

News LETTER

01
FEBRUARY
2017

CITI

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY



News Highlights

Textile sector expects interest reductions from Budget

**Textile should be brought under GST with minimum tax slab:
Harkirat Singh, Woodland Worldwide**

**PHD Chamber and Regional Textile Commissioner's office
jointly organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller
Meet (B2B)**

Pakistan : Cotton price hits seasonal high

Cotlook A Index (Cent/lb)

25-01-2017	82.95
26-01-2017	83.20
27-01-2017	83.55
30-01-2017	84.25
29-01-2016	68.20
29-01-2015	67.30

New York Cotton Futures (Cents/lb) As on 31.01.2017

Mar 2017	74.42
May 2017	75.05
July 2017	75.44

NATIONAL



Textile sector expects interest reductions from Budget

Textile should be brought under GST with minimum tax slab: Harkirat Singh, Woodland Worldwide

Budget: FICCI expects incentives for digital transactions

Apparel, leather sectors need policy shift to boost jobs

Gokaldas Exports to set up apparel units in Chittoor

GRI comes out with a new fabric for soldiers

Demonetisation hits end of season sales this year

PHD Chamber and Regional Textile Commissioner's office jointly organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller Meet (B2B)

GLOBAL



Pakistan : Traders need to remove inefficiencies to exploit exports package

Cambodia : Health cover to expand for garment workers

Pakistan : Cotton price hits seasonal high

Bluesign one of the stringent sustainable textile seals

MagnaColours launches sustainability standard for textile industry

This Athletic Apparel Brand Dropped a Fair-Trade Collection

NATIONAL:

Textile sector expects interest reductions from Budget

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, January 31, 2017)



Incentives for investments in innovation, reduction in interest rates to bring them at par with the international money market, tax rationalisation measures and low import duty on raw material are some of the expectations of the textile sector from the Union Budget 2017-18. Textile firms are also hopeful of special incentives schemes for new investments.

“Budget should address concerns related to skilled workforce, labour law reforms, attracting investments in the textile sector and providing a future road map for the textiles and clothing industry,” Deepak Chiripal, CEO of Nandan Denim Ltd, told Fibre2Fashion.

“A major challenge for textile industry is that it is highly capital and labour intensive sector and payback period is quite long, which is a big constraint for new investment in the sector. Further, the government has set a target to create another 30 million more jobs in the industry over the next three years, which is possible only if special incentive schemes for new investment in textile sector are announced,” added Chiripal.

He is also of the opinion that the government should consider extending Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for another five years or so to enable companies to avail maximum benefits.

Export is another sector that needs to be considered. “We want finance minister to introduce measures that can boost our exports as India has the potential to become one of the biggest exporters in the world,” noted Chiripal.

“Insertion of Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) with US has further increased the challenges for Indian textiles in the long term. There are fairly good chances for protection of select countries for exports to the US. The government should accelerate arrangement with EU market economies to provide concessional imports into these territories to maintain competitiveness of the Indian exports,” said Chiripal.

Woodland wants the government to consider lowering duty and emphasise on curbing inflation in this year's Union Budget.

“Textile items should be kept under GST with the minimum possible tax slab of 4-5 per cent as it is a key item for the common man. High duty [on raw material] acts as a deterrent and we get bound to import finished products. So, the government must lower the import duty,” Harkirat Singh, MD, Woodland Worldwide told F2F.

“We believe that government would also lay emphasis on curbing inflation as increased inflation affects consumer's buying power which further affects the retail market. We hope to see supportive policies for the retail sector in this year's budget,” added Singh.

“A fund should be set up for Technology Up-gradation & Innovation and support may be extended to the companies at lower rate of interest. This will help industry in improving quality of output and become more competitive,” said Chiripal.

“Besides the financial implications, the Budget is expected to come out with a lot of policy and procedural changes for improving ease of doing business,” according to ASSOCHAM. (KD)

[Home](#)

Textile should be brought under GST with minimum tax slab: Harkirat Singh, Woodland Worldwide

(Source: India Infoline News Service, January 31, 2017)



We believe that government would also lay emphasis on curbing inflation as increased inflation affects consumer's buying power which further affects the retail market.

