes that improving conditions for apparel product location workers requires change at many levels. Traditional efforts to improve conditions focus primarily on the product location. FWF, however, believes that the management decisions of clothing brands have an enormous influence for good or ill on product location conditions.

FWF's Brand Performance Check is a tool to evaluate and report on the activities of FWF's member companies. The Checks examine how member company management systems support FWF's Code of Labour Practices. They evaluate the parts of member company supply chains where clothing is assembled. This is the most labour intensive part of garment supply chains, and where brands can have the most influence over working conditions.

In most apparel supply chains, clothing brands do not own product locations, and most product locations work for many different brands. This means that in most cases FWF member companies have influence, but not direct control, over working conditions. As a result, the Brand Performance Checks focus primarily on verifying the efforts of member companies. Outcomes at the product location level are assessed via audits and complaint reports, however the complexity of the supply chains means that even the best efforts of FWF member companies cannot guarantee results.

Even if outcomes at the product location level cannot be guaranteed, the importance of good management practices by member companies cannot be understated. Even one concerned customer at a product location can have significant positive impacts on a range of issues like health and safety conditions or freedom of association. And if one customer at a product location can demonstrate that improvements are possible, other customers no longer have an excuse not to act. The development and sharing of these types of best practices has long been a core part of FWF's work.

The Brand Performance Check system is designed to accommodate the range of structures and strengths that different companies have, and reflects the different ways that brands can support better working conditions.

This report is based on interviews with member company employees who play important roles in the management of supply chains, and a variety of documentation sources, financial records, supplier data. The findings from the Brand Performance Check are summarized and published at www.fairwear.org. The online [Brand Performance Check Guide](#) provides more information about the indicators.

BRAND PERFORMANCE CHECK OVERVIEW

FNG International NV

Evaluation Period: 01-01-2018 to 31-12-2018

MEMBER COMPANY INFORMATION	
Headquarters:	Mechelen, Belgium
Member since:	01-01-2017
Product types:	Fashion, Sportswear
Production in countries where FWF is active:	Bulgaria, China, India, Romania, Tunisia, Turkey, Viet Nam
Production in other countries:	Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka
BASIC REQUIREMENTS	
Workplan and projected production location data for upcoming year have been submitted?	Yes
Actual production location data for evaluation period was submitted?	Yes
Membership fee has been paid?	Yes
SCORING OVERVIEW	
% of own production under monitoring	77%
Benchmarking score	53
Category	Good

Summary:

FNG International NV has met most of FWF's performance requirements during their second year of membership. In 2018, the company showed that it followed up on FWF audits for main production locations and their CMT subcontractors in Turkey and China. In addition, the company used and showed that it followed up on external audits and fulfilled monitoring requirements for most production in low-risk countries. This resulted in a monitoring percentage of 77%. This result, combined with a benchmark score of 53, means FWF has awarded FNG a 'Good' rating.

FNG International NV consists of a number of brands. In 2017, Belgian brands Baker Bridge, fred & ginger and Ginger (under fred + ginger concept), CKS, Limon and Superstar have joined as one FWF member company.

In 2018, the company focused on consolidating its supply chain. FNG is aiming to reduce its total number of production locations and when in need of a new production location, search within the production locations already producing for one of the brands in the group (both FWF and non-FWF members). As part of this consolidation strategy, FNG developed its vendor policy. CSR is a prominent aspect of the vendor policy, which means that CSR needs to approve all newly selected production locations before production takes place.

FWF recommends that FNG consolidates its supply base even more by limiting the number of suppliers in its 'tail end'. To achieve this, members should determine whether (suppliers where they buy less than 2% of their FOB) are of strategic relevance. Shortening the tail will reduce the social compliance risks the member is exposed to and will allow the member to improve working conditions in a more efficient and effective way. In addition, FWF recommends FNG to organise training in production locations to increase awareness of the Code of Labour Practices and labour rights in general.

Furthermore, FWF requires FNG to actively address the topic of prices and how they relate to wages in order to be able to address root causes of wages below living wage.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY OVERVIEW

Leader: This category is for member companies who are doing exceptionally well, and are operating at an advanced level. Leaders show best practices in complex areas such as living wages and freedom of association.

