# Tackling modern slavery in PPE supply chains:

# Tools and further guidance





#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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This is the supplementary tools and further guidance for PPE suppliers. Please refer to the main guidance for more information.

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1 Ergon Associates (2018) Managing Risks Associated with Modern Slavery, https://ergonassociates.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Managing-Risks-Associated-with-Modern-Slavery.pdf

Government Commercial Function (2019) Tackling Modern Slavery in Government Supply Chains, <a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/830150/September\_2019\_Modern\_Slavery\_Guidance.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/830150/September\_2019\_Modern\_Slavery\_Guidance.pdf</a>

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## Resource 1: Identifying Forced Labour Indicators

This section provides definitions for each of the 11 FLIs, reported examples in the PPE context, and questions that all companies can ask themselves and their suppliers to identify whether there is a risk of forced labour within the supply chain.

#### 11 Forced Labour Indicators

- 1. Abuse of vulnerability
- 2. Deception
- 3. Restricted freedom of movement
- 4. Retention of identity documents
- 5. Isolation
- 6. Physical and sexual violence

- 7. Intimidation and threats
- 8. Witholding of wages
- 9. Debt bondage
- 10. Abusive working and living conditions
- 11. Excessive overtime

What is it?	Reported examples in the PPE context	Check the risk to business and workers
This column highlights information about each ILO FL indicator.	This column provides a fictional mini-case study of situations where the FLI was present in a PPE supply chain	The questions listed in this column can help to identify whether the company may be exposed to forced labour risk. Carry out or commission an indepth assessment where risks are identified.

#### 1. ABUSE OF VULNERABILITY

Abuse of vulnerability is more likely to occur if you have a workforce with any of the following characteristics. People who:

- lack knowledge of the local language or laws.
- have few livelihood options.

A PPE factory employs a majority migrant workforce, including a large number of workers from Bangladesh and Nepal, and a small number from Vietnam. While the Bangladeshi and Nepalese workers are relatively well organised because of their large numbers and have established channels of communication with

Do you or your suppliers:

- employ workers with any of the common characteristics of vulnerability listed?
- ask/allow workers to work hours in excess of the local law and/or international standards, because you believe they want to earn more money?

## Hire interpreters to communicate with workers from minority groups.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

## Check the risk to business and workers

#### 1. ABUSE OF VULNERABILITY (CONTINUED)

- belong to a specific / minority religious, sex / gender or ethnic group.
- have a disability.
- have other characteristics that set them apart from the majority population.
- have multiple dependency on the employer, such as when the worker depends on the employer not only for his or her job but also for housing, food and for work for his or her relatives.

The mere fact of being in a vulnerable position, for example, lacking alternative livelihood options, does not necessarily lead a person into forced labour. It is when an employer takes advantage of a worker's vulnerable position, that a forced labour situation may arise.

management through interpreters, this is not the case for the Vietnamese workers, who:

- don't understand the terms of their employment, applicable employment law, or their rights.
- do not speak the language and do not have access to any interpreters on site.
- live in separate, unsuitable. accommodations just above the factory.
- paid high recruitment fees and took on debts to pay them.

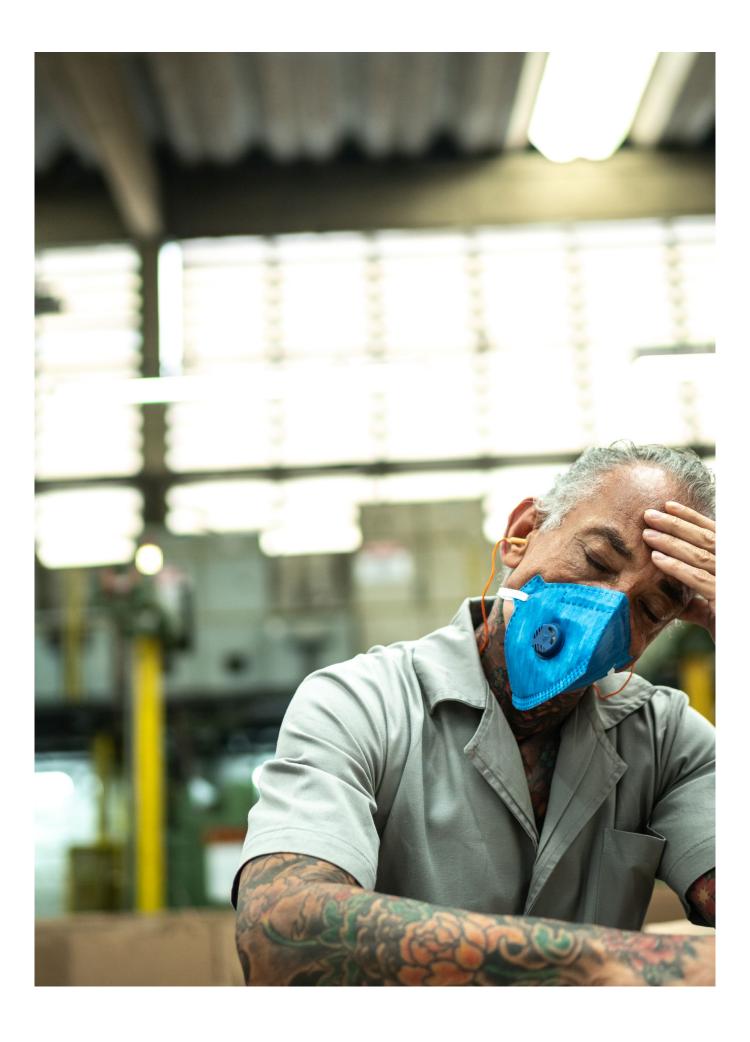
An external audit reveals that these workers want to leave their job and their poor living conditions but feel that they cannot because they are unable to communicate and have no access to grievance channels.

In this case study example, the fact that the Vietnamese workers cannot communicate with their employer, lack knowledge about their rights, and are part of minority group isolated from the rest of the workforce renders them especially vulnerable to abuse. This situation constitutes an indicator of forced labour that may point to the existence of forced labour when taken together with other indicators.

- provide workers financial incentives such as attendance bonuses to encourage them to work in excess of their regular working hours?
- believe workers of certain nationalities may be pressured into working excessive hours due to their inability to communicate?
- make it a requirement that workers stay in companyprovided accommodations and use company-operated canteens?
- not offer certain nationalities the same accommodations or amenities as others (e.g. not providing workers with a bed) because of perceived cultural differences or preferences (e.g. wanting to sleep on the floor).