We are quite optimistic and have high expectations from the upcoming Union Budget. All eyes are now on the FM for clarity on the rolling out of GST and fixing indirect tax inefficiencies. We feel that textile items should be kept under GST with the minimum possible tax slab of 4-5% as it is a key item for the common man.

Secondly, there are lots of raw materials like nylon and technical fibers which we wish to import from other countries and manufacture finished products here. However, high duty acts as a deterrent and we get bound to import finished products. So, the

government must lower the import duty to aid companies like Woodland. This will certainly boost PM's "Make in India" initiative.

We believe that government would also lay emphasis on curbing inflation as increased inflation affects consumer's buying power which further affects the retail market. We hope to see supportive policies for the retail sector in this year's budget.

The author, Harkirat Singh is MD, Woodland Worldwide.

[Home](#)

Budget: FICCI expects incentives for digital transactions

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, January 31, 2017)



Finance minister Arun Jaitley is expected to announce more incentives for promoting digital transactions in Union Budget 2017-18 to be presented on Wednesday, a majority of participating economists said in the latest round of FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey. The Survey puts forth an annual median GDP growth forecast of 6.8 per cent for 2016-17.

The survey was conducted in the months of December 2016 and January 2017 and drew responses from leading economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector.

The participating economists were asked to share their top expectations from the Union Budget 2017-18. A majority of respondents also suggested that additional benefits should be bestowed upon Fintech companies in a bid to move towards a cashless economy. Respondents also hoped that the budget would look at addressing the impact of demonetisation on the informal sector which is largely cash dependent. "It is important to ensure that there are enough incentives for the informal setups to move into the formal system."

Some of the other expectations indicated by the participating economists were greater infusion of capital in public sector banks and announcement of further measures to strengthen asset quality of the public sector banks.

The economists opined that the forthcoming budget would focus on giving an impetus to growth (which is inclusive) and provide fillip to gross fixed capital formation by enhancing complementarities between public and private investment.

“Steps would also be taken towards reviving and deepening of the corporate bond market,” some respondents felt.

Also, they expect the government to further boost its efforts to increase employment through its flagship programmes such as ‘Make in India’ and ‘Skill India’. Economists also expect the government to unveil incentives to promote exports.

Majority of the economists also believed that the budget will lay down guidelines for the roll out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). (RKS)

[Home](#)

Apparel, leather sectors need policy shift to boost jobs

(Source: the Hindu, February 01, 2017)

The Centre needs to focus on apparel, leather and footwear sectors to boost formal and productive job creation in the economy, according to the Economic Survey.

The Survey has recommended that labour and taxation reforms along with Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with the European Union and the U.K. were key to make apparel and leather sector globally competitive. “Apparels and leather sectors offer tremendous opportunities for creation of jobs, especially for women... Apparels are 80-fold more labour-intensive than autos and 240-fold more jobs than steel,” according to the annual Survey.

The Survey highlighted challenges faced by the apparel and leather sectors: logistics, labour regulations, tax and tariff policy along with “disadvantages emanating from the international trading environment compared to competitor countries.”

Labour law reform

“More FTAs, GST-induced tax rationalization, and labour law reform would add considerably to the job creation potential of the clothing and footwear sectors.”

The Survey called for giving workers in the apparel sector choice to decide on various statutory deductions “that become de facto taxes for low-paid workers in small firms that result in a 45% lower disposable salary.”

The workers should decide whether they want 12% employee contribution to be deducted for provident fund from their income, whether their 12% employer contribution goes towards Employees’ Provident Fund scheme or National Pension System and whether their health insurance premium should go to Employees’ State Insurance or a private health insurance of the employer’s choice.

It also highlighted high minimum wages as another hurdle, as overtime wage rate is twice that of ordinary wage rate, according to the Minimum Wages Act of 1948.