Good: It is FWF's belief that member companies who are making a serious effort to implement the Code of Labour Practices—the vast majority of FWF member companies—are 'doing good' and deserve to be recognized as such. They are also doing more than the average clothing company, and have allowed their internal processes to be examined and publicly reported on by an independent NGO. The majority of member companies will receive a 'Good' rating.

Needs Improvement: Member companies are most likely to find themselves in this category when major unexpected problems have arisen, or if they are unable or unwilling to seriously work towards CoLP implementation. Member companies may be in this category for one year only after which they should either move up to Good, or will be moved to suspended.

Suspended: Member companies who either fail to meet one of the Basic Requirements, have had major internal changes which means membership must be put on hold for a maximum of one year, or have been in Needs Improvement for more than one year. Member companies may remain in this category for one year maximum, after which termination proceedings will come into force.

Categories are calculated based on a combination of benchmarking score and the percentage of own production under monitoring. The specific requirements for each category are outlined in the Brand Performance Check Guide.

1. PURCHASING PRACTICES

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.1a Percentage of production volume from production locations where member company buys at least 10% of production capacity.	83%	Member companies with less than 10% of a production location's production capacity generally have limited influence on production location managers to make changes.	Supplier information provided by member company.	4	4	0

Comment: In 2018, 83% of FNG's production volume came from production locations where it buys at least 10% of production capacity. This is an increase compared to 32% last year. This is due to a general consolidation strategy. FNG is aiming to reduce its total number of production locations, and when in need of a new production location search within the production locations already producing for one of the brands in the group (both FWF and non-FWF members).

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.1b Percentage of production volume from production locations where member company buys less than 2% of its total FOB.	40%	FWF provides incentives to clothing brands to consolidate their supplier base, especially at the tail end, as much as possible, and rewards those members who have a small tail end. Shortening the tail end reduces social compliance risks and enhances the impact of efficient use of capital and remediation efforts.	Production location information as provided to FWF.	0	4	0

Comment: In 2018, 40% of FNG's production volume came from production locations where it buys less than 2% of FOB. This is an increase compared to last year (22%).

Recommendation: FWF recommends the member to consolidate its supply base by limiting the number of production locations in its 'tail end'. To achieve this, members should determine whether production locations where they buy less than 2% of their FOB are of strategic relevance. Shortening the tail will reduce the social compliance risks the member is exposed to and will allow the member to improve working conditions in a more efficient and effective way.

It is advised to describe the process of consolidation in a sourcing strategy that is agreed upon with top management/sourcing staff.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.2 Percentage of production volume from production locations where a business relationship has existed for at least five years.	45%	Stable business relationships support most aspects of the Code of Labour Practices, and give production locations a reason to invest in improving working conditions.	Supplier information provided by member company.	2	4	0

Comment: In 2017, 45% of production volume came from production locations where a business relationship has existed for over five years. This is an increase compared to last year's 10%.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.3 All (new) production locations are required to sign and return the questionnaire with the Code of Labour Practices before first bulk orders are placed.	Yes	The CoLP is the foundation of all work between production locations and brands, and the first step in developing a commitment to improvements.	Signed CoLPs are on file.	2	2	0

Comment: In 2018, FNG developed its vendor policy. CSR is a prominent aspect of the vendor policy, which means that CSR needs to approve all newly selected production locations before production takes place. The first step in this process is ensuring the production location signs and returns the questionnaire, including a picture of the posted Code of Labour Practice.

In 2018, through its new policy, FNG found out that one of their suppliers was using different subcontractors that had not been shared with FNG. As the company only found out after production had taken place the company was not able to collect questionnaires retroactively.

Requirement: FNG Group needs to ensure that new production locations sign and return the questionnaire before first orders are placed.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.4 Member company conducts human rights due diligence at all (new) production locations before placing orders.	Intermediate	Due diligence helps to identify, prevent and mitigate potential human rights problems at suppliers.	Documentation may include pre-audits, existing audits, other types of risk assessments.	2	4	0

Comment: FNG has developed a country risk matrix, indicating the human rights risk per country, based on external information and complemented by internal information from audit reports from all brands within FNG Group (FWF members and non-FWF members). Before production starts production locations are asked for existing audit reports and FNG Group has local staff in China, Turkey and India who visit production locations before production starts.