#### Reflect

Does your business take advantage of workers' vulnerability in any way? If so, you should take steps to remove those vulnerabilities, e.g. hire interpreters to communicate with workers from minority groups, stop providing incentives to workers to work in excess of the law, etc.



If your company lacks visibility of your recruitment supply chain, and how agencies promote jobs to workers, you are at risk of having a deceptive recruitment process.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

## Check the risk to business and workers

#### 2. DECEPTION

Deception relates to the failure to deliver what has been promised to the worker, either verbally or in writing. Victims of forced labour are often recruited with promises of decent, well-paid jobs. But once they begin working, the promised conditions of work do not materialize, and workers find themselves trapped in abusive conditions without the ability to escape. In these cases, workers have not given free and informed consent. Had they known the reality, they would never have accepted the job offer. Deceptive recruitment practices can include:

- false promises regarding working conditions and wages
- type of work
- housing and living conditions
- acquisition of regular migration status
- job location
- the identity of the employer.

A company recruits migrant workers from Pakistan, using two recruitment agencies, one in the production country, and another in Pakistan.

The company HR tells the recruitment agency about the job offer, and the terms and conditions of the job, but other than this, the company doesn't engage in any due diligence to check how these agencies are carrying out the request. When the workers arrive at the production site, the company finds out that they were promised work in an entirely different sector, and at much higher wages than the company can offer.

This example offers a clear case of workers having been deceived about their employment conditions. If in addition to this, it is found that their freedom to leave their employer is restricted in any way (e.g. because of the debt accrued through the recruitment process), then they would be in a situation of forced labour.

Do you or your suppliers:

- recruit migrant workers?
- use recruitment agencies to recruit workers (including local workers)?
- have measures in place to ensure that recruitment agencies provide pre-departure orientation and training to workers, and check the quality of information provided?
- have oversight over what information is provided to workers through various stages of the recruitment process?
- provide migrant workers with contracts in their own language?
- have clear visibility of your recruitment supply chain and how recruitment agencies promote jobs to workers?

#### Reflect

If your company lacks visibility of your recruitment supply chain, and how agencies promote jobs to workers, you are at risk of having a deceptive recruitment process. Spend time speaking to workers and your agency partners to get a better understanding of what happens during the recruitment process. If possible, commission an assessment to give you detailed insights into where recruitment and deception-related risks exist, and how to address them.

Workers freedom of movement is restricted when they are locked up and guarded to prevent them from escaping, at work or while being transported.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 3. RESTRICTED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Workers freedom of movement is restricted when they are:

- not free to enter and exit the work premises, accommodation, or transport.
- locked up and guarded to prevent them from escaping, at work or while being transported.
- have their movements controlled inside the workplace, through the use of surveillance cameras or guards, and outside the workplace by agents of their employer.

Legitimate restrictions might include:

- restricted freedom of movement/access to certain areas to help protect workers' safety and security in hazardous work sites.
- the need to request prior permission of the supervisor to attend a medical appointment.

A PPE warehouse based in the UK uses agency workers/sub-contracted workers to perform certain duties, such as cleaning the company premises. The agency workers are from Bulgaria, and every day they are brought to the company premises in a mini bus by their agent. The workers seem intimidated, and don't talk much. After work, the agent picks them up again in the same mini bus. When the company decides to investigate further, it is found out that the agent takes workers to and from their accommodation and place of work and does not allow them to leave at any point in between.

The situation described above presents a strong indicator of forced labour as the workers are effectively restricted in their ability to freely leave their accommodation or place of work, and their movements are controlled by their agent.

Do you or your suppliers:

- restrict workers from leaving the work premises, accommodation or transport in any way? For example:
  - requiring workers to get a special "exit pass" to leave the building?
  - locking accommodation gates at night?
  - locking workers in at the workplace during work (for whatever reason)?
  - imposing curfew
     e.g. workers are
     not allowed to leave
     accommodation after
     10pm
     (even if this is for
     safety reasons)?
  - holding workers passports or other documents?

What is it?	Reported examples in the PPE context	Check the risk to business and workers
3. RESTRICTED FREE	DOM OF MOVEMENT (CC	ONTINUED)
		<ul> <li>Do you or your suppliers:</li> <li>impose certain conditions on workers resigning or returning home for annual leave by: <ul> <li>requiring workers to pay any fees/penalties if they terminate their contract early?</li> <li>requiring workers to pay a deposit before they take annual leave?</li> </ul> </li> <li>use surveillance techniques, for example: <ul> <li>use surveillance cameras to monitor workers movements and prevent them from leaving?</li> <li>use security guards to reprimand workers if they break the rules?</li> <li>require an agent or other supervisor to accompany workers at all times?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		Reflect Do you restrict workers' freedom of movement in any way? If yes, carry out a full review to ensure these restrictions do not constitute forced labour.

#### GOOD INTENTIONS OR POTENTIAL FORCED LABOUR RISK?

Restricting workers' ability to leave employer-provided accommodation during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to prevent the spread of the virus. Such restrictions, while well-intentioned, must be closely monitored in order to avoid becoming a forced-labour practice, especially over long periods of time.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 4. RETENTION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

The retention by the employer of identity documents or other valuable personal possessions is an element of forced labour if workers:

- are unable to access these items on demand
- feel that they cannot leave the job without risking their loss.

In many cases, without identity documents, the worker will not be able to obtain other jobs or access essential services and may be afraid to ask for help from authorities or NGOs.

A company provides all workers with lockers at the factory premises. Workers are required to keep their passports at the factory locker for safe keeping. Workers have a key but can't access these lockers without permission from a security guard.

Retaining workers' identity documents does not, of itself, constitute forced labour. In this case, however, requiring workers to ask permission from a security guard means that many workers will not feel comfortable doing so in practice. This hinders their ability to access their documents immediately and in an unrestricted manner. As such, this practice may constitute an indicator of forced labour.

Do you or your suppliers:

- have control over workers' passports or other documents, in any way? Remember this can include:
  - keeping workers' documents at your offices
  - providing workers with lockers to keep their passports in but restricting access to those lockers.
  - holding other documents
    (e.g. birth certificates,
    land deeds, etc.) as
    collateral, to be returned
    to workers when they
    pay off recruitment
    debts or complete other
    requirements. This
    practice is commonly
    used by recruitment
    agencies in certain
    countries to ensure
    workers pay them
    recruitment fees.

