



MODERN SLAVERY ACT REPORTING UPDATE: NOVEMBER 2020

On 27 November 2020, the Australian Border Force (ABF) published the first tranche of modern slavery statements (statements) submitted under the Commonwealth *Modern Slavery Act 2018*. The ABF is closely monitoring the quality of statements and has identified the following good-practice trends and areas for improvement. The ABF will publish additional reporting updates in 2021. Detailed '*Modern Slavery Act: Guidance for Reporting Entities*' is available on the [Online Register for Modern Slavery Statements](#).

GOOD-PRACTICE TRENDS



Clearly addressing mandatory criteria for content: Good-practice statements clearly address each of the mandatory criteria for content set out in the Act, including by using headings that align to each criterion or providing illustrative tables that set out where specific criteria are addressed in the statement.



Addressing COVID-19 impacts: Good-practice statements directly consider the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the entity's operations and supply chains, including by recognising where modern slavery risks have increased and explaining how the reporting entity is responding to these increased risks.



Assessing effectiveness: Good-practice statements recognise the importance of evaluating the effectiveness of actions taken to combat modern slavery during each reporting period and include clear plans to track the effectiveness of the reporting entity's response.



Collaboration: Good-practice statements include information about collaboration with other entities to address modern slavery, including government, business peers, workers and their representatives, and civil society.



Plans for future action: Good-practice statements commit to continuous improvement and explain how the reporting entity will refine its response in future years.



Case studies: Good-practice statements include case studies to provide practical examples of how the reporting entity is addressing modern slavery risks, including through supplier engagement or collaboration with civil society.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



Indicating principal governing body approval and signature by a responsible member: Statements must meet the requirements for approval and signature set out in the Act. The ABF will not register statements that do not clearly comply with these requirements.



Submitting statements used in other jurisdictions: Some statements developed to comply with modern slavery reporting laws overseas have not been amended to address the Act's mandatory criteria for content.



Identifying the reporting entity/ies: Some statements submitted by overseas corporate groups do not identify the Australian reporting entity/entities covered by the statement. The reporting entity/ies need to be clearly identified in the statement.



Describing areas of modern slavery risk: Some statements note that modern slavery risk areas have been identified but do not describe the nature, context or extent of these risks.



Describing consultation: Some statements do not describe how the reporting entity/ies consulted with owned or controlled entities to prepare the statement.



Describing consultation (joint statements only): Some joint statements do not describe how the entity giving the statement consulted with the reporting entity/ies covered by the statement to prepare the statement.