In the new vendor policy, CSR is part of the process to approve a production location. Only after the visit has taken place is the production location cleared for orders.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.5 Production location compliance with Code of Labour Practices is evaluated in a systematic manner.	Yes, and leads to production decisions	A systemic approach is required to integrate social compliance into normal business processes, and supports good decisionmaking.	Documentation of systemic approach: rating systems, checklists, databases, etc.	2	2	0

Comment: FNG Group has developed its own audit template based on the FWF audit methodology, which scores production locations on compliance with the Code of Labour Practices. Possible scores are green, amber, red and black. When a production location is marked black production will not start. If major violations are found while production is already taking place, the location is marked grey and all future orders will be paused.

When a production location is marked another colour, the local FNG representative will monitor the production location to support with improvements.

An overview of all production locations, including the scores, is kept in a central location and used to make production decisions.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.6 The member company's production planning systems support reasonable working hours.	General or ad-hoc system.	Member company production planning systems can have a significant impact on the levels of excessive overtime at production locations.	Documentation of robust planning systems.	2	4	0

Comment: FNG shares the seasonal calendars and most important dates and deadlines with suppliers as well as the projected number of styles. This allows its suppliers to study their own deadlines/capacity and procurement. Also, the company has established a production planning department in the local offices to boost the forecasting and possible bottlenecks to guard lead times. In general, FNG aims to keep the production volume per production location the same, so suppliers can anticipate orders and book capacity.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.7 Degree to which member company mitigates root causes of excessive overtime.	Intermediate efforts	Some production delays are outside of the control of member companies; however there are a number of steps that can be taken to address production delays without resorting to excessive overtime.	Evidence of how member responds to excessive overtime and strategies that help reduce the risk of excessive overtime, such as: root cause analysis, reports, correspondence with factories, etc.	3	6	0

Comment: Excessive overtime is a major issue, especially at production locations in China. FNG's local representative in China has done a root cause analysis of 40 factories. The main finding was that excessive overtime is related to the piece rate system and not specific to FNG production. The results have been discussed with the factories, but there has not been any activity in 2018 to specifically address this topic.

Recommendation: Besides discussing it with the supplier and assessing root causes, FWF strongly recommends FNG to actively take measures when excessive overtime is found. Taking measures to ensure that the brand knows and shows whether excessive overtime takes place at a supplier is key in resolving the issue. Measures such as regular checks by the local technician, documents checking and interviewing workers help assess whether excessive overtime takes place.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.8 Member company can demonstrate the link between its buying prices and wage levels in production locations.	Insufficient	Understanding the labour component of buying prices is an essential first step for member companies towards ensuring the payment of minimum wages – and towards the implementation of living wages.	Interviews with production staff, documents related to member's pricing policy and system, buying contracts.	0	4	0

Comment: In 2018, FNG discussed open costing with its suppliers and gained some insight into the specific price breakdown. The more detailed information on prices is available in the local buying offices in China, India, and Turkey. However, the company has not yet used this information to know how its prices relate to wages and whether they were sufficient to pay at least the legal minimum wage.

Recommendation: FWF recommends FNG to expand their knowledge of cost break downs of all product groups. A next step would be to calculate the labour minute costs of its products to be able to calculate the exact costs of labour and link this to their own buying prices. First priority would be to make sure this level of transparency can be achieved with their suppliers.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.9 Member company actively responds if production locations fail to pay legal minimum wages and/or fail to provide wage data to verify minimum wage is paid.	Yes	If a supplier fails to pay minimum wage or minimum wage payments cannot be verified, FWF member companies are expected to hold management of the supplier accountable for respecting local labour law. Payment below minimum wage must be remediated urgently.	Complaint reports, CAPs, additional emails, FWF Audit Reports or additional monitoring visits by a FWF auditor, or other documents that show minimum wage issue is reported/resolved.	0	0	-2

Comment: During audits at the end of 2017, payments below legal minimum wage were found in two locations in Turkey and three in China. These problems were addressed by the local representatives in the countries. In China, payments below legal minimum wage were resolved within the set timeframe. In Turkey, resolving the issue took longer. These findings were from subcontractors of a long-term supplier. To maintain and strengthen the relationship, FNG focused on actively involving the main supplier to address the problem and resolve the issue. Which has happened, and also made clear to the supplier what needs to be done to prevent these situations from happening.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.10 Evidence of late payments to suppliers by member company.	No	Late payments to suppliers can have a negative impact on production locations and their ability to pay workers on time. Most garment workers have minimal savings, and even a brief delay in payments can cause serious problems.	Based on a complaint or audit report; review of production location and member company financial documents.	0	0	-1