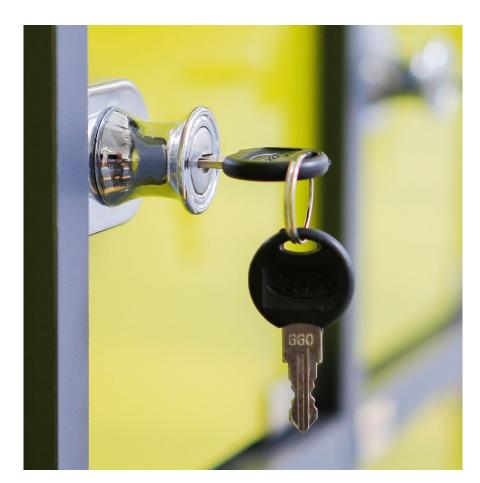
## GOOD INTENTIONS OR POTENTIAL FORCED LABOUR RISK?

From a company perspective, it is often in the interest of both the company and the worker for passports to be kept by management for security reasons. Workers may even ask the company to keep their passport for them, because they are worried that it will be stolen. Fundamentally, this often relates to a lack of security perceived by workers. Instead of keeping workers' passports, employers should provide workers with safe storage at their accommodation, which they can freely access at all times.

#### Reflect

If your company controls workers' access to their passports in any way, this violates numerous international labour standards. For example, the Dhaka Principles, which require that "no migrant workers' passports or identity documents are retained". In combination with other factors, this practice may indicate forced labour. Make sure that workers are provided with a safe and secure place to store their documents and have access to them at all times.











## Victims of forced labour are often isolated in remote locations and denied contact with the outside world.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 5. ISOLATION

Victims of forced labour are often isolated in remote locations, denied contact with the outside world. Indicators of isolation may be present if:

- workers don't know where they are
- the worksite is far from habitation and there is no means of transportation available.
- workers are kept behind closed doors
- workers have their mobile phones or other means of communication confiscated
- business premises are informal and not registered, making it very difficult for law enforcement or other agencies to locate the business and monitor what is happening to the workers.

A PPE factory is located in a remote, difficult to access area that employs a small foreign workforce from a neighbouring country. The workers have been sent by their government to work at the factory. Government minders monitor and control the workers' movements and communications and they live in a separate accommodation that is isolated from the majority of the workforce. In addition, these workers do not speak the local language.

In this example, the fact that the workers are far from habitation, cannot communicate with the outside world, are under surveillance, and are kept separate from other workers constitutes a strong indicator of 'isolation'. Do you or your suppliers:

- have factories or accommodation facilities that place workers in a remote location, far from habitation?
- provide dormitories for members of an ethnic minority or minority migrant workforce that is separate from the majority of the workforce?
- provide interpreters on site for workers that do not speak the local language so that they can communicate any questions or concerns?
- impose any restrictions on workers that may isolate them?

#### Reflect

When employing and housing a minority migrant workforce, companies may keep the workers separate from the rest of the majority workforce for their own comfort. However, it is important to ensure that this does not inadvertently contribute to the isolation of these workers.

## Look for any imbalances in power or vulnerabilities at the workplace that might make physical or sexual violence more likely to occur

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

## Check the risk to business and workers

#### 6. PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Forced labourers, their family members and close associates may be subjected to actual physical or sexual violence. This may include:

- violence to force a worker to undertake tasks that were not part of the initial agreement.
- forcing workers to take drugs or alcohol to have greater control over them.
- physical abduction or kidnapping to take a person captive and then force them to work.

Physical violence: A worker is regularly slapped by his supervisor at work, often for small reasons like not being able to complete targets. In addition, the workers supervisor waits for him off company premises after work, and beats him, telling him that if he tells anyone, or complains to management, he will injure him badly. The worker is scared to say anything and scared to lose his job.

This situation is a strong indicator of forced labour, as the worker is working under conditions of fear, physical violence, and coercion.

Sexual violence: A worker is told by his supervisor that he will lose his job if he does not have a sexual relationship with him. When the worker agrees, he is treated well by the supervisor and given money. When the worker refuses, the supervisor becomes aggressive, verbally abuses him and puts him under pressure at work.

The above situation is a clear indicator of sexual violence as the worker has been coerced to engaged in a sexual relationship against his will.

Do you or your suppliers:

- have any awareness of instances of physical and sexual violence at the workplace?
- create or contribute to any environments which might make it easier for physical/sexual violence to occur? For example, this might include not segregating accommodation between men and women, or applying intense pressure on supervisors to meet targets, thereby creating an environment more conducive to violence.
- have a policy or code of conduct in place on physical abuse and sexual harassment?
- provide trainings to workers and staff on such policies and codes of conduct?
- provide grievance channels to workers in their native language and encourage them to speak up about all issues, including sensitive ones like sexual violence?

#### Reflect

Review the policies and practices you have to prevent physical and sexual violence. Look for any imbalances in power or vulnerabilities at the workplace that might make physical or sexual violence more likely to occur and implement solutions.

## Proactively train your workers to recognise intimidation and make sure they feel confident to report them.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

#### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 7. INTIMIDATION AND THREATS

Victims of forced labour may suffer intimidation and threats when they complain about their conditions or wish to quit their jobs. Workers may be threatened with:

- physical violence.
- denunciation to the immigration authorities.
- loss of wages or access to housing or land.
- sacking of family members.
- further worsening of working conditions.
- withdrawal of "privileges" such as the right to leave the workplace.

Constantly insulting and undermining workers also constitutes a form of psychological coercion, designed to increase their sense of vulnerability.

A worker complains that he and his colleagues are being threatened by a supervisor. The supervisor forces them to give her money every week. He reports that the supervisor only behaves well with workers who give her money and will verbally harass those that do not and make them change to more difficult work lines frequently. The worker indicates that some of his colleagues are giving money to her in secret to avoid being pressured and harassed by her.

The above case of extortion constitutes a strong indicator of 'intimidation and threats' as the workers who do not comply with the supervisors' demands face verbal harassment and a deterioration of their working conditions. The added verbal harassment constitutes a form of psychological coercion, designed to increase their sense of vulnerability.

Do you or your suppliers:

- have instances of verbal harassment and workplace bullying identified?
  - If so, what were the root causes of this behaviour?
  - aware of any intimidation practices by recruitment agencies?
  - for example, threats to workers and their families' safety if they do not pay recruitment fees.
  - forcing workers to record video testimonials stating they have not paid fees.
  - threatening workers that they will lose the job if they report any abuses.
- have a policy or code of conduct in place on verbal harassment and workplace bullying?
- provide trainings to workers and staff on such policies and codes of conduct?
- provide trusted grievance channels (i.e. not linked to potential perpetrators) to workers in their native language and encourage them to speak up?

