

Frequently Asked Questions

We think we are already compliant with Pledge requirements – so why should we sign?

As a leader, signing the Pledge provides an opportunity to show your commitment to action towards WBCSD's Vision 2050. It also provides a platform for you to communicate about your good practices, both internally and externally. If you're already compliant, your signature of the Pledge will generate attention to existing company practices in terms of occupational health and safety (H&S). In addition, by signing the Pledge, you will become part of a strong community of recognized leaders in the WASH field. Together, you will