The Survey said that apparels should receive high priority while negotiating FTAs with the European Union and the United Kingdom as it will “offset an existing disadvantage for India relative to competitors- Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia which already enjoy better market access.”

Trade pacts

Based on an in-house analysis in 2016, an FTA with the EU and U.K. can lead to 1.45 lakh additional jobs per annum in the apparel, leather and footwear sectors, according to the Survey.

It pointed out that the introduction of Goods and Service Tax (GST) will provide an “excellent opportunity” to rationalise domestic indirect taxes to avoid discrimination between apparels and man-made fibres.

It also pressed for higher exports of cattle hides used by leather and footwear industry as its chief raw material. The exports of cattle hides are declining due to limited availability of cattle for slaughter in India, “thereby leading to loss of a potential comparative advantage due to underutilisation of the abundantly available natural resource,” according to the Survey.

[Home](#)

Gokaldas Exports to set up apparel units in Chittoor

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, January 31, 2017)



Courtesy: Gokaldas Exports

Gokaldas Exports, the largest manufacturer and exporter of apparel in India with an annual turnover of \$200 million, will set up apparel manufacturing units in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. The company will set up four units over the next three years involving an investment of approximately up to Rs 200 crore. This will create about 5,000 new jobs.

“The company has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Government of Andhra Pradesh on January 27, 2017, for setting up of 4 apparel manufacturing units over a period of next 3 years in Chittoor district involving an investment of approximately up to Rs 200 crore which is likely to generate approximately 5,000 new jobs,” Gokaldas Exports said in a statement filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange.

“The said investment is however subject to such terms and conditions as requested and sought by the company including appropriate infrastructural support and relevant incentives and subsidies being made available to the company with the Government of Andhra Pradesh,” the filing said.

Currently, Gokaldas Exports employs nearly 25,000 people across its 23 manufacturing units. It manufactures and exports men’s, women’s and kids’ apparel and outerwear. (RKS)

[Home](#)

GRI comes out with a new fabric for soldiers

(Source: The Hindu, February 01, 2017)

Gandhigram Rural Institute has developed a special textile material for soldiers with all features required by them. This material can be used for making dresses for soldiers on the war front.

Describing the nature of the new material here on Tuesday, Chemistry Professor M.G. Sethuraman said the specially modified cotton fabric that had self-cleaning, super-hydrophobic and anti-bacterial properties would increase the usage of textiles for military personnel. It had other properties such as softness, breathability and biodegradability. It also had properties of blood repellency and UV protection. It could also be used for medical professionals and nurses, he added.

Cotton was chosen as the base material and was modified by fabricating a copper coating through reduction of copper acetate by employing ascorbic acid at room temperature. With a coating of Stearic acid over the copper-coated fabric, the surface of the fabric became water-repellent, he said.

Mr. Sethuraman said the fabric had mechanical stability and washing durability showing super- hydrophobic property with a water contact angle of 159 degrees. It would also separate oil-water mixture owing to its super-oleophilic nature of functionalised cotton. Tests against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria too showed very good anti-bacterial activity as well as blood-repelling property.

The material had been characterised by modern methods such as x-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscopy and x-ray photo electron microscopy, he noted.

“We had already submitted a detailed research proposal to Defence Research and Development Organisation in this connection. Its cost of production will not be much. Moreover, the quality of cotton will be retained,” he said.

“We have also been widening the research to manufacture electronic textiles that will become the choice of the youth in the future. The DRDO was approached for funds to widen our research,” he said.

A research article on the modified cotton fabric by Mr. Sethuraman and research scholar T. Suryaprabha was published in Cellulose journal.

[Home](#)

Demonetisation hits end of season sales this year

This year, managers of many apparel stores in the city feel that demonetisation has drastically reduced the number of shoppers

(Source: Kratagya Rathore. TNN, ETRetail.com, January 31, 2017)



One of the best things about the second half of January is the end of season sales that it brings. This is the time that shopaholics are hunting for the best deals and discounts they can get their hands on. But this year, managers of many apparel stores in the city feel that demonetisation has drastically reduced the number of shoppers.

