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## **Walk Free Foundation guides companies to tackle slavery in supply chains**

Thursday 4 September 2014– The [Walk Free Foundation](#) has today launched a practical guide on concrete guidelines for companies, businesses and governments who want to eliminate the risk of forced labour and slavery in their supply chains. [Tackling Slavery in Supply Chains: A Guide 1.0](#) seeks to fill the current gap of information that exists in how to knowingly investigate and eradicate slavery in supply chains.

The [Global Slavery Index](#) estimates almost 30 million people are in modern slavery worldwide. The vast majority of these are victims of exploitation in private sector activities such as manufacturing, construction and agriculture.

“When Fortescue Metals Group did a supply chain audit and found slavery in its supply chain, we realized there was an absolute gap in what to do next,” says Andrew Forrest, Chairman and founder of iron ore mining company, Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) and Walk Free Foundation.

“For the first time, this Guide provides companies, governments and businesses with a complete plan of action on how they can reduce the risk of slavery in their supply chains and what to do when it is found.

“With over \$150 billion in illicit profits from this abhorrent industry, business needs to step up and tackle this crisis head-on. This Guide provides the strongest asset for companies to be informed on how to do this.”

The Guide highlights examples of high risk industries, such as construction, tea, cocoa, fishing and manufacturing, which have been found to have high levels of forced labour in their supply chains, and also includes best practice examples from companies addressing these risks.

Forced labour exists in many companies that rely on raw materials, agricultural products, and suppliers with a high migrant labour work force.

Written in consultation with Verite and the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply, the Guide is a step by step tool kit for procurement, supply chain and sustainability professionals. It includes:

- What modern slavery is and what red flags companies need to be aware of;
- The correct policy framework and Code of Conduct;



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- Conducting a high-level risk assessment for profiling existing and new suppliers; steps for auditing, on-site inspections, corrective action plans; and
- Guidelines for long term supplier engagement

To download the Guide please visit [walkfree.org/business](http://walkfree.org/business).

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About the Walk Free Foundation**

Our mission is to end modern slavery in our generation by mobilising a global activist movement, generating the highest quality research, enlisting business and raising capital to drive change in those countries and industries bearing the greatest responsibility for modern slavery today.

The Walk Free Foundation will do this by:

- Identifying countries and industries most responsible for modern slavery;
- Identify and implement with partners the interventions in those countries and industries that will have the greatest impact on modern slavery; and
- Critically assessing our impact.