#### Reflect

Practices related to worker intimidation can often be hidden and difficult to identify. Spend time talking to workers in a confidential environment to understand whether any intimidation is taking place – either during recruitment or at the workplace. Proactively train your workers to recognise intimidation and feel confident to report them. Where intimidation practices are identified, take disciplinary action against the relevant perpetrators and ensure workers are protected from further harm.



Constantly insulting and undermining workers also constitutes a form of psychological coercion, designed to increase their sense of vulnerability.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

#### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 8. WITHOLDING WAGES

When wages are systematically and deliberately withheld to compel the worker to remain and deny him or her of the opportunity to change employer, this points to forced labour.

A facility has a policy that requires its workers to provide advance notice in case of resignation. The policy also states that if the worker resigns before the mandatory notice period, the company will deduct a certain percentage of his or her wages. An internal audit has been commissioned to dig deeper into the issue following allegations of wage theft, and it is discovered that these deductions exceed that which is allowed by national law.

Penalties imposed on workers for failure to respect resignation notices may be permitted by national law. However, the situation above constitutes an indicator of 'withholding of wages' as the wage deductions exceed what is permissible by law and effectively restrict the workers' ability to leave employment.

Do you or your suppliers:

- make any deductions to workers pay? If yes, what are these deductions for? Are they legal deductions that are properly explained to workers and documented clearly on payslips?
- withhold wage payments until workers complete certain tasks? (e.g. until workers pay for a damaged mattress at the accommodation, or until they complete a certain target?)
- make incomplete or incorrect payments (e.g. workers are paid a regular rate for work on a rest day, which should be paid at least double the rate?)
- impose financial penalties on workers for breaking any rules?
- experience issues in paying workers regularly or on time?
- hold worker deposits, for whatever purpose?
- provide any loans to workers? If so, are the terms clear to workers and fair?

#### Reflect

Companies and their suppliers should have a full understanding of all systematised deductions made from worker salaries and whether these are permitted by national laws. A lack of visibility or oversight over what kind of salary deductions are made can result in legitimate deductions being misconstrued as indicators of forced labour, especially in the case of migrant workers. Where withholding of wages is discovered, make sure that all affected workers are provided with back-pay immediately. This should cover all outstanding wages or other types of money withheld, dating back to the start of their employment.

Unlike an ordinary loan from a bank or independent lender, debt bondage has the effect of binding the worker to the employer for an unspecified period of time.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 9. DEBT BONDAGE

Forced labourers are often working in an attempt to pay off an incurred debt, which can arise from:

- wage advances or loans to cover recruitment or transport costs
- daily living or emergency expenses, such as medical costs

Employers or recruiters may make it difficult for workers to escape from the debt, e.g. by:

- undervaluing the work performed
- inflating interest rates or charges for food and housing.

Unlike an ordinary loan from a bank or independent lender, debt bondage has the effect of binding the worker to the employer for an unspecified period of time.

Through an internal audit a company discovered that interviewed workers across all nationalities reported paying recruitment fees as part of their recruitment journey in their home country. The findings are in clear violation of the company's zerorecruitment fee policy. For some nationalities. the average recruitment fees paid by workers represent up to two years of salary.

Even when they are technically legal in migrant workers' home countries, large recruitment fees can lead to debt bondage as they require migrants to set aside a significant portion of their small salary to repay high-interest loans taken out to repay the debt. This can in turn cause workers to remain with an abusive employer because they feel that they have no choice but to repay their debt.

Do you or your suppliers:

- have commitment to the <u>Employer</u> <u>Pays Principle</u> integrated in your policies and contracts?
- have due diligence procedures in place to ensure that the policy is being implemented by the company and its suppliers?
- know whether migrant workers at the factories have paid fees to recruitment agencies in the sending or receiving country?
- if yes, how much each nationality paid on average and what these fees cover?
- have a remediation policy in place for workers found to have been victims of debt bondage?

#### Reflect

Some companies and their suppliers may not feel responsible for the exorbitant fees that may be charged to migrant workers by external third-party recruitment agencies during the recruitment journey. However, it is important for companies and their supply chain partners to understand that such fees put their migrant workforce at increased risk of debt bondage, a strong indicator of forced labour.

Abusive conditions alone do not prove the existence of forced labour but should represent an "alert" to the possible existence of coercion that is preventing the exploited workers from leaving the job.

#### What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 10. ABUSIVE WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Abusive working and living conditions include:

- work performed under conditions that are degrading (humiliating or dirty), hazardous (difficult or dangerous without adequate protective gear) and in severe breach of labour law.
- substandard living conditions, that are overcrowded and unhealthy without any privacy.
- \*Abusive conditions alone do not prove the existence of forced labour but should represent an "alert" to the possible existence of coercion that is preventing the exploited workers from leaving the job.

A company is planning to onboard a new PPE supplier and went to visit the facilities and accommodation for the first time. During the site and accommodation walk around, you noticed there are a lot of cigarette butts lying around the facility, and you also identified that the workers accommodation is above the factory (i.e. in the same building). You estimated over 100 workers are living on the same floor, and the living environment is very overcrowded, unhygienic, and congested. There are only two toilets available for workers to use, and two or three workers have to share one bed. The workers live and cook in the same space.

The above illustrates what a degrading and hazardous environment could look like, with cigarette butts posing a fire risk, and workers living in substandard and dehumanising conditions.

Do you or your suppliers:

- provide accommodation for workers? Or work with subcontracted companies that do?
  - if yes, are you aware of relevant standards, such as how many workers are allowed per room, and the ratio of toilets per workers that should be provided?
  - have any recent accommodation inspections discovered overcrowded, unsanitary or unsuitable premises?
- have any issues supplying workers with appropriate PPE?
- have issues related to health and safety? How many workplace accidents occurred in the past year? Has sufficient remedy and compensation been provided to workers?

#### Reflect

Are the working and living conditions you provide to workers acceptable? If not, take steps to make improvements.

## Forced labourers may be obliged to work excessive hours or days beyond the limits prescribed by national law.

What is it?

## Reported examples in the PPE context

### Check the risk to business and workers

#### 11. EXCESSIVE OVERTIME

Forced labourers may be obliged to work excessive hours or days beyond the limits prescribed by national law or collective agreement. They can be denied breaks and days off, having to take over the shifts and working hours of colleagues who are absent, or by being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

An internal audit has found that workers in a factory have been working more than 2 consecutive weeks without a rest day during the past 3 months. An investigation discovers that workers have been encouraged to work on their rest days to earn more money as part of a volunteer program to ramp up PPE production in the context of a COVID-19 related CSR initiative. In addition, it was found that workers transitioning from day to night shifts over the course of the same day often end up working over the legal limit over a 24-hour period.