After weddings and vacations, shopping seems to be another avenue that has taken a hit post demonetisation. Hemali Abhole, manager of the flagship store of a premium brand informs, "Despite putting in extra hours of work, the situation seems hopeless. The only decent walk-ins we get is on the weekends. On weekdays the store looks deserted. The amount of revenue we are generating in an entire week now, is less than what we used to generate on weekends alone, last year."

Have the new malls contributed to the slump?

While many stores are still trying to figure out why numbers are so low, Nitin Savlani, store manager of an apparel store says, "In Indore, two things have affected business. One is demonetisation and the other is the recent addition of few more brands to a newly renovated mall in the city."

But while sales at some premium brands have taken a hit, walk-ins at stores of budget brands are doing fairly well. "The customers of premium brands have switched to budget brands as they are more affordable. Even shopaholics are spending meticulously and only on staples like denims, rather than sweatshirts," shares Tarushikha Bundela, the manager of a budget brand flagship store.

Republic Day was a crowd puller

Store managers who were otherwise glum, saw some respite on January 26, as the big deals succeeded in attracting a good number of walk-ins. Vinita Singh, a store manager, shares, "There were good walk-ins throughout the day and surprisingly, the store saw a full house in the evening. Still this year's revenue couldn't beat the sale of the last two years."

And since wedding season is on, customers are making the most out of 'buy two get one' offers and gifting apparel as return gifts at weddings. Bhavna Kishnani, whose brother will be tying the knot in the first week of February, says, "The Republic Day sale had good deals and I bought gifts for over 30 guests. There were offers like 'flat 60 per cent off' and 'buy two get one free'."

A different take

Interestingly, those in the fashion industry seem to have a different opinion on why the sales are not doing well. Anjali Shekhawat, a fashion student says, "I feel that the end of season sale is actually a stock clearance sale."

Post Sankranti the temperature has risen and people don't want to spend money on clothes that wouldn't be of any use for this season." She also adds that as far as wedding season is concerned, people are getting their essential outfits designed. "I chose to splurge on staple dresses that were on discount - like an LBD or a pair of sneakers or gym wear - as these are the things that will never go out of fashion."

[Home](#)

PHD Chamber and Regional Textile Commissioner's office jointly organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller Meet (B2B)

(Source: PHD Chamber, January 31, 2017)

PHD Chamber in association with O/o Regional Textile Commissioner, Noida, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is organising 'Textile Exhibition cum Buyer-Seller Meet (B2B)' from 10th-12th February 2017 at Trade Facilitation Centre, Bada Lalpur, Varanasi. The Chamber expects visitors in large numbers to be present and extend their network with quality suppliers and business partners. Visitors could also avail benefits from the products on display in the Exhibition cum Buyer Seller Meet.

There is no Registration Fee for Buyers. PHD is also providing 2 night accommodation along with half day city tour of Varanasi to approved and registered buyers. However, prior registration is necessary.

Exhibition stalls are also being provided at the venue at special discounted rate of Rs.12000/- + Service Tax (for 3 days).

Those interested can get in touch with Subhashish.gaur@phdcci.in or Mob: 9711395603.

The Key features of Textile Exhibition cum B2B Meet are:

- *Suggest interventions in the Textile sector with focus on powerloom products for increasing the domestic manufacturing thereby decreasing the import burdens while looking at the export potential.*
- *3 days Exhibition cum B2B Meet*
- *Industry and Government delegations.*
- *Face to face Buyer Seller interaction and Negotiations.*
- *Creating a platform for exhibiting latest products, trends and technologies related to Textiles.*

Exhibitor benefits:

- *Focused Exhibition on Textiles*
- *One to one B2B interactions*
- *Increasing Brand Awareness*
- *Opportunity to increase market share*
- *Business networking and generation of leads*
- *Displaying of latest products*
- *Joint Venture, Collaboration and Investment Opportunities*
- *A gathering consisting of senior officials of Government of India, diplomats, CEOs and top officials from the technical textile companies from India and abroad.*

Visitor benefits:

- *Latest products and design on display.*
- *Opportunity with Quality Suppliers and business partners.*
- *Range of Varanasi Silk products on display.*
- *Face to Face interaction with manufacturers*
- *and bulk sellers.*

[Home](#)

GLOBAL:

Pakistan : Traders need to remove inefficiencies to exploit exports package

(Source: Mansoor Ahmad, The News International, February 01, 2017)

LAHORE: The export package would enable exporters to improve cash flows in the next six months, as the eligible sectors get the promised refunds on all exports made between January and June, but thereafter, incentives would be subjected to 10 percent export increase.

