

# Incidents of Child labor

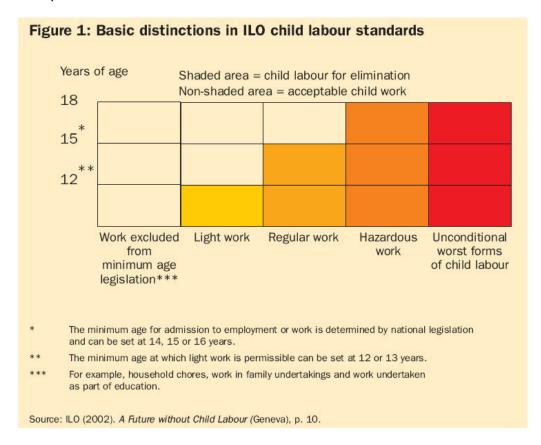
## **EICC Chapter 2) Child Labor Avoidance**

'Child labor is not to be used in any stage of manufacturing. The term "child" refers to any person employed under the age of 15 (or 14 where the law of the country permits), or under the age for completing compulsory education, or under the minimum age for employment in the country, whichever is greatest. The use of legitimate workplace apprenticeship programs, which comply with all laws and regulations, is supported. Workers under the age of 18 should not perform hazardous work and may be restricted from night work with consideration given to educational needs.'

#### Child labor

In the world today, it is estimated that 218 million boys and girls work as child laborers<sup>1</sup>

Even though the activities in the electronics sector -being higher up in the value chain- are not suitable for children, incidentally young workers, not yet having reached the legal age of employability are observed to be active in the workplace.



 $<sup>^1</sup>$  ILO guide for employers on child labour guide one: introduction to the issue. The guide can be found on www.ioe-emp.org/



When young workers below the minimum age of employability are active, Philips expects Supplier to take immediately remedial action, taking into account the interests of the children employed.

To that extent, Philips expects Supplier to follow the three H's approach as set out in the ILO guide for employers on child labor<sup>2</sup>:

- a stop to underage **Hiring**
- removing children from tasks where the risks from Hazards are high
- reducing **H**ours to the legal level

# A stop to underage Hiring:

Supplier is expected to immediately stop the hiring of children. In this regard, it is of importance to improve age verification mechanisms.

## Removing children from tasks where the risks from Hazards are high

Supplier is expected to immediately

- Reduce the risk from hazards by improving workplace safety and health
- Remove adolescents from tasks and environments that are deemed hazardous for adolescents but not for adults (i.e. heavy loads, night work, heavy machinery)

These actions need to take place on a structural level rather than an incidental action, and need to be monitored as such.

#### Reducing Hours to the legal level

Supplier is expected to have knowledge on local law, as well as the age for completing compulsory education. Where hours are to be reduced, Philips expects Supplier not to reduce the income, as this would harm the interests of the child. Supplier is to investigate alternatives e.g. in hiring a family member – siblings or parents - or increase the wages of the parent if he or she also works for him. Further, Supplier is expected to offer the child a job, the moment a child has reached the legal working age.

### Supporting Education

Philips expects Supplier to transfer the children to school, paying for their education until they reach the legal working age.

#### Child labor found in an audit

Should a case of child labor be identified during an audit, Philips expects Supplier to act in accordance with the guidelines as set out in this Chapter, in consultation with Philips. Next to that Philips and Supplier will agree to a time period within which the supplier will comply with the ILO norm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The guide can be found on www.ioe-emp.org/