

Part Two: The Code of Practice

This part sets out the criteria for participating manufacturers

There is a Code of Practice Committee which will oversee the setting up and ongoing management of the Code.

It involves an accreditation procedure whereby manufacturers who give work to contractors or directly to homeworkers seek accreditation. The accreditation process will ensure that from the retailer down to the homemaker the chain is transparent. This will be achieved by the following steps:

- Retailers signatory to the Principles will provide to the union lists of their suppliers.
- Retailers will require their suppliers in their purchase contracts, to comply with all laws and regulations including payment of the sewing garment rate relevant to homeworkers.
- Manufacturers or suppliers to retailers will seek accreditation.
- Accredited suppliers will provide documentation to Code Committee verifying that the subcontractors they use are keeping all appropriate documentation and paying their homeworkers according to the agreed garment sewing time manual standard.

Pay Rates for Homeworkers

- The introduction of a timing manual where garments will be classified into three levels of complexity and become the standards for fixing sewing time rates translated into pay rates for homeworkers.
- The minute sewing time per garment provided to the homemaker to sew will be adjusted with percentages for annual leave and public holidays. The homemaker must receive with each batch of work, paperwork which identifies that the homemaker is being paid correctly according to the standard.
- The code also specifies the minimum garments (total amount of work) per week a homemaker can receive from a contractor over a two week period as well as the maximum work load they can receive over a two week period.
- Manufacturers will risk losing accreditation and contracts with retailers if their contractors fail to pay homeworkers correctly.

Code of Practice Committee

The committee will undertake an education and information program to educate and inform manufacturers, homeworkers and consumers about the code.