

TEXTILE, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR UNION OF AUSTRALIA (TCFUA)

The following document is a description of the code supplied to the Labour Behind the Label Coalition. by an Australian contact, and further information is available from the Coalition. Information about the campaign which led to the agreement of many companies to adopt the code is found at:
<<http://www.actu.asn.au/national/media>>

THE HOMEWORKERS CODE OF PRACTICE

What the Code is About

The homeworkers' code of practice has been developed by the TCFUA together with representatives of the retail and manufacturing [unions] in the textile, clothing and footwear industries.

The Code is a self regulatory system that intends to regulate and monitor the production chain from the retailer to the homeworker. It also attempts to simplify the reporting requirements of manufacturers building solidly on award entitlements to workers.

There are two parts of the code.

Part One: The Statement of Principles Regarding Homeworkers Wages and Conditions.

This is the part relevant to retailers

This includes:

- Ten principles that outline the intent of the parties to the agreement.
- The acceptable work conditions and pay rates homeworkers should receive.
- That parties to the agreement will promote that manufacturers must comply with these standards.
- Retailers who purchase products not produced by exploited labour may use or identify these products with a logo or other sign of compliance.
- Retailers commit not to sell products which have been produced by exploited labour. This may include terminating a relationship with a supplier.

The Code will lead to garments carrying a sign that they are manufactured ethically and shops will carry a logo if they stock such clothing. Retailers may promote the fact that they only deal with accredited manufacturers who do not exploit homeworkers.