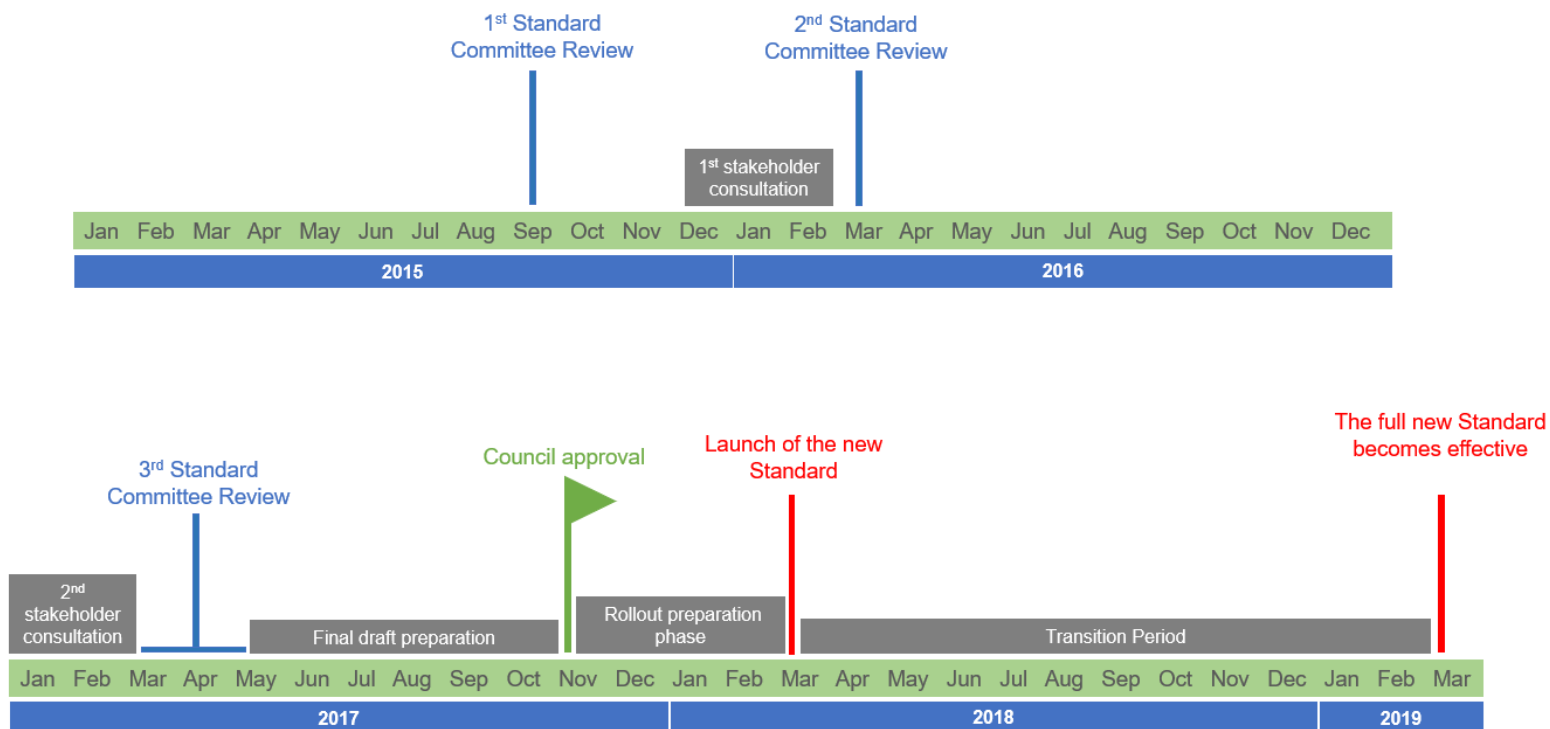


## BCI Principles & Criteria: 2015-2017 Revision

In January 2015 the BCI Council approved the proposal to launch a formal review of BCI's Principles & Criteria (P&C). This revision process provided an exciting opportunity to incorporate improvements to the Standard that would enhance BCI's ability to reach its mission and strengthen the credibility of the overall Better Cotton Standard System.

After two rounds of global public consultations (in February 2016 and January 2017), numerous outreach activities, and several reviews by the BCI Standard Review Committee, a draft was submitted to the Council in May 2017. During 6 months, the Council reviewed the document and finally agreed on a revised version of the BCI standard in November 2017. The new standard was officially launched on 1 March 2018.





## **1<sup>st</sup> BCI Standard Setting and Revision Committee Meeting**

30 September 2015

The committee reviewed a pre-draft of the Production Principles and Criteria, which included proposed edits and highlighted questions to address before releasing a 1<sup>st</sup> draft. After discussion and deliberation, the Committee finalised the 1<sup>st</sup> draft to be released for public consultation.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Consultation**

December 2015 – February 2016

The stakeholder consultation on the BCI Standard revision started on 3 December 2015 and lasted for 60 days. The Standard Setting and Revision Committee reviewed proposals from the BCI project team during the first meeting on 30 September and discussed elements related to the content and structure of the standard.

