



SVERIGES TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND



Stefan Wendt, [www.d-v-c.net](http://www.d-v-c.net)

# We Care

UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2018

SVERIGES TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND  
TVÄTTERIFORBUNDET

## **FROM OUR CHAIRMAN**

Today, approximately 5,000 people work in the textile service industry in Sweden. They compete on equal terms to earn customer engagements. This drives the industry forward. To be successful, and to meet the varying requirements of customers, one must offer the best in terms of quality, service, environmental sustainability and price.

As the leading industry association for textile rental service providers in Sweden, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund represents almost 125 companies for whom sustainability and corporate responsibility are corner stones of their business strategy, vision and company profitability.

### **We contribute added value for our customers and social benefits for our communities**

Our vision is that our members will continuously develop the textile rental market for the benefit of customers. They do so by developing quality requirements, environmental work, social responsibility and market conditions for the industry. In this way, our industry helps organisations in the private and public sectors to be the best at what they do.

### **We believe in a sustainable society**

Each year, we highlight the individual or organisation that has contributed most to our industry's continuous efforts through our Sustainability Prize. We have recently found common ground with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service in their efforts to rehabilitate inmates. We support specific youth and integration work carried out by football clubs. In short, we care.

### **We welcome these commitments**

We are delighted to reaffirm Sveriges Tvätteriförbund's commitment to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. Sveriges Tvätteriförbund welcomes new members who live up to these standards and work on a commercial basis.

In this annual Communication on Engagement (COE), we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact into our strategy, culture and daily operations. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,

Jan Kluge  
Chairman of the Board of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund

## **DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS**

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement (COE)  
From: 17.02.2016 To:17.02.2018



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### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund increases the status of and standards within the industry, by ensuring that members work under sound and legal forms and by working for an expanding and healthy market that promotes competition within the industry.

#### **Our commitment**

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is committed to the principles of human rights embodied by UN Global Compact. Our Code of Conduct, as used by our members in agreements with subcontractors, takes a strong stand against any kind of discrimination, whether based on gender, transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, disability, sexual orientation or age.

#### **Implementation**

During the last reporting period, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has further developed its authorisation procedures for members, and these now include the monitoring of subcontractors. This means that members must ensure that any subcontractors with whom they enter into an agreement comply with the ethical guidelines developed by the Swedish Tvätteriförbund. As a step in communicating this to our members, a Supplier Code of Conduct was developed to be used as an appendix to all agreements with subcontractors.

For many of our customers' employees, workwear forms a part of their personal protective equipment. They are therefore entitled to demand high levels of quality from their textile service. Many items require special handling if they are to maintain their intended functions, such as fire safety, permeability, etc. Whether the wearer is a doctor, baker or kitchen worker, they must be able to rely on their working clothes to meet the very highest standards of hygiene.

This is why the working garments of these occupational categories are treated by our members and not washed at home. One of the things that our members have in common is that efficiency, quality, service and environmental protection are key concepts. During the reporting period, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has

been quick to act to recent rulings on the right of those working within elderly care to receive free workwear.

### **Measurement of outcomes**

According the latest figures, an increasing number of our members reported having structured procedures to ensure that the same ethical guidelines that apply to our member companies are also complied with by their suppliers.

### **Labour**

We are convinced that a commitment to the laundry and textile services industry will provide results in terms of increased employment. Payroll accounts for half of the industry's costs. There are a number of tasks in our industry that are ideally suited for entry-level positions, regardless of age, gender, religion or ethnic background. This provides great opportunities for those who, for whatever reason, find themselves far from the labour market. We consider diversity to be a strength. Our industry employs the young, those with shorter educations, and those who have recently arrived in our society.

### **Our commitment**

A safe and sound work environment is one of the corner stones of the Swedish laundry service sector.

### **Implementation**

During the reporting period, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has stepped up its efforts to ensure a good work environment for staff in the laundry service sector through a strong focus on these issues in the annual authorisation processes for members. The process makes sure that workers have access to proper safety equipment and that workplaces are properly designed in relation to safety issues.