It is important to note that the presence of overtime does not constitute an indicator of forced labour as long as it is within the limits permitted by legislation or collective agreements. However, the instances described in the example above constitute 'excessive overtime' as the hours or days worked were found are in excess of those prescribed by national law and "abuse of vulnerability", as workers are provided with financial incentive to do this.

Do you or your suppliers:

- require workers, including migrant workers, to work more overtime than allowed by national law, e.g. in the context of a COVID-19 PPE production program or schemes?
- push or encourage workers to work overtime against their will? (e.g. through subtle pressure from supervisors when targets have not been met)
- punish workers for refusing overtime? (e.g. by not allowing them to work overtime in the following months)
- provide financial incentives to workers to get them to work in excess of their regular working hours?
- regularly allow or request workers to work on their rest day?

#### Reflect

Companies should respect national legislation and international standards on maximum working hours and review their practices to ensure that these do not encourage workers to work beyond the legally permissible limits.

### GOOD INTENTIONS OR POTENTIAL FORCED LABOUR RISK?

It is common for local laws to allow a higher number of working hours than permitted by international standards. In addition, employers report that workers want to work as much overtime as possible, and that companies risk losing workers if they are unable to offer as much overtime as their competitors. However, companies must remember that:

- Workers' eagerness to work overtime is often due to their need to supplement their low wages.
- Working in excess of set limits can cause exhaustion and cause life-threatening situations.
- Ultimately, employers are obliged, at minimum, to uphold local laws related to working hours, and to strive towards implementation of international standards.









## Resource 2: ILO Definitions of Recruitment Fees and Related Costs

The below table summarises the ILO's definition of recruitment fees and related costs. These are costs that should be paid by governments, employers, and recruitment agencies, not by workers<sup>1</sup>.

#### ILO OVERVIEW OF RECRUITMENT FEES AND RELATED COSTS

This table covers fees and costs paid by workers in their home country only

#### **Recruitment Fees**

Payments for recruitment services offered by public or private labour recruiters. These fees may be one-off or recurring and can cover recruitment, referral, and placement services. Costs could include advertising, disseminating information, arranging interviews, submitting documents for government clearances, confirming credentials, organizing travel and transportation, and placement into employment.

#### Related costs

Related costs are expenses which are integral to recruitment and placement within or across national borders. It is generally acknowledged that the widest set of related costs are incurred for international recruitment. The following costs should be considered related to the recruitment process when initiated by an employer, labour recruiter or an agent acting on behalf of workers; when required to secure access to employment or placement; or imposed during the recruitment process.

To note – a company policy which aims to ensure that workers do not bare these fees and related costs is referred to in this document (and in many cases by companies) as a 'Zero Cost' policy.

- 2 **Medical costs** payments for required medical examinations, tests, or vaccinations
- Insurance costs costs to insure the lives, health, and safety of migrant workers, including through enrolment in migrant welfare funds
- 4 Skills and qualification tests e.g. to verify workers' language proficiency, level of skills and qualifications, location-specific certification, or licensing
- Training and orientation e.g. expenses for language, skills, and other required trainings, on-site job orientation and pre-departure or post-arrival orientation of newly recruited workers

<sup>1</sup> ILO (2016) General principles & operational guidelines for fair recruitment, <a href="http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/">http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/</a> public/---ed\_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms\_536755.pdf

#### ILO OVERVIEW OF RECRUITMENT FEES AND RELATED COSTS

#### Related costs (continued)

- 6 **Equipment costs** costs for tools, uniforms, safety gear and other equipment needed to perform assigned work safely and effectively
- 7 Travel costs expenses incurred for travel, accommodation, and subsistence during the recruitment process, e.g. during training, interviews, consular appointments, as well as costs for return and repatriation.
- Administrative costs application and service fees that are required for the sole purpose of fulling the recruitment process. These could include fees for representation and services aimed at preparing, obtaining, or legalizing workers' employment contracts, identify documents, passports, visas, background checks, security and exit clearances, banking services and work and residence permits

#### **Illegitimate Costs**

9 Extra-contractual, undisclosed, inflated, or illicit costs - e.g. bribes, extortion or 'kickback' payments<sup>1</sup>, bonds, illicit cost-recovery fees and collaterals required by any actor in the recruitment chain



<sup>1</sup> These kinds of costs, including especially kickback payments and bribes that are accepted by employers, agencies and their representatives may warrant an internal or independent and detailed investigation to ensure criminal, civil or general contractual accountability and to recoup some of the workers' repayment costs.

## Resource 3: Questions for Suppliers

The following table is designed to support companies to carry out effective due diligence. It includes a list of suggested questions to ask, evidence (e.g. types of documents) to request, and responses to look out for when engaging with suppliers on their modern slavery policies and due diligence processes. It should be noted that this list is not comprehensive, and companies will need to expand on these questions depending on the context they are operating in.

Questions	Responses to look out for
Modern Slavery Policies	
Does the supplier have robust policies and practices to mitigate and manage modern slavery	<ul> <li>Robust policies and practices should explicitly show not just the suppliers zero-tolerance to all modern slavery abuses, but also how these policies are implemented in practice.</li> </ul>
risks?	<ul> <li>For example, check whether the company has adopted the Employer Pays Principle for recruitment. If yes, check how this commitment is upheld: is the requirement integrated in contracts with agencies? Are on and post-arrival interviews carried out with workers to check whether they have paid fees? Are sufficient fees paid by the supplier to the agency to cover the costs?</li> </ul>
Evidence to request	<ul> <li>Policies related to forced and child labour, including any clauses on passport retention.</li> <li>Policies and standard operating procedures related to the recruitment of migrant workers.</li> </ul>