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.11 Degree to which member company assesses and responds to root causes for wages that are lower than living wages in production locations.	Insufficient	Assessing the root causes for wages lower than living wages will determine what strategies/interventions are needed for increasing wages, which will result in a systemic approach	Evidence of how payment below living wage was addressed, such as: Internal policy and strategy documents, reports, correspondence with factories, etc	0	6	0

Comment: As audits showed payment below legal minimum wage in two locations, FNG focused on resolving those specific cases and more importantly started discussions with production locations of meeting this minimum requirement. This took priority over a discussion about the root causes of wages below living wage.

Requirement: FNG must assess the root causes of wages that are lower than living wages, taking into account its leverage and effect of its own pricing policy. FNG is expected to take an active role in discussing living wages with its suppliers. The FWF wage ladder can be used as a tool to implement living wages, to document, monitor, negotiate and evaluate the improvements at its suppliers.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.12 Percentage of production volume from factories owned by the member company (bonus indicator).	None	Owning a supplier increases the accountability and reduces the risk of unexpected CoLP violations. Given these advantages, this is a bonus indicator. Extra points are possible, but the indicator will not negatively affect an member company's score.	Supplier information provided by member company.	N/A	2	0

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.13 Member company determines and finances wage increases	None	Assessing the root causes for wages lower than living wages will determine what strategies/interventions are needed for increasing wages, which will result in a systemic approach.	Evidence of how payment below living wage was addressed, such as: internal policy and strategy documents, reports, correspondence with factories, etc.	0	4	0

Comment: FNG has not addressed the topic of a living wage in 2018.

Recommendation: FWF recommends companies to avoid the concept of a one-time charitable contribution. We strongly recommend members to integrate the financing of wage increases it in its own systems, herewith committing to a long term process that leads to sustainable implementation of living wages.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
1.14 Percentage of production volume where the member company pays its share of the target wage	0%	FWF member companies are challenged to adopt approaches that absorb the extra costs of increasing wages.	Member company's own documentation, evidence of target wage implementation, such as wage reports, factory documentation, communication with factories, etc.	0	3	0

PURCHASING PRACTICES

Possible Points: 47

Earned Points: 17

2. MONITORING AND REMEDIATION

BASIC MEASUREMENTS	RESULT	COMMENTS
% of own production under standard monitoring (excluding low-risk countries)	70%	
% of production volume where monitoring requirements for low-risk countries are fulfilled	7%	To be counted towards the monitoring threshold. FWF low-risk policy should be implemented. See indicator 2.9. (N/A = no production in low risk countries.)
Meets monitoring requirements for tail-end production locations.	N/A	1st or 2nd year member and tail-end monitoring requirements do not apply.
Requirement(s) for next performance check		
Total of own production under monitoring	77%	Measured as percentage of production volume (Minimums: 1 year: 40%; 2 years 60%; 3 years+: 80-100%)

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.1 Specific staff person is designated to follow up on problems identified by monitoring system	Yes	Followup is a serious part of FWF membership, and cannot be successfully managed on an ad-hoc basis.	Manuals, emails, etc., demonstrating who the designated staff person is.	2	2	-2

Comment: FNG has a CSR department that is designated to follow up on problems identified by the monitoring system.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.2 Quality of own auditing system meets FWF standards.	Yes	In case FWF teams cannot be used, the member companies' own auditing system must ensure sufficient quality in order for FWF to approve the auditing system.	Information on audit methodology.	0	0	-1

Comment: In 2018, FWF has started training for local staff to do audits at tail-end production locations in Turkey and China. This process will continue to improve the quality of the own audits and the training will also include India. Audits done in Turkey after the training have been counted towards the monitoring threshold.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.3 Audit Report and Corrective Action Plan (CAP) findings are shared with factory and worker representation where applicable. Improvement timelines are established in a timely manner.	Yes	2 part indicator: FWF audit reports were shared and discussed with suppliers within two months of audit receipt AND a reasonable time frame was specified for resolving findings.	Corrective Action Plans, emails; findings of followup audits; brand representative present during audit exit meeting, etc.	2	2	-1

