



Ending Public Procurement from Sweatshops

Membership Enrollment Form

Member Information

Government Agency _____

Contact Person _____

Title _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Membership Requirements

I certify that _____ (government agency):

- Has adopted or is working towards a sweatfree procurement policy.
- Supports the purpose and principles of the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium. *Please see reverse.*
- Requires or will require vendors to disclose names and physical addresses of production facilities and commits to share this information with the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, consistent with applicable open government laws.
- _____ (name and title) will serve as liaison to the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium.
- Has enclosed first-year membership dues of \$500.

Signature _____ Date _____

Payment Method

Check Money Order

Make payable to Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium.

Credit/Debit Card Card Type (American Express, Discover, MasterCard, Visa): _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date (MM / YY): _____ Security Code: _____

Name on the Account: _____

Billing Address: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return this form and payment to:

Mail: Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium, 30 Blackstone St., Bangor, ME 04401

Fax: 207-433-1600 Email: contact@buysweatfree.org

Purpose

The purpose of The Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium is to ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent on products made in sweatshops. The Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium intends to serve as a coordinating body for public entities that share this goal, helping to create greater efficiencies and increase impact through collaborative action. The purpose of the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium is not to regulate or restructure the garment industry or other industries. Nor are its activities designed to boycott any country or change the laws or policies of any government inside or outside the United States. Members of the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium will simply buy from qualified private suppliers who choose to meet certain standards, just as individual consumers may choose to spend their dollars on products made in accordance with their values rather than on sweatshop products.

Principles

This is an abbreviated statement of principles. The full statement of principles is in Section 4 of the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium White Paper, available at www.buysweatfree.org. Members may exempt specific principles that conflict with its laws, policies, or regulations. Please note exemptions below or submit a separate statement of exemptions.

1. Vendors, factories, and public entities share responsibility for ensuring sweatfree workplaces. Factories should comply fully with applicable laws and associated regulations. Vendors should increasingly obtain products from prescreened sweatfree factories. Public entities should work towards contracting with vendors that pledge to use only prescreened sweatfree factories, consistent with applicable procurement laws.
2. Supply chain relationships and business practices should support sweatfree working conditions. Competitive public procurement practices are valuable in ensuring public funds are prudently spent, but should not result in prices that underwrite or foster sweatshop conditions. Competition must rest on lawful wages, while aspiring to living wages. Order placement and delivery schedules should allow for reasonable production scheduling such that factories can fulfill orders without compelling excessive involuntary overtime. The relationship between buyer and supplier should generally be stable and long-term.
3. Factory locations, wages, and working conditions are public knowledge. Public disclosure promotes manufacturer responsibility and accountability, and is essential for independent investigations and verification of working conditions.
4. Investigations and monitoring of factory conditions shall operate on the principles of independence, professionalism, and transparency.
5. Workers are most fully protected against sweatshop conditions when they have a meaningful right to freedom of association.
6. Workers' voices should be heard. Sweatshop abuse goes hand in hand with growing separation between consumers and producers. Public entities should in appropriate circumstances, consistent with applicable laws, facilitate contact between consumers (the public entities and its stakeholders) and producers (workers and workers' representatives).
7. Corrective action to improve working conditions is priority. Public entities should terminate the relationship with vendors or manufacturers only if the vendor is unwilling or unable to remedy violations.
8. Public entities and the Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium shall operate with transparency, integrity, and accountability to the public, guaranteeing reasonable access to information, consistent with applicable open government laws.
9. The Sweatfree Purchasing Consortium will provide information and make recommendations to members, but not require action as a condition of membership beyond the membership requirements.
10. Collaboration among public entities is essential for effective policy enforcement.

For more information, call (207) 262-7277 or email contact@buysweatfree.org.