# Check whether the supplier has awareness of which groups may be particularly vulnerable at the workplace.

Questions	Responses to look out for
Working Conditions	
What is the composition of the supplier's workforce?	<ul> <li>Employment of migrant workers often indicates high risk of modern slavery abuses, due to the increased vulnerability of these workers.</li> <li>Workers from specific countries, religions, and genders (e.g. women, refugees and children etc.) may indicate greater risk related to deception, sexual harassment, discrimination etc.</li> <li>Sub-contracted or outsourced workers are often vulnerable, with higher risks of being undocumented.</li> <li>Check whether the supplier has awareness of which groups may be particularly vulnerable at the workplace, including vulnerabilities related to sub-contractors. If the supplier has little awareness of vulnerabilities, abuses are more likely to occur.</li> </ul>
What are the key terms and conditions of employment in factories used to produce goods to be delivered under the contract? Include details on wages, working hours, and rest breaks.	<ul> <li>Check that reported wages are, at minimum, in line with the legal minimum wage in country of operation.</li> <li>Ask for documents which show how often workers receive a rest day. In some cases, you may find that the company policy is to provide 1 rest day per week, as per international standards, but records show a different story.</li> <li>Look out for rest break policies, including daily lunch breaks, and legally required break times that must be provided to workers before working overtime (OT).</li> <li>Remember that excessive overtime and high pressure is common within PPE supply chains. Ask probing questions to understand how overtime is managed and rotated between workers, and how the company can ensure workers do any OT voluntarily.</li> <li>*Note that the response "they all want to work OT to earn more" is not sufficient. Regardless of whether workers want to earn more money (often due to low wages) working hours and rest days must be controlled.</li> </ul>
Evidence to request	<ul> <li>Workforce breakdown by nationality, gender, location, date of recruitment and contract type.</li> <li>Copies of signed worker contracts and offer letters containing key information on terms and conditions.</li> <li>Copies of worker timesheets and factory entry/exit logs.</li> </ul>

#### Questions

#### Responses to look out for

#### Supply Chain Transparency & Due Diligence

What resources are available to identify, manage and mitigate risks, and how?

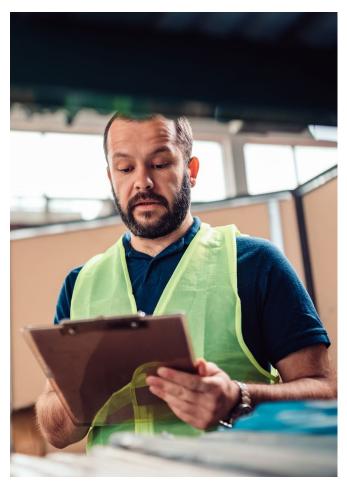
- Check whether the company has allocated sufficient staff to work on modern slavery related issues, including monitoring and action plan implementation. Often, staff are part of HR, compliance, sustainability or recruitment teams, with modern slavery risks forming only a small part of their job. In such cases, it is likely the company has not dedicated sufficient resource to carry out the job effectively.
- Check how often companies carry out their own internal audits and ask to see evidence of these. Often such audits are quite basic, and do not gather sufficient detail on employment/ recruitment processes in order to constitute evidence of effective monitoring. Ask the company to talk you through the processes and give hypothetical scenarios to test the effectiveness of their monitoring.

#### Evidence to request

• Evidence of internal audits, results, and action plans







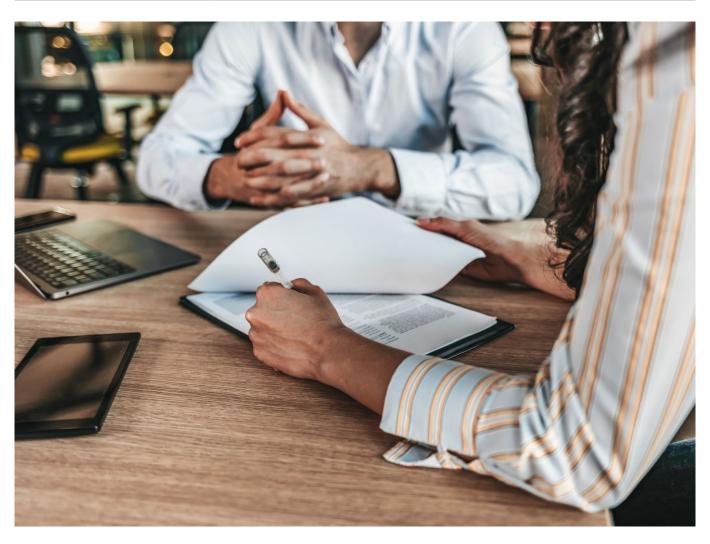
Use of recruitment agencies, especially when related to the recruitment of migrant workers, indicates a high risk of FLIs such as deception, abuse of vulnerability, and debt bondage.

Questions	Responses to look out for	
Recruitment Practices		
How does the supplier recruit workers delivering the contract?	<ul> <li>Ask the company to talk through their recruitment process from start to finish.</li> <li>Use of recruitment agencies, especially when related to the recruitment of migrant workers, indicates a high risk of FLIs such as deception, abuse of vulnerability, and debt bondage. The company will need to spend time understanding the recruitment process in detail.</li> <li>Ask whether the company takes video or written testimonials from workers during the recruitment – if they do, this indicates risk of worker intimidation. Workers are commonly forced to record such videos under threat of retaliation from their recruitment agency, when agencies are attempting to appear ethical. Workers may be threatened with retaliation against their family or loss of their job if they do not comply.</li> <li>Where workers are likely to have been forced to lie about the fees they paid, it is also likely that they paid high fees and are in conditions of debt bondage.</li> <li>Evidence that can show the supplier is seeking to mitigate forced labour risks include: <ul> <li>commissioning social audits or specialised assessments to ask workers about any recruitment fees paid.</li> <li>prohibiting labour providers from charging fees.</li> <li>checking with migrant workers on arrival whether they have been charged and/or exposed to any other forms of exploitation during recruitment.</li> <li>providing confidential processes for reporting instances of fee payment so that they can be remediated.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Where no assessment has been carried out, ask them to commission a specialised assessment to find out more.</li> </ul>	
Evidence to request	<ul> <li>Documents which show how recruitment happens in practice (e.g. job adverts, offer letters, contracts with recruitment agents and sub-agents, job quotas, demand letters).</li> <li>Social audits or specialised assessments to ask workers about any recruitment fees paid.</li> </ul>	

## Ask for a list of trade union and/or worker representatives at the workplace as evidence.

Questions	Responses to look out for	
Recruitment Practices (continued)		
Does the supplier know whether recruitment agency partners work with sub-agents?	<ul> <li>If the answer is no, this indicates a low level of due diligence carried out by your supplier on recruitment agency partners.</li> <li>In turn, this exposes the supplier to risks of illegal use of subagents, high-charging of recruitment fees and related costs to workers, and other exploitative recruitment practices.</li> </ul>	
Evidence to request	A full list of recruitment agencies and sub-agents involved in the delivery of the contract. If the supplier doesn't have this, ask them to provide it as part of a corrective action plan.	
Where sub-agents or sub-contractors are used, how will the supply chain be managed and monitored?	Where sub-contractors are involved, check what level of visibility the supplier has of their recruitment supply chain. Sub-contracted workers are often in vulnerable positions as their employment status can be irregular, and, depending on the country context, they can be more hidden from view.	
Evidence to request	<ul> <li>Contracts in place with agents, sub-agents, or sub-contractors.</li> <li>Evidence of agency licenses and registration documents.</li> </ul>	
Do the workers have access to trade unions or any form of worker representation?	If the answer is yes, probe to understand the effectiveness of these mechanisms. What role do trade unions and/or worker representatives have? Are they independent and freely elected? Are they able to engage in collective bargaining (if permitted by law)?	
	<ul> <li>In many countries within PPE supply chains, worker representation is very poor, which leads to increased vulnerability. As part of your engagement with the supplier, attempt to promote genuine and effective channels for worker- employer dialogue.</li> </ul>	
Evidence to request	A list of trade union and/or worker representatives at the workplace.	
	<ul> <li>Minutes of meetings hosted by trade union and/or worker representatives.</li> </ul>	
	Collective bargaining agreements if applicable.	