Comment: Audit reports and CAPs are shared either directly with the factory or through the agent/intermediary and improvement timelines are agreed upon.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.4 Degree of progress towards resolution of existing Corrective Action Plans and remediation of identified problems.	Basic	FWF considers efforts to resolve CAPs to be one of the most important things that member companies can do towards improving working conditions.	CAP-related documentation including status of findings, documentation of remediation and follow up actions taken by member. Reports of quality assessments. Evidence of understanding relevant issues.	4	8	-2

Comment: In 2018, FNG had 8 FWF audits to follow-up on, 29 external audits and 18 own evaluations. Although CAP follow-up is divided among the local representatives and the CSR manager in Belgium, this is still a lot of work. In addition, for most suppliers this is a new reality in their relation with FNG. In 2018, the focus was therefore on creating more understanding of CSR with suppliers rather than full remediation of identified problems.

During the performance check FNG was able to show basic progress on most active CAPs.

Recommendation: FWF strongly recommends to ensure that the size of the supply chain and the available resources of FNG to actively follow up on CAP issues are coinciding. Possible solutions could be to decrease the number of suppliers or increase the amount of resources needed for active follow up.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.5 Percentage of production volume from production locations that have been visited by the member company in the previous financial year.	86%	Formal audits should be augmented by annual visits by member company staff or local representatives. They reinforce to production location managers that member companies are serious about implementing the Code of Labour Practices.	Member companies should document all production location visits with at least the date and name of the visitor.	4	4	0

Comment: Production locations responsible for 86% of production volume have been visited by (representatives of) FNG in 2018.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.6 Existing audit reports from other sources are collected.	Yes, quality assessed and corrective actions implemented	Existing reports form a basis for understanding the issues and strengths of a supplier, and reduces duplicative work.	Audit reports are on file; evidence of followup on prior CAPs. Reports of quality assessments.	3	3	0

Comment: In 2018, FNG collected 11 external audit reports, assessed the quality using the FWF Audit Quality Assessment Tool, this information was often combined with FNG's own evaluation methodology to create a CAP and address follow-up. Progress on findings remains basic, see indicator 2.4.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.7 Compliance with FWF risk policies.	Average score depending on the number of applicable policies and results	Aside from regular monitoring and remediation requirements under FWF membership, countries, specific areas within countries or specific product groups may pose specific risks that require additional steps to address and remediate those risks. FWF requires member companies to be aware of those risks and implement policy requirements as prescribed by FWF.	Policy documents, inspection reports, evidence of cooperation with other customers sourcing at the same factories, reports of meetings with suppliers, reports of additional activities and/or attendance lists as mentioned in policy documents.	5	6	-2
Compliance with FWF enhanced monitoring programme Bangladesh	Policies are not relevant to the company's supply chain			N/A	6	-2
Compliance with FWF Myanmar policy	Policies are not relevant to the company's supply chain			N/A	6	-2
Compliance with FWF guidance on abrasive blasting	Advanced			6	6	-2
Compliance with FWF guidance on risks related to Turkish garment factories employing Syrian refugees	Intermediate			3	6	-2
Other risks specific to the member's supply chain are addressed by its monitoring system	Policies are not relevant to the company's supply chain			N/A	6	-2

Comment: FNG produces in several factories in Turkey. Since the publication of FWF guidance on risks related to Turkish garment factories employing Syrian refugees the company has discussed the topic with all their production locations and have incorporated it as part of their due diligence process. In 2018, the company drafted a policy outlining its approach to this topic. The policy has not been implemented yet.

Besides the topic of Syrian refugees FNG Group has identified additional risks to production in Turkey, namely improper administration and child labour. These risks are documented in the Group's general risk analysis and the Group's local representative has been actively engaged with current and possible suppliers to address these risks.

FNG has a policy outlining its approach to the prevention of abrasive blasting and informs and monitors its suppliers of denim.