It seems that the exporters just wanted some free money from the government and applauded the package as the best ever they got. If the cost of doing business was the reason then the incentives after June 2017 should have continued without any conditions. The incentives would be provided only to exporters who increased their exports by 10 percent over the previous year.

Some experts pointed out that the package was announced under pressure and at a time when export performance was gradually improving, particularly in textiles. They said that textile exports were rising steadily in readymade garments, knitwear, bed wear, and other value-added sectors, but the exports of yarn and fabric were still under pressure.

The textile exports in fact were bound to increase because of increase in global cotton rates, which was also reflected through the textile chain. In yarn and fabric as well the decline in exports was sharper in quantity than in value.

The permanent features of the export package were the concessions granted in import of machinery and subsidy on long term loans taken to upgrade the technology. This concession was for the entire duration of the package that is till June 30, 2018.

Another positive for the textile sector was that the government has imposed additional duties on import of Indian yarn. This should be considered a prudent measure, as the Indian government was providing similar concessions on exports of its yarn.

However, the value-added apparel sector resents this measure due to the fear that domestic yarn producers would jack up their prices in line with the increased price of Indian yarn on the back of higher duties.

Some experts opine that it would have been better had the government announced a discount on local use of yarn as was practiced in Bangladesh. At the same time, the price of each type of yarn should have been fixed at its export price to check undue profiting by the local yarn producers in the domestic markets.

The good thing about the package is that the incentives of seven, six, five, and four percent announced on different categories of textile exports would be made promptly after realisation of export proceeds. This would resolve the issue of stuck up promised

refunds as was the case in refund of sales tax, and other rebates according to the announcements and promises made by the government. One hopes that the bureaucracy would not invent a way to deny this lucrative incentive to the exporters on some pretexts.

If no hurdles came up, this package would work smoothly for six months. Even the exporters from Punjab would go along with the package for the time being. However, as soon as the condition of 10 percent increase in exports over previous year came into effect, the exporters from Punjab would bring up the case of high power and energy cost in the province. While those exporters, who failed to increase their exports, would again complain of the high cost of doing business.

The package would certainly provide temporary relief, but exports would be back to square one if the government and the private sector do not take any measures to reduce cost. The government would have to improve governance to reduce the burden of corruption on exporters and develop logistic efficiencies. The private sector would have to upgrade its technology to reduce cost on energy and manpower.

[Home](#)

Cambodia : Health cover to expand for garment workers

(Source: Khmer Times, February 01, 2017)

Many garment workers have been signed up for health cover but not all of them have benefited. KT

More than 70 percent of garment workers have registered to receive health insurance with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and about 50 percent of those workers have already paid for it in advance.

Labor Minister Ith Samheng said yesterday that according to NSSF figures, 600,831 garment workers from 603 factories, representing 72 percent of all those working in the industry, had signed up to receive health insurance through the NSSF.

But despite the high figures, only about 16,000 were receiving it, Mr. Samheng said.

“First, we started with only three targets: Phnom Penh, Kandal province and Kampong Speu province. We can say that we were successful with our plan and this year we will spread this service to other provinces in the country to register workers,” he said.

The NSSF, he said, was working with 783 health clinics to provide care to garment workers. Of the 783 facilities, three were provincial hospitals, 100 were referral hospitals and 680 were health centers.

Ath Thorn, president of the Coalition of Cambodian Apparel Workers’ Democratic Union (C.CAWDU), said it was good for workers to have health insurance in cases of emergency, but told Khmer Times that some were complaining about difficulties in receiving health services when they are sick.