Questions	Responses to look out for
Recruitment Practices (c	ontinued)
Do workers have access to grievance mechanisms?	<ul> <li>Probe the validity and effectiveness of grievance mechanisms. Are they available in workers' languages? Are they regularly used? How are complaints dealt with? Can workers confirm grievances have been dealt with effectively?</li> </ul>
Evidence to request	<ul> <li>Operating procedures for existing grievance mechanisms.</li> <li>Grievance logs that record complaints and issues raised by workers, as well as details on how they were resolved, evidence that workers were informed of actions taken, and that the company checked workers' satisfaction with the result.</li> </ul>
How does the supplier work with NGOs, trade unions and other business to address risks?	<ul> <li>Ideally, the supplier should be able to demonstrate relationships with NGOs, trade unions, and other businesses, focusing on collaborative actions to improve the welfare of workers and implement improvements and remedy at their workplaces.</li> </ul>





In many countries within the PPE supply chains, worker representation is very poor, which leads to increased vulnerability.

# Resource 4: Remediation – Common Issues and Appropriate Remedy

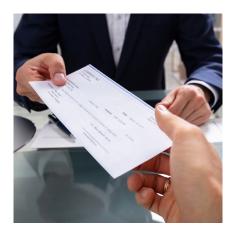
The table below provides an overview of common forced labour issues within the PPE supply chain context and examples of appropriate remediation actions that may be required.

Common issues within PPE supply chains	Appropriate remedy
Workers' passports are held or stored by supplier management	Return all passports to workers immediately and provide workers with secure storage at their accommodation.
Other personal documents belonging to workers (e.g. birth certificates, land deeds, etc) are held by recruitment agencies as collateral until workers' pay off their recruitment-related debts	Work with the recruitment agencies implicated (and any sub-agents) to address this situation in a sensitive manner. Return the documents to workers as soon as possible, without requiring them to pay the recruitment-debt or other extortionate amounts charged.
Workers have paid recruitment fees and related costs	Reimburse all workers for any recruitment fees and related costs paid, regardless of whether they are still in debt or not. See Impactt's Standards for Repayment of Migrant Worker Recruitment Fees and Related Costs for guidance.
Workers have paid a deposit to their recruitment agency and/or the supplier.	Return any deposits paid by workers.
Workers or their families are threatened by a recruitment agent, employer, or broker.	Collaborate with NGOs and or other local organisations to ensure workers and their families are brought to a safe place immediately.
Workers work excessive hours and have not been paid correct overtime (OT) rates in line with the local law	Provide backpay for any hours incorrectly paid, dating back to the start of the workers employment.
Workers are prevented from leaving the site and/or locked into the accommodation at night	Lift any restrictions on workers' freedom of movement immediately.
Workers have been paid incorrectly, have had wages deducted illegally, and/or have not been paid for work on rest days	Provide backpay, dating back to the start of the workers employment.

Common issues within PPE supply chains	Appropriate remedy
Workers have been forced to stay in employment and complete their contract term against their will	Support workers' repatriation and/or explore options for employment by another employer as soon as possible, in close consultation with the worker.
Physical, sexual and/or psychological abuse	<ul> <li>Medical and psychological support.</li> <li>Safeguarding the worker (e.g. transfer to different work location and or support repatriation, depending on the workers' preference).</li> <li>Legal representation for the victim/worker.</li> <li>Compensation for pain and suffering endured (appropriate compensation should be identified in consultation with workers and other stakeholders).</li> <li>Disciplinary consequences for any perpetrators involved.</li> </ul>
Poor quality, crowded accommodation	Workers must be moved to suitable temporary accommodation while wide-scale improvements to accommodation are made.















Collaborate with NGOs and/or other local organisations to ensure workers and their families are brought to a safe place immediately.

## Resource 5: International and Local Initiatives for Collaboration and Continuous Learning

The below table provides a list of international and local initiatives that companies can participate in for the purposes of ongoing learning and training for internal staff:

Organisation Name	Initiative and Overview	
Multi-Stakeholder Initiative / Membership Organisations Providing Training and Other Service		
Amfori Business and Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)	<ul> <li>Amfori BSCI has been substantially engaged in Thailand since 2015 with the following ethical recruitment-related activities.</li> <li>Awareness raising, stakeholder dialogue (2015)</li> <li>Development and piloting of training on recruitment of migrant workers (2016)</li> <li>Guidelines to members and producers on responsible</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>A project in partnership with the Thai government to improve the lives of workers and boost Thailand's reputation as a responsible sourcing country.</li> </ul>	
Consumer Goods Forum (CGF)	The CGF Human Rights Coalition – Working to End Forced Labour (HRC) is a CEO-led Coalition of Action from The Consumer Goods Forum. As an initiative of the world's largest consumer goods companies, the HRC is committed to helping achieve fair and decent working conditions worldwide by eradicating forced labour from its supply chains. For more information, visit tcgfsocial.com	
	The CGF also has released the Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) in Own Operations Maturity Journey Framework which is an open source tool targeting forced labour, applicable for suppliers who would like to embark in their own journey applying same requirements their clients are committing to implement	
Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)	ETI Access to Remedy for Migrant Workers Programme: ETI is running a two-year programme aimed at helping to improve working conditions and access to remedy for migrant workers. The Programme is developing a set of Access to Remedy for Migrant Workers Principles as well as implementing a pilot project with two companies in the rubber goods sector in Malaysia.	

#### **Organisation Name**

#### **Initiative and Overview**

## Multi-Stakeholder Initiative / Membership Organisations Providing Training and Other Service (continued)

## Fair Labour Association (FLA)

The FLA promotes ten principles, which includes a commitment to "no fees or related costs should be paid by workers". The principles and Workplace Code of Conduct represent the minimum standards which all FLA members agree to implement in their supply chains. FLA provide workshops on ethical recruitment, among other social compliance focus areas, and tools to help companies improve responsible production at the factory level that help suppliers meet legal requirements and brands' social compliance requirements.