Recommendation: FWF recommends to fully implement the developed policies in discussion with FNG's suppliers.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.8 Member company cooperates with other FWF member companies in resolving corrective actions at shared suppliers.	Active cooperation	Cooperation between customers increases leverage and chances of successful outcomes. Cooperation also reduces the chances of a factory having to conduct multiple Corrective Action Plans about the same issue with multiple customers.	Shared CAPs, evidence of cooperation with other customers.	2	2	-1

Comment: FNG actively cooperates with other FWF member companies in resolving corrective actions at shared suppliers. The company also cooperates with other FNG brands that are not part of FWF.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.9 Percentage of production volume where monitoring requirements for low-risk countries are fulfilled.	50-100%	Low-risk countries are determined by the presence and proper functioning of institutions which can guarantee compliance with national and international standards and laws. FWF has defined minimum monitoring requirements for production locations in low-risk countries.	Documentation of visits, notification of suppliers of FWF membership; posting of worker information sheets, completed questionnaires.	2	3	0

Comment: In 2018, 7% of FNG's total production volume came from production locations in low-risk countries. For all but five production locations (less than 1 % of total FOB), the company fulfilled the monitoring requirements. FNG did not undertake additional activities to monitor suppliers in low-risk countries.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.10 Extra bonus indicator: in case FWF member company conducts full audits at tail-end production locations (when the minimum required monitoring threshold is met).	No	FWF encourages its members to monitor 100% of its production locations and rewards those members who conduct full audits above the minimum required monitoring threshold.	Production location information as provided to FWF and recent Audit Reports.	N/A	2	0

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.11 Questionnaire is sent and information is collected from external brands resold by the member company.	Yes, and member has collected necessary information	FWF believes it is important for affiliates that have a retail/wholesale arm to at least know if the brands they resell are members of FWF or a similar organisation, and in which countries those brands produce goods.	Questionnaires are on file.	2	2	0

Comment: FNG sells a number of external brands and has collected the necessary information from all of them.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.12 External brands resold by member companies that are members of another credible initiative (% of external sales volume).	0%	FWF believes members who resell products should be rewarded for choosing to sell external brands who also take their supply chain responsibilities seriously and are open about in which countries they produce goods.	External production data in FWF's information management system. Documentation of sales volumes of products made by FWF or FLA members.	0	3	0

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
2.13 Questionnaire is sent and information is collected from licensees.	Yes, and member has information of production locations	FWF believes it is important for member companies to know if the licensee is committed to the implementation of the same labour standards and has a monitoring system in place.	Questionnaires are on file. Contracts with licensees.	1	1	0

Comment: One of the other FNG International brands is shoe brand Brantano. Brantano is currently not one of the FNG FWF brands. Brantano is a licensee for CKS. For Brantano FNG has the same focus on labour conditions and the same monitoring approach as for its FWF member brands.

MONITORING AND REMEDIATION

Possible Points: 36

Earned Points: 27

3. COMPLAINTS HANDLING

BASIC MEASUREMENTS	RESULT	COMMENTS
Number of worker complaints received since last check	0	At this point, FWF considers a high number of complaints as a positive indicator, as it shows that workers are aware of and making use of the complaints system.
Number of worker complaints in process of being resolved	0	
Number of worker complaints resolved since last check	0	

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
3.1 A specific employee has been designated to address worker complaints	Yes	Followup is a serious part of FWF membership, and cannot be successfully managed on an ad-hoc basis.	Manuals, emails, etc., demonstrating who the designated staff person is.	1	1	-1

Comment: FNG's CSR department is designated to address worker complaints.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
3.2 Member company has informed factory management and workers about the FWF CoLP and complaints hotline.	Yes	Informing both management and workers about the FWF Code of Labour Practices and complaints hotline is a first step in alerting workers to their rights. The Worker Information Sheet is a tool to do this and should be visibly posted at all production locations.	Photos by company staff, audit reports, checklists from production location visits, etc.	2	2	-2

Comment: FNG requires all production locations to share a picture of the posted worker information sheet at the beginning of production. These pictures are saved on the company server. Next, all staff visiting production locations will take pictures of worker information sheets.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
3.3 Degree to which member company has actively raised awareness of the FWF CoLP and complaints hotline.	0%	After informing workers and management of the FWF CoLP and the complaints hotline, additional awareness raising and training is needed to ensure sustainable improvements and structural worker-management dialogue.	Training reports, FWF's data on factories enrolled in the WEP basic module. For alternative training activities: curriculum, training content, participation and outcomes.	0	6	0

Comment: FNG has not conducted any training at its production locations. The local representatives do inform workers about FWF and the Code of Labour Practices during their visits and distribute the worker information cards, but this is not done through systematic training of workers and management.

