



Social Accountability International (SAI) officially published SA8000:2026

On January 1, 2026, Social Accountability International (SAI) officially published SA8000:2026 – The Standard for Decent Work, replacing SA8000:2014. This new revision modernizes and strengthens one of the world’s leading social certification standard, while maintaining its core mission: to provide a practical, auditable framework that advances workers’ rights globally. Although the structure and language have evolved, the fundamental human rights protections remain unchanged, and organizations already conforming to SA8000:2014 are likely meeting most of the new requirements.

SA8000:2026 introduces several important enhancements. These include the addition of Foundational Criteria, the introduction of guiding Principles for both Management Systems and Decent Work, and a fully restructured Management Systems section aligned more closely with international frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and OECD due diligence guidance. The Decent Work section has been positively reframed to emphasize intended outcomes, and a new Privacy (D7) clause addresses emerging risks related to worker data and technology. The revised Standard also strengthens its risk-based approach, clarifying that organizations must address impacts across their operations and business relationships, not only their directly employed personnel.

A three-year transition period is now underway, with certified organizations required to transition to SA8000:2026 by 31 December 2028 to maintain certification. Visit [SAI](#) and our [Resource Hub](#) section for more information.