“After we criticized the behavior of the health staff provided to workers, now we are seeing them change their characteristics in how they treat workers,” he said.

“We used to announce that we would send the name of the doctor or health staff member and send it to the Health Minister if they did not respect us or their career.”

Health Minister Mam Bun Heng, who also attended the meeting, said yesterday that his ministry will work with the NSSF to improve the service for those who signed up.

“This is the first time for us to do work like this, so sometimes they will have problems,” he said.

“We are not perfect at all, but we will try to work together with the Labor Ministry and NSSF in order to make all of our garment workers receive better services.”

The Health Ministry will monitor the services provided by the health clinics and figure out which are working well and which need to be removed.

The NSSF is also preparing a pension system for workers which will start at the end of the year.

“The workers will feel a warmth in their mind about the future when we have this pension system,” Mr. Samheng said.

“Even if they work in the private sector, they can have the ability to support themselves when they are retired without depending on their children to feed and support them.”

[Home](#)

Pakistan : Cotton price hits seasonal high

(Source: Dawn.com, January 31, 2017)

KARACHI: Cotton prices touched a seasonal high on Monday on the back of rising demand. However, activity could not expand as ginners preferred to hold their stocks.

There was strong demand for quality cotton but short supply disappointed many spinners who were desperate to get hold of any quantity they could lay hand on. Improved off-take of cotton yarn induced sentiment, brokers said.

Higher cotton prices in world markets, particularly India and the United States, made spinners look to the domestic market to meet their seasonal demand, brokers said.

Meanwhile, reports coming from India indicated that phutti (seed cotton) flow has increased and on an average around 182,000 bales started reaching ginneries per day.

The Karachi Cotton Association’s spot rates were steady at weekend level. The following major deals were reported on the ready counter: 4,000 bales from Dharki (done at

Rs7,000), 1,200 bales Shahdadpur (Rs5,700 to Rs5,900), 900 bales Sanghar (Rs5,600), 400 bales Dahrnwala (Rs6,700), 600 bales Mian Channu (Rs7,000), 800 bales Marrot (Rs6,775) and 400 bales Fort Abbas (Rs6,700).

[Home](#)

Bluesign one of the stringent sustainable textile seals

(Source: Fibre2Fashion, January 31, 2017)



The bluesign label developed by the Switzerland-based Bluesign technologies AG founded in 2000, which is adopted by worldwide leading textile and accessory manufacturers, is one of the most well-known and stringent sustainability seals within the textile industry. The aim is to reduce the environmental footprint along the entire supply chain of the industry.

Companies are subjected to strict testing to certify the quality of the chemical products and textile components they produce, as well as any accessories. If a product is manufactured using bluesign approved components, it is eligible to bear the bluesign product label. The bluesign system is not limited to specific type of raw materials and fibres, nor is it limited to individual stages of production or specific consumer textile products. The bluesign system considers the impact of individual consumer products on people, environment and the consumption of resources.

At least 90 per cent of the textile fabric must be bluesign certified. This particularly includes the inner and outer layers of a piece of clothing, including all prints. Beyond that, at least 30 per cent of all components, including zippers, buttons and embroidery, must be bluesign certified. The bluesign seal excludes the use of polluting substances from the production process from the beginning to ensure that the finished product matches the strictest of consumer protection requirements worldwide. (RR)

[Home](#)

MagnaColours launches sustainability standard for textile industry

(Source: Hannah Jordan, Printweek, January 31, 2017)

Ink manufacturer MagnaColours has launched a new eco-friendly standard for water-based inks used in textile printing that it expects to become the global standard within 12 months.



MagnaColours has developed the GNA standard to eliminate harmful chemicals in textiles

UK-based MagnaColours, a specialist in water-based ink manufacturing, has developed the GNA mark for use by all compliant manufacturers, printers and retailers in order to push for more sustainable production methods.

