Higg FEM Provides a Common Framework For Improvement

The Higg Facility Environmental Module (Higg FEM) by Sustainable Apparel Coalition (SAC) is a crucial part of the theory of change as it provides a common framework for improvement in the entire apparel and footwear value chain. The theory of change is a sustainability measurement to lead positive impact throughout the facilities across the world.

The Higg FEM informs brands, retailers, and manufacturers with the environmental performance of their individual facilities, so they can make improvements that reduce negative impacts such as these. This module is used by manufacturers at any tier of the apparel, footwear, and textile industry supply chain.

With more than 8,000 businesses across the globe using Higg Index, SAC is scheduling for early release of scores. "Currently we are planning on allowing public release of the brand module scores in 2019 and product module scores in 2020," SAC chief executive officer Jason Kibbey told Fibre2Fashion.

Through a campaign called Link by Link, SAC is calling upon more than 200 members to deploy the tool globally at industrial scale, targeting 20,000 facilities and 400 brands to be online with the new version of Higg FEM by the end of 2018.

Higg FEM helps businesses at every tier in the value chain collectively to perform better by decreasing the negative environmental impact of manufacturing while saving money and improving their performance and relationships with supply chain partners. The updated version of Higg FEM helps further reduce audit fatigue and improve performance benchmarking by measuring water use, waste, emissions, and assessing chemicalsmanagement with increased analytics.

The SAC has also collaborated with the Outdoor Industry Association and the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Program to develop the tool's new chemicals management section. The updated tool additionally tailors questions based on a business' individual needs. (RR)

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