Requirement: FWF requires members to actively raise awareness about the FWF Code of Labour Practices and FWF complaint hotline. The member should ensure good quality systematic training of workers and management on these topics. To this end members can either use FWF's Workplace Education Programme (WEP) basic module, or implement training related to the FWF CoLP and complaint hotline through service providers or brand staff. FWF's guidance on training quality standards is available on the Member Hub.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
3.4 All complaints received from production location workers are addressed in accordance with the FWF Complaints Procedure	No complaints received	Providing access to remedy when problems arise is a key element of responsible supply chain management. Member company involvement is often essential to resolving issues.	Documentation that member company has completed all required steps in the complaints handling process.	N/A	6	-2

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
3.5 Cooperation with other customers in addressing worker complaints at shared suppliers	No complaints or cooperation not possible / necessary	Because most production locations supply several customers with products, involvement of other customers by the FWF member company can be critical in resolving a complaint at a supplier.	Documentation of joint efforts, e.g. emails, sharing of complaint data, etc.	N/A	2	0

COMPLAINTS HANDLING

Possible Points: 9

Earned Points: 3

4. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
4.1 All staff at member company are made aware of FWF membership.	Yes	Preventing and remediating problems often requires the involvement of many different departments; making all staff aware of FWF membership requirements helps to support cross-departmental collaboration when needed.	Emails, trainings, presentation, newsletters, etc.	1	1	0

Comment: FNG's CSR department provides training for different departments to inform them about CSR in general and FWF membership specifically. Twice a year there is a company-wide information moment and throughout the year staff is updated via emails on developments.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
4.2 All staff in direct contact with suppliers are informed of FWF requirements.	Yes	Sourcing, purchasing and CSR staff at a minimum should possess the knowledge necessary to implement FWF requirements and advocate for change within their organisations.	FWF Seminars or equivalent trainings provided; presentations, curricula, etc.	2	2	-1

Comment: CSR meets regularly with purchasers and as the two departments are located next to each other there is also a lot of ad hoc exchange.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
4.3 All sourcing contractors/agents are informed about FWF's Code of Labour Practices.	Yes + actively support COLP	Agents have the potential to either support or disrupt CoLP implementation. It is the responsibility of member company to ensure agents actively support the implementation of the CoLP.	Correspondence with agents, trainings for agents, FWF audit findings.	2	2	0

Comment: When intermediaries or agents are visiting FNG FWF and the CoLP is discussed with them. Intermediaries and agents are involved in monitoring and remediation.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
4.4 Factory participation in training programmes that support transformative processes related to human rights.	0%	Complex human rights issues such as freedom of association or gender-based violence require more in-depth trainings that support factory-level transformative processes. FWF has developed several modules, however, other (member-led) programmes may also count.	Training reports, FWF's data on factories enrolled in training programmes. For alternative training activities: curriculum, training content, participation and outcomes.	0	6	0

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
4.5 Degree to which member company follows up after a training programme.	No training programmes have been conducted or member produces solely in low-risk countries	After factory-level training programmes, complementary activities such as remediation and changes on brand level will achieve a lasting impact.	Documentation of discussions with factory management and worker representatives, minutes of regular worker-management dialogue meetings or anti-harassment committees.	N/A	2	0

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Possible Points: 11

Earned Points: 5

5. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
5.1 Level of effort to identify all production locations	Intermediate	Any improvements to supply chains require member companies to first know all of their production locations.	Supplier information provided by member company. Financial records of previous financial year. Documented efforts by member company to update supplier information from its monitoring activities.	3	6	-2

Comment: FNG became a member in 2017, since then it has been trying to get additional information from all its production locations. The company was successful in most instances, where it could also indicate specific subcontractors used for FNG. However, there were also a few production locations that were only identified after production took place.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
5.2 CSR and other relevant staff actively share information with each other about working conditions at production locations.	Yes	CSR, purchasing and other staff who interact with suppliers need to be able to share information in order to establish a coherent and effective strategy for improvements.	Internal information system; status CAPs, reports of meetings of purchasing/CSR; systematic way of storing information.	1	1	-1

Comment: CSR meets regularly with purchasers and as the two departments are located next to each other there is also a lot of ad hoc exchange. Also, whenever someone from FNG is visiting a production location information about working conditions and necessary CAP follow-up is shared.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Possible Points: 7

