



Fighting Against Forced Labour and Child Labour in Supply Chains Act

Report to the Minister of Public Safety

May 30, 2024



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of Canada

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INTRODUCTION

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is committed to contributing to the fight against forced labour and child labour by establishing due diligence practices to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used at any step in the production or distribution of goods SCC procures in Canada or elsewhere, and reporting on these practices.

Please find below SCC’s report to the Minister of Public Safety on the steps we have taken during our 2023-2024 financial year.

STANDARDS COUNCIL OF CANADA - REPORT UNDER THE *FIGHTING AGAINST FORCED LABOUR AND CHILD LABOUR IN SUPPLY CHAINS ACT*

PART 1 – IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Standards Council of Canada

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

SCC is a federal Crown corporation headquartered in Ottawa, Ontario, which operates in the following sectors and industries:

- Public administration
- Standardization and accreditation

PART 2 – REPORT CONTENTS

2.1 Information on the government institution’s structure, activities and supply chains

SCC purchases goods in Canada and outside Canada but does not produce or distribute goods.

SCC is a federal Crown corporation with 150 employees and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry. Oversight for SCC is provided by a Governing Council, which is supported by standing committees and advisory committees. The Executive Team establishes SCC’s strategic priorities and carries out its day-to-day operations.

SCC’s mission is to lead and facilitate the development and use of national and international standards and accreditation services in order to enhance Canada’s competitiveness and well-being.

SCC takes its mandate from the *Standards Council of Canada Act*:

- The mandate of SCC is to promote efficient and effective voluntary standardization in Canada, where standardization is not expressly provided for by law and, in particular, to
 - a. promote the participation of Canadians in voluntary standards activities,
 - b. promote public-private sector cooperation in relation to voluntary standardization in Canada,
 - c. coordinate and oversee the efforts of the persons and organizations involved in the National Standards System,
 - d. foster quality, performance and technological innovation in Canadian goods and services through standards-related activities, and
 - e. develop standards-related strategies and long-term objectives,

- ... in order to advance the national economy, support sustainable development, benefit the health, safety and welfare of workers and the public, assist and protect consumers, facilitate domestic and international trade and further international cooperation in relation to standardization.

SCC's average annual spend is \$35M and the types of goods SCC generally procures are the following:

- IT licenses: generally purchased in the United States in the order of \$490K annually.
- IT equipment: generally purchased in Canada in the order of \$270K annually.
- Office supplies: generally purchased in Canada in the order of \$60K annually.

The total number of contracts for goods which SCC established in the last fiscal year (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024) was 197 for a total value of \$862k.

A very minor proportion (less than 0.5%) of SCC's procurement is made through the use of Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) procurement vehicles such as Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements. Since November 2021, PSPC implemented anti-forced labour clauses in all goods contracts to ensure that it can terminate contracts where there is credible information that the goods have been produced in whole or in part by forced labour or human trafficking. Additionally, since November 20, 2023, all PSPC Standing Offers and Supply Arrangements for goods that have been issued, amended, or refreshed include anti-forced labour clauses. As such, any of SCC's contracts for goods resulting from the use of these PSPC tools include clauses relating to forced labour which set out, among other things, human rights and labour rights requirements. These clauses can be found in [Policy Notification 150](#).

2.2 Information on the steps taken in the previous financial year to prevent and reduce the risk that forced labour or child labour is used at any step of the production of goods produced, purchased or distributed by the government institution

For any procurements where SCC uses PSPC procurement vehicles, since April 1, 2023, the [Code of Conduct for Procurement](#) applies.

While SCC has not yet taken measures to prevent or reduce the risk of forced labour or child labour in its supply chain when it acts as the procurement and contracting authority, we are planning the following measures in the financial year 2024-2025:

- Development and launch of a Supplier Code of Conduct for all suppliers of goods and services with whom SCC enters into contracts.
- Update of SCC's Procurement Policy to include requirements related to forced labour and/or child labour.

2.3 Information on the policies and due diligence processes in relation to forced labour and child labour

SCC does not currently have policies or due diligence processes specific to forced labour or child labour.

More generally, SCC has embedded responsible business conduct into policies and management systems:

- SCC employees must adhere to both the Canadian Federal Government's *Values and Ethics Code for the Public Sector* and SCC's *Code of Conduct* (the "Code"). The Code outlines the values and expected behaviours that guide SCC's employees in all activities related to their professional duties, including interactions with suppliers, customers, shareholders, and members of committees and panels.

2.4 Information on the parts of its activities and supply chains that carry a risk of forced labour or child labour being used and the steps taken to assess and manage that risk

In May 2021, a risk assessment of PSPC’s supply chains was completed by Rights Lab, of the University of Nottingham (U.K.), to determine which goods were at the highest risk of exposure to human trafficking, forced labour, and child labour. The analysis, and subsequent report, elaborated key strategies for PSPC to leverage public spending power to raise awareness about forced labour in supply chains.

We have familiarized ourselves with the findings and recommendations of the risk assessment of PSPC’s supply chains, and are monitoring related follow-on action, including the development of a Policy on Ethical Procurement by PSPC.

We have identified risks in SCC’s supply chain to the best of our knowledge and will continue to strive to identify, assess and manage emerging risks:

- Based on the risk assessment of PSPC’s supply chains, we have identified parts of SCC’s supply chain (tier one suppliers of certain spend categories such as Office supplies and devices) which may carry risk.
- Going forward, SCC will design and implement due diligence processes, to identify, assess and manage risks of forced labour or child labour in its supply chain.

2.5 Information on any measures taken to remediate any forced labour or child labour

Not applicable. SCC has not identified any forced labour or child labour in our supply chain.

In fiscal 2023-2024, SCC did not take any measures to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour or child labour in our supply chain activities.

2.6 Information on any measures taken to remediate the loss of income to the most vulnerable families that results from any measure taken to eliminate the use of forced labour or child labour in the institution’s activities and supply chains

Not applicable, SCC has not identified any loss of income to vulnerable families resulting from measures taken to eliminate the use of forced labour or child labour in our activities and supply chains.

In fiscal 2023-2024, SCC did not take any measures to prevent and reduce the risk of forced labour or child labour in our supply chain activities.

2.7 Information on the training provided to employees on forced labour and child labour

SCC does not currently provide training to employees on forced labour or child labour.

We are aware that PSPC is currently developing awareness-raising guidance materials (including risk mitigation strategies) for suppliers, targeted towards high-risk sectors. We are monitoring the development of these materials and will use these resources upon their publication.

2.8 Information on how the government institution assesses its effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in its activities and supply chains

SCC does not currently have policies and procedures in place to assess its effectiveness in ensuring that forced labour and child labour are not being used in its supply chain (such as a regular review or audit of the organization’s policies and procedures related to forced labour and child labour, working with suppliers to measure the effectiveness of their actions to address forced labour and child labour, etc.).