This 1<sup>st</sup> Public Consultation allowed stakeholders, directly or indirectly affected by the BCI Standard implementation, to provide input. During this period, a large number of stakeholders were consulted and many provided input either through online consultation tools or national stakeholder outreach activities organized in BCI countries. BCI received 33 completed comment forms.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> BCI Standard Setting and Revision Committee Meeting**

9 – 10 March 2016

Members representing each membership category had a fruitful exchange of ideas about the best ways to improve the Standard in light of input received from stakeholders during the last consultation. An agreement was reached on certain aspects related to the structure and content of the draft document including: inclusion of a 7th principle dedicated to management practices, ways to address climate change, a reinforced approach towards pesticides, the adoption of a more holistic approach towards environmental values management (water, soil, biodiversity), and a new land-use change approach, among other things.

You will find a synopsis summarising progress made in the draft thanks to stakeholder feedback and input received at the committee meeting [here](#) as well as a stakeholder consultation report listing and analysing all comments received [here](#).

### **First BCI Implementing Partners Meeting, Hong Kong**

10 – 11 June 2016

BCI held a consultation with Implementing Partners on 10 – 11 June in Hong-Kong where all had the opportunity to get updated and provide feedback on the latest version of the second draft. Participants were organised into four groups and discussed suggested changes related to the following:

- Crop protection, notably Highly Hazardous Pesticides banning and minimum protective equipment;
- Water stewardship and the new BCI water management plan components;
- Biodiversity participatory mapping;
- New Land-Use change approach with HCV assessment; and
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures feasibility.

All input received during the meeting was collected and has been considered in the preparation of the final draft of the revised Principles and Criteria.

### **Technical review of environmental principles**

June – October 2016

During that period, some key partners and external experts were identified to further define and develop work streams on environmental principles, notably water stewardship, land use change approach and biodiversity management plan components based on input received from the first consultation and the Partners workshop in Hong-Kong. Active collaboration with experts like Water Footprint Network and the HCV Resource Network allowed to significantly progress on Principle 2 and 4 in particular.

### **Second draft critical review**

November 2016

BCI has engaged into a critical review of the second draft intended to be submitted for the second round of consultation. External experts reviewed the draft with fresh eyes in order to ensure global coherence and identify remaining gaps in the draft. Based on the review, the draft has been further refined for the consultation and shortfalls identified. Of course this does not mean all of the shortfalls have been resolved, but the critical review provided a snapshot on overall structure and progress on content.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Consultation**

January – February 2017

The 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder consultation on the BCI Standard revision started in January 2017 and lasted for 30 days. Stakeholders already involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> consultation and new ones

provided input. A special effort has been put on Brand and Retailers engagement which were largely underrepresented in the first edition.

BCI received 45 completed comment forms and many relevant remarks, comments and questions were raised and collected on Pesticide restriction, biodiversity management, High Conservation value assessment, soil testing, Fibre contamination, Gender equality, climate change, etc.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> BCI Standard Setting and Revision Committee Meeting**

March – May 2017

The Standard Setting and Revision Committee met three times from March to May 2017. It made sure all fundamental credibility aspects of sustainable cotton production were covered by the standards and at the right level of prescription and agreed on a second draft.

### **Presentation of the draft to the BCI Council**

May – November 2017

A first draft was presented to the BCI Council in May 2017. After meeting on four consecutive times, the Council approved a final draft in November 2017. The BCI Secretariat, as per the initial plan, proposed to launch the revised Principles & Criteria v2.0 on 1 March 2018.

### **Standard rollout preparation phase**

November 2017 – March 2018

During the rollout preparation phase, the BCI Secretariat finalised the draft's last components; reached out to its partners for briefing them on key changes; and prepared online training modules (namely on Water Stewardship, Integrated Pest Management and High Conservation Value lands) so that all partners and staff would possess the necessary tools and knowledge to implement the new standard.

### **Second BCI Implementing Partners Meeting, Negombo, Sri Lanka**

5 – 6 December 2017

BCI held a second Implementing Partners meeting in Sri Lanka during which the new standard as it had been approved by the Council was introduced to all partners. The transition phase was explained and participants had the opportunity to discuss during a world café session on how they would implement two new key elements in the standard:

- The Water Stewardship Plan
- The Biodiversity Management Plan

All inputs received during the meeting was collected and was been considered in the preparation of training materials.



## **Launch of the new Standard**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

The full revised Standard became effective for all Producers (existing and new) from 1 March 2018; the majority of core indicators and all improvement indicators started being effective from this date. This effectively means 2018-19 season for the both hemispheres.

## **Transition period**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Some selected core indicators (hereby referred to as “transition indicators”) are expected to require longer implementation timeframes, and will have an effective date of 1 March 2019 (2019-20 season).

These indicators relate to:

- Issues posing technical or competency challenges for farmers to implement;
- Issues requiring longer timeframe to plan their implementation, with respect to the timing of seasonal activities;
- Issues requiring longer timeframe for partners’ capacity to be built, with appropriate guidance and training material developed by BCI.

This means that all Producers will be assessed against the full new P&C in the 2018/19 season; however for “transition indicators”, only observations (not non-conformities) can be raised during the 2018-19 season if Producer does not conform.

## **The new Standard is entirely applied**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

The 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 marks the end of the transition period. All producers will be assessed against all core and improvement indicators.