2017-18 Annual Report

Code of Ethical Conduct for Suppliers and Subcontractors

Advisory Committee

During the academic year 2017-18, the committee implemented the expanded Supplier Verification of Compliance process(1) for suppliers that the University purchases apparel products from and established a website publishing the list of suppliers who completed this process.

This year, the committee focused mainly in the following area:

* Finalized a presentation that could be used to educate the broader university community on the Code in order to raise the awareness of the impact of our buying behaviors on supplier ethical conduct.
* Formed a sub-committee to work specifically on education initiatives and non-compliance handling.
* Investigated a complaint with Workers Rights Consortium (WRC) in response to a complaint by a department on Yue Yuen (Holdings) Limited, a manufacturer for Adidas Group Canada who supplies the University’s athletic apparel. As a result, the committee recommended VPFinance, Administration and Risk to send a letter to Adidas Group Canada requesting remediative actions.
* Updated the Supplier Verification of Compliance form so it reflects the changes made to the Code in 2012.

The committee also communicated with UC Administration on the Supplier Verification of Compliance process and received their confirmation that vendors who sell articles of clothing will be required to go through the same process as of May 1st, 2018.

The committee plan to continue to work on raising the awareness of the Code with all stakeholders of the broader community and streamline the process of dealing with supplier non-compliance.

Definition:

1. Supplier Verification of Compliance: The University requires its suppliers to complete a form where suppliers are required to, by checking a list of items, confirm they are meeting all standards in accordance with the University’s Code of Ethical Conduct for Suppliers and Subcontractors in Relation to Working Conditions and Employment Standards. Suppliers who have completed the Supplier Verification of Compliance will be recommended to the University community as compliant suppliers. The process was mandatory for suppliers who supply apparel products to the University over $5,000.