

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIPLE STAMP

The Corporate Social Responsibility Department of the Bolivian Institute of Foreign Trade (IBCE) has been working since the year 2006 with different companies and sectors of the Bolivian agro industry.

When doing the work serious problems on child labour, discrimination and forced labour were found in different productive sectors in Bolivia.

The work experience drew attention on the need to apply a research on the sectors to make a careful study of the identified issues and provide the necessary elements to come up with solutions.

With the conclusion of the research, the IBCE CSR Department analyzed the possibility of giving a new tool to the Bolivian agro industrial sector in order to gain a new target into the foreign trade with primary or final products normalized as socially responsible.

This tool called the Triple Stamp could be required by international importers, bonding the trade business with the urge to stimulate social responsible companies.

The Triple Stamp is conformed of Standards that are certifiable as a “First-Party Auto declaration” with external audit emitted by the Bolivian Institute of Standardization (IBNORCA) through which the companies state that the production chain of their products are free from:

- Child Labour
- Discrimination
- Forced Labour

IBCE is the company accountable of emitting the license to use the Triple Stamp isologotypes for the products that have approved the audit process. This process is subsequently submitted to a check-up by the Inter - Institutional Committee – constituted by international organizations like UNICEF and ILO that have the authority to veto the audit process.

These standards are applicable to all the companies in the agro industrial sector, enclosing the primary production all the way to the commercialization with the guarantee that the whole chain of production of the certified product is free from child labour, free from discrimination and free from forced labour.

This stamp offers a competitive solution in the international market for the agro industry sector, giving the possibility to increase the use and control of the CSR principles in



Bolivia and enlarging the number of people that will be shielded in their rights through the Triple Stamp.

Once this tool is adopted, the benefits go from the improvement of the life quality of the employees to the increase of the business income.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why just a Bolivian Stamp?

1. Because of the international costs of certifications. You can compare between a typically 20.000 dollars international certification and a 2.000 dollars Bolivian one.
2. Because some of the international certifications requirements are not applicable to the social/legal Bolivian reality.
3. Because of the Global Compact labour principles, which are the cores of the Triple Stamp.
4. Specifically, Fair Trade certification and WRAP certification were created for certain areas or products and do not observe the whole production chain.
5. Because the specific denounced violations in Bolivia and neighboring countries were chosen in order to develop the standards.
6. Because there is not a worldwide known certification which concerns about the whole production chain as it certifies just a product and not the Company.
7. Because Bolivia, as a producer country needs to count on its own standards and to have them being a proper trade differential.

Why IBCE is the Triple Stamp owner?

IBCE, the Bolivian Foreign Trade Institute is a commerce promotion technical institution founded in 1986, to accomplish the national purpose of economic growth and social development. Thank to economic analysis, specialized publications, statistic data formulation and an intense foreign trade promotion management IBCE contributes to the productive development of Bolivia, generating employment sources through Bolivian foreign trade consolidation.

When doing the work serious problems on child labour, discrimination and forced labour were found in different rural sectors. Because of that, the IBCE CSR Department analyzed the possibility of giving a new tool to the Bolivian agro industrial sector in order to gain a new target into the foreign trade with primary or final products normalized as socially responsible.

During 2007 IBCE addressed the Bolivian Institute of Standardization with the referred proposal. Since then, the initiative counted with the support of ILO, UNICEF, Labour Ministry and Production Ministry, although IBCE was always the leading institution.

IBCE was the formal petitioner for the Technical Committees starting up and the main responsible for the 6 critical base-documents redaction. IBCE also financed the Triple Stamp logotype designer.



Summing up, IBCE lead the whole process which ended with the final and formal Triple Stamp approval.

How it is the Triple Stamp fair application guaranteed?

After the whole process is completed -after the “First Party Self Declaration” and the audit process made by IBCE, the final brief has to be put under the veto power of an Inter Institutional Committee before the Company becomes authorized to use the Triple Stamp.

Who is the Inter Institutional Committee constituted by?

The committee is constituted by a group of institutions worldwide recognized, like PNUD, OIT and UNICEF.

What occurs to the working children who are separated from their sources of work due to the Triple Stamp certification?

Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their school is generally regarded as being something positive. Because of that, the Norm contemplates different alternatives for teenager workers within national and international legal activities and includes children tasks within the familiar work.

The IBCE has been working from the beginning in collaboration with UNICEF, and UNICEF is currently implementing -in joint with the Bolivian Government, different programs on education access for children of urban and rural areas.

During its consultancies on CSR, the IBCE recommends the companies fomenting their employees' commitment about children's schooling.

Does the Triple Stamp influence or have incidence on the final price of a certified product?

Due to the IBCE commitment with responsible purchase and consumers' rights, the decision assumed was that the access to the certification process and the use of the Triple Stamp would not be a process that would imply a new cost for the applicant companies.



That means that it is easy for a company to fulfill the requirements of the normative and is authorized to use the Triple Stamp?

Not at all. The IBCE as well as the Inter institutional Committee (derived from the Committee of Development of the Norm) maintains the initial commitment about keeping the high standards developed during the writing process of the 6 Norms that compose the Triple Stamp. The level of exigency for the fulfillment of the requirements could delay the company which needs a longer stage of preparation before being able to initiate the process of normalization, audit and authorization of use of the Triple Stamp.