

Wal-Mart, Hanesbrands, Nordstrom, The Gap get good marks for corporate responsibility

by Cameron Snipes

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Shoppers can feel good about loading their carts with apparel from big-time retailers such as [Wal-Mart](#), [Hanesbrands](#), [Nordstrom](#) and [The Gap](#).

[According to a report](#) released by corporate responsibility group [As You Sow](#), those companies scored the highest on a survey of global supply compliance programs of apparel brands and retailers. In other words, they are putting more emphasis on addressing social compliance in their supply chains.

The group's report, titled "Towards a Safe, Just Workplace: The Apparel Supply Chain Compliance Programs", features a scorecard and report that provides a comparable baseline with which to evaluate the compliance programs of many of the top apparel companies doing business in the U.S.

The report ranks the resources allocated and actions that companies are employing on key compliance actions such as factory auditing, remediation, continuous improvement, collaboration, company management accountability and transparency.

The report also includes some major recommendations for companies that aren't scoring so high, including putting more resources into continuous management, working with suppliers to build management capacity, and training workers and managers on labor rights.

Conrad MacKerron, senior program director at [As You Sow](#) and project mastermind has some words for the companies that failed to participate in the survey.

"We are pleased with the leadership shown by the top scorers in our survey. However, 18 companies did not participate," MacKerron said in a statement. "Global sourcing has sparked controversies over factory working conditions for more than a decade. More companies in this sector should be willing to publicly discuss how they are managing these issues."