



**SOCIAL
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INTERNATIONAL**

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April 30, 2007

SAI Public Statement

1-SA8000 certified organizations are required to engage and communicate with both internal and external stakeholders (“interested parties”) regarding the company’s policies and compliance with the SA8000 standard (SA8000 Standard clauses 9.10 & 9.12).

2-Certification bodies are required by the terms of their accreditation by SAI to investigate complaints directly related to SA8000 compliance.

The existence of a court order or other impediments to discussion of the company’s internal affairs by external stakeholders renders a full investigation impossible.

When the company obtains a legal injunction prohibiting discussion of the company’s internal operations by stakeholders, it is not possible for the company to be in compliance with this element of the Standard.

SA8000 as a system is structured on voluntary compliance. Companies will choose whether or not they wish to qualify for certification under its system. If they do volunteer for inspection towards such compliance, companies are then required to abide by very specific criteria including those cited above.

The SAI Accreditation Committee has considered what response should be made in situations where compliance with the SA8000 standard cannot be verified by the full exercise of appropriate social consultations. It is SAI/SAAS’s policy that, in cases where a legal or other impediment exists to consultation with external stakeholders regarding issues affecting the certified organization, the continuation of certification is inappropriate.

Conclusion: It is the decision of the SAI Accreditation Committee that a suspension of certification is therefore appropriate in any case in which a candidate for certification or a certified organization fails to meet these criteria, until such time as any legal proceedings or other impediments to a full investigation are terminated, and required stakeholder communications can be conducted.