#### Institute for Human Rights and Business

#### IHRB Responsible Recruitment Gateway

The Responsible Recruitment Gateway contains vital advice and guidance to prevent exploitation of workers during recruitment. <a href="https://www.ihrb.org/employerpays">www.ihrb.org/employerpays</a>

## Responsible Labour Initiative (RLI)

#### The Responsible Labour Initiative.

Listed benefits of RLI membership include:

- Participation in a rich multi-industry, multi-stakeholder community of practice which promotes a harmonized approach to addressing root causes of forced labour
- Supply chain-level forced labor risk assessment platform
- Specialized forced labor risk assessments and audits for factories and private recruitment agencies (PRAs)
- Full eLearning Academy as well as exclusive forced labor due diligence guidance & toolkits available to members and their suppliers
- Factory capacity building and instructor led training for forced labor due diligence
- Availability of third-party helpline (Suara Kami in Malaysia)
- Responsible Recruitment Program (RRP) focused on developing the maturity of PRAs to meet ethical recruitment standards

The Responsible Business Alliance (RBA) and Electronics Watch have entered into a formal agreement whereby the two organizations will work together to address issues in the global supply chains of RBA members where products are manufactured for public procurement. The RBA-Electronics Watch terms of engagement establish a process to facilitate effective collaboration, with the goal of improving compliance with relevant labour regulation and internationally recognized codes and worker rights standards for factories that make products for public buyer affiliates to Electronics Watch.

Organisation Name	Initiative and Overview	
Standards and Certificati	on	
Association of Labour Providers	Clearview: Global Labour Providers Certification Scheme Clearview is a global social compliance scheme for labour recruiters and providers whose objective is to drive responsible recruitment practice. Clearview is currently the key UK model for monitoring and improving recruitment practices and is linked with the UK Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), and various training programmes.	
Fair Hiring Initiative (FHI)	On the Level.  On the Level is a Private Recruitment and Employment Agency (PREA) Certification System, developed by the Fair Hiring Initiative with funding from Humanity United. FHI has developed a set of 10 Core Principles and Standards of Ethical Recruitment, against which agencies are assessed for certification.	
IOM and IOM-CREST	International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS)  IOM's IRIS standard sets benchmarks for ethical recruitment.  International labour recruiters can participate in a voluntary certification scheme and compliance and monitoring mechanism.  Certified recruiters can opt to be included in a publicly available list of 'IRIS certified labour recruiters'. IOM provides trainings for recruitment agencies, employers, suppliers and brands to support the implementation of IRIS standards.	
Civil Society/NGO Support For Victims of Forced Labour		
<u>Issara Institute</u>	Issara Institute is an NGO that provides support to businesses, workers, and victims of forced labour in Thailand, Myanmar and Cambodia.	
<u>Tenaganita</u>	Tenaganita is an NGO that provides case management and legal support to migrant workers in Malaysia.	



## Resource 6: Additional Resources

The following provide additional resources to help companies carry out the modern-slavery related due diligence processes outlined in this guide.

#### **Additional Resources**

#### **Forced Labour Definitions**

- ILO. Definitions of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking
- ILO. Global Comparative Study on Defining Recruitment Fees and Related Costs

#### Identifying Forced Labour Indicators and Risks

- Sedex Guidance. Operational Practice and Indicators of Forced Labour
- ILO. Indicators of Forced Labour
- ETI. Base Code Guidance: Modern Slavery
- Good Practice Note: Managing Risks Associated with Modern Slavery commissioned by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), CDC Group Plc, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).
- The Interactive Map for Business of Anti-Human Trafficking Organisations to seek advice on identifying particular risks from NGOs

#### Carrying out Modern Slavery Due Diligence

- Institute for Human Rights and Business. Six Steps to Responsible Recruitment for further guidance on how to implement The Employer Pays Principle
- ETI. Human rights due diligence framework
- United Nations. <u>Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights</u> has a portfolio of guidance and tools on due diligence, as well as a short video explaining what due diligence is.
- OECD. <u>Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector</u>

#### International Standards Related to Forced Labour and Recruitment

- IHRB. Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity and The Employer Pays Principle
- ILO. <u>General Principles on Fair Recruitment</u> (Part 1, section III lists thirteen general principles guiding fair recruitment)
- ETI. The ETI Base Code
- IOM. International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) Standard

#### **Additional Resources**

#### Relevant Legal Frameworks on Forced Labour

- ILO. Core Conventions, in particular <u>Forced labor Convention</u>, <u>Abolition of Forced labor Convention</u>, <u>Worst Forms of Child labor Convention</u>
- UK Modern Slavery Act
- ILO. <u>NORMLEX database</u> contains national labour laws and regulations from across the world and links to the relevant national legal databases

#### Responsible Recruitment – Practical Tools

- Institute for Human Rights and Business. Responsible Recruitment Gateway tools and information
- Verité. Fair Hiring Toolkit
- Impactt. Standards for Repayment of Migrant Worker Recruitment Fees and Related Costs

#### Addressing Child Labour

- ILO. How to do business with respect for children's right to be free from child labour
- ETI. Base Code Guidance: Child labour
- The US Department of Labour. <u>List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor</u> and a List of Products Produced by Forced or Indentured Child Labor

#### Other

- Home Office. <u>Transparency in Supply Chains A practical guide</u> for business to develop a Modern Slavery Statement
- BRE. Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard for recruiting labourers
- Home Office. <u>Slavery and human trafficking in supply chains: guidance for businesses</u> for organisations on how to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in their business or supply chains
- NHS. <u>Ethical Procurement for Health (EPH) Workbook</u> provides an example of a risk assessment template for the healthcare sector (NHS)
- The ITUC. <u>Global Rights Index</u> provides useful data on labour legislation, and ranks countries as the best and worst places for workers globally
- Home Office. Modern Slavery Assessment Tool. The tool asks suppliers questions about the processes they have in place for managing modern slavery risks and provides tailored recommendations on how to improve their anti-slavery processes.
- ETI. <u>Modern slavery statements evaluation framework</u> to help assess the quality of published statements and identify any strengths and weaknesses.

Please refer to the 'A Practical Guide for PPE Suppliers' document intended to support PPE suppliers, including resellers and manufacturers, to provide tailored information on the key measures that should be taken to carry out effective modern slavery due diligence in supply chains.