Earned Points: 4

6. TRANSPARENCY

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
6.1 Degree of member company compliance with FWF Communications Policy.	Minimum communications requirements are met AND no significant problems found	FWF's communications policy exists to ensure transparency for consumers and stakeholders, and to ensure that member communications about FWF are accurate. Members will be held accountable for their own communications as well as the communications behaviour of 3rd-party retailers, resellers and customers.	FWF membership is communicated on member's website; other communications in line with FWF communications policy.	2	2	-3

Comment: FNG communicates about FWF membership on its Dutch CKS and Fred & Ginger website.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
6.2 Member company engages in advanced reporting activities	Published Brand Performance Checks, audit reports, and/or other efforts lead to increased transparency.	Good reporting by members helps to ensure the transparency of FWF's work and shares best practices with the industry.	Member company publishes one or more of the following on their website: Brand Performance Check, Audit Reports, Supplier List.	1	2	0

Comment: FNG published the performance check on its Dutch CKS and Fred & Ginger website.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
6.3 Social Report is submitted to FWF and is published on member company's website	Complete and accurate report submitted to FWF AND published on member's website.	The social report is an important tool for members to transparently share their efforts with stakeholders. Member companies should not make any claims in their social report that do not correspond with FWF's communication policy.	Social report that is in line with FWF's communication policy.	2	2	-1

Comment: FNG published its social report on its Dutch CKS and Fred & Ginger website.

TRANSPARENCY

Possible Points: 6

Earned Points: 5

7. EVALUATION

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
7.1 Systemic annual evaluation of FWF membership is conducted with involvement of top management	Yes	An annual evaluation involving top management ensures that FWF policies are integrated into the structure of the company.	Meeting minutes, verbal reporting, Powerpoints, etc.	2	2	0

Comment: CSR in general and FWF membership is part of the regular board agenda and is evaluated annually.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESULT	RELEVANCE OF INDICATOR	DOCUMENTATION	SCORE	MAX	MIN
7.2 Level of action/progress made on required changes from previous Brand Performance Check implemented by member company.	40%	In each Brand Performance Check report, FWF may include requirements for changes to management practices. Progress on achieving these requirements is an important part of FWF membership and its process approach.	Member company should show documentation related to the specific requirements made in the previous Brand Performance Check.	2	4	-2

Comment: Last year FNG was required to address root causes of wages below a living wage at its production locations. In 2018, the company started discussions with some production locations to address the requirement to meet the legal minimum wage. This was a start of general wage discussions but did not yet fully address the root causes. Therefore this indicator is only partly rewarded.

EVALUATION

Possible Points: 6

Earned Points: 4

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FWF

FNG recommends FWF to improve its audit methodology to ensure suppliers are still willing to participate. Also, the company would like FWF to update the Turkish Worker Information Sheet, to ensure the correct information is displayed and improve the alignment between the Turkish team and FWF headquarters. Also, FNG would like FWF to take a more active role in lobby activities in Belgium to push for a counterpart to the Dutch AGT or German PST. If this is outside of the scope of the organisation, the company would like to be involved/invited to activities FWF participates in within these initiatives, to learn from other companies.

SCORING OVERVIEW

CATEGORY	EARNED	POSSIBLE
Purchasing Practices	17	47
Monitoring and Remediation	27	36
Complaints Handling	3	9
Training and Capacity Building	5	11
Information Management	4	7
Transparency	5	6
Evaluation	4	6
Totals:	65	122

BENCHMARKING SCORE (EARNED POINTS DIVIDED BY POSSIBLE POINTS)

53

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKING CATEGORY

Good

BRAND PERFORMANCE CHECK DETAILS

Date of Brand Performance Check:

26-04-2019

Conducted by:

Anne van Lakerveld

Interviews with:

Anja Maes (FNG founder and head CSR)

Ebru Gungor (Corporate Buying)

Sara Kovic (CSR Coordinator Belgium)

Kemal (CSR officer Turkey)

Danny De Clerck (buyer CKS/ Limon/ Superstar)

Kelly Goyvaerts (production planning/ buying administration CKS/ Limon/ Superstar)

Ann-Sophie Theuwis (BUs Manager - all brands)

Charlotte Peeters (BMD Manager all brands, buyer fred + ginger, buyer external brands)

Anneleen Peeters (production planning/ buying/ buying administration fred + ginger)

Magalie Dam (buying administration external brands)