



Guidance

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Additional guidance for inspection process: Considering changes in relationships

1. Purpose

AJP has recognized that changes in usually stable relationships may be an indicator of other problems that affect AJP standards. For example, if a buyer has generally had long-term relationships with suppliers, but changes suddenly to a new supplier, it could be the result of a breakdown in the fair relationship.

2. Scope

This clarification of intent applies to all certifying bodies and worker organizations as well as FJC inspectors or worker organization representatives.

3. Background

The AJP standards recommend long term trading relationships, but the DFTA Evaluation made evident that we need to strengthen record keeping requirements in order to allow the certifier and worker inspector to know when changes occur so that they can follow up with questions about whether those changes are indicators of unfair dealings .

Policy

AJP asks that certifiers and inspectors take the following steps to improve the inspection process:

- a. Inspectors and worker organization representatives should add questions to inspection checklists or questionnaires to look into changes in relationships, and
- b. Certifiers should add any necessary questions or fields to applications or internal paperwork to find out about changes in relationships, and
- c. Certifiers should ensure that reviewers are aware of their responsibility to request follow-up if any changes in relationships are identified through inspection or application process.