The mark is also designed to reassure consumers who buy printed textiles and apparel that no harmful products have been used in their manufacturing. Inks and products marked with GNA are guaranteed to be free of harmful chemicals such as PVC and alkylphenol ethoxylates (APEO) and must be water-based formulations.

“There are so many standards on the market from people like Bluesign or Eco Passport, as well as around 50 major retailers that all have different standards, but these don’t work so well for water-based inks,” said MagnaColours executive chairman Tom Abbey.

He explained that systems like Bluesign and Eco Passport look at production formulas and analyse CAS numbers that relate to individual chemicals. However, water-based printing ink is based mostly on polymers, which do not have CAS numbers and therefore cannot be adequately analysed.

“We have worked out a method of testing water-based inks that we believe is going to be far more accurate and give far more information,” Abbey said.

Abbey explained that MagnaColour’s method, which takes place in independent laboratories, tests individual products and can guarantee there is no residual formaldehyde or APEO, for example, in the inks. The aim, he said was to adhere to the strictest Restricted Substances List (RSL) in printing inks for the textile printing industry globally, so that GNA compliance results in compliance with all major brand’s RSLs as well as other standards such as Eco Passport.

“Most of the apparel market is moving towards banning PVC inks and people are moving to water-based inks; that’s why standards aren’t really geared towards it. We think this is a better standard for the industry,” Abbey said.

“We are trying to tie consumer, retailer, printer and ink manufacturer together to give one solution to the market. It’s about sleeping night. These people don’t know about

chemical testing, they just want to know it's clean and this standard will do that for them," he added.

Abbey said the GNA standard was being market heavily and he anticipated it would be the majority standard for water-based inks globally within 12 months.

Currently gaining accreditation is free but in the future Abbey said fees would likely be introduced due to the cost of the testing.

[Home](#)

This Athletic Apparel Brand Dropped a Fair-Trade Collection

(Source: Apparel Magazine, January 31, 2017)



Athleta is introducing an assortment of styles created in a factory certified by Fair Trade USA, an organization dedicated to creating social and economic opportunities for factory workers around the world.

Athleta's spring collection features more than 40 Fair Trade Certified™ styles and more styles will be added throughout the year. The offering is expected to approach 100 items by the end of 2017. The Fair Trade Certified™ pieces include the latest designs in some of Athleta's most popular product lines such as the Sculptek Stealth collection and High Neck Chi tank as well as a range of additional tops and bottoms. The pieces are available in Athleta stores, through the Athleta catalog and online at Athleta.com.

Working with Fair Trade USA enables Athleta to enhance its commitment to empowering women by supporting the female-dominated workforce in the manufacturing facilities with which it sources. For every Fair Trade Certified™ product sold, factory workers directly earn an additional financial premium, which they collectively invest in the needs of their community. Previous investments, which are voted on and executed by the workers themselves, have included childcare, transportation, women's health programs, and education – directly enhancing the lives of workers and their families. The debut styles are produced by a newly certified facility in Sri Lanka, supporting more than 2,100 workers of whom more than 80 percent are women.

"Supporting women in their ability to come together to reach their full potential is core to our brand," said Nancy Green, president, Athleta. "Partnering with Fair Trade USA is an important and natural step in directly enabling the women who create Athleta clothes to positively affect their communities and families."



For a product to earn Fair Trade certification, it must originate from a facility that operates according to the rigorous social, environmental and economic standards set in place by Fair Trade USA. The Fair Trade certification complements Gap Inc.'s Vendor Conduct standards. As part of the Gap Inc. portfolio of brands, Athleta products are manufactured by approved factories that are required to comply with the Gap Inc. Code of Vendor Conduct, which sets forth rigorous requirements for compliance with applicable laws, environmental standards, labor practices and working conditions to help ensure that factory workers are treated with dignity and respect.

"Fair Trade allows each of us to live our values through our everyday choices—through a simple purchase," said Paul Rice, president & CEO of Fair Trade USA. "When you choose a Fair Trade Certified™ item from Athleta, you're not just getting an amazing product; you're also helping empower and improve the lives of the women who made it."

[Home](#)