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund encourages its members to maintain an active dialogue with trade unions and welcomes participation from all relevant organisations. The annual authorisation process for members includes the mandatory digital or manual registration of working hours to ensure fair salaries for all workers in the business sector.

Our Supplier Code of Conduct ensures that written contracts of employment are also used by our members' subcontractors.

### **Measurement of outcomes**

Outcomes from the measures taken are studied and followed up in the association's yearly Sustainability Report, which is published on our website. According to the two reports presented during the reporting period, the following is apparent:

- The number of workplace accidents and work-related illnesses remains low (affecting less than 1.7% of the total workforce within the business sector).
- The number of serious accidents is reported as part of the annual authorisation process for member companies. Only two such cases were reported in 2017.



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## **ENVIRONMENT**

Everyone can, and indeed does, wash their clothes. There is however an enormous difference between washing your clothes in domestic appliances at home or at work and having them professionally laundered. When textiles are professionally laundered, better results are achieved, less energy is consumed, and environmental impact is reduced. Achieving all of this demands knowledge and experience.

### **Our commitment**

One of the core aims of Sveriges Tvätteriförbund is to improve the environmental performance of the industry and to provide members with knowledge of and engage them in projects aimed at promoting energy efficiency and reducing the use of resources, chemicals, etc.

### **Implementation**

The Supplier Code of Conduct includes requirements to comply with environmental legislation and regulations and to perform continuous controls of facilities in order to minimise the risk of environmental damage. It also requires subcontractors to ensure that they have all necessary permits and enjoy good contact with regulatory authorities.

During the reporting period, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has increased its focus on the possibilities offered by textile recycling. Good examples from the industry are highlighted in the association's Sustainability Report and the reduction of textile waste and the possibilities of recycling have been particularly emphasised in the annual authorisation process for members. In the same process, reducing risks to the environment through proper handling of chemicals and waste has also gained increased attention. In addition, the association is engaged in a dialogue with local and national environmental protection agencies to facilitate the transition of energy usage among member companies from fossil to renewable sources.

During the reporting period, Sveriges Tvätteriförbund has stepped up its investigations into the risk of microplastics entering the environment from laundries. The Swedish EPA participated in our most recent Annual Meeting with a lecture on this topic, and Sveriges Tvätteriförbund was one of the referral bodies



for a national mapping of routes for the dissemination of microplastics in Swedish society and strategies to minimise the damage.

### **Measurement of outcomes**

According the latest authorisation process for members, the following can be ascertained:

- Most members have a good knowledge of how to correctly manage waste and chemicals, thus reducing risks for environmental damage.
- Several members are engaged in projects to convert from fossil to renewable energy sources, including through internal production of solar power.
- The number of facilities operated by member companies that are certified according to ISO 14001 or the Nordic Swan has increased during the reporting period.



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### **ANTI-CORRUPTION**

It is our conviction that the continued development of the textile rental industry will be best served by market conditions characterised by healthy competition.

#### **Our commitment**

Sveriges Tvätteriförbund takes a strong stand against corruption in all of its forms and at all levels. We participate in the working group formed by the Swedish Tax Authority with members from various public authorities, trade unions and industry organisations with the aim of ensuring that all business is conducted in accordance with the law and that companies pay taxes and other obligations.

#### **Implementation**

The Supplier Code of Conduct includes the requirement to actively reduce risks for corruption through transparency and financial controls. Internal procedures for member authorisation have been updated to support anti-corruption through increased transparency.

### **Measurement of outcomes**

No cases of corruption within the industry have been reported during the reporting period.



# SVERIGES TVÄTTERIFÖRBUND

## Facts: The ten principles

### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Principle 1.** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.

**Principle 2.** and make sure they are not complicit in human right abuses.

### LABOUR

**Principle 3.** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.

**Principle 4.** Businesses should uphold the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

**Principle 5.** Uphold the effective abolition of child labour.

**Principle 6.** Businesses should uphold the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

### ENVIRONMENT

**Principle 7.** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

**Principle 8.** Businesses should undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

**Principle 9.** Businesses should encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally-friendly technologies.

### ANTI-CORRUPTION

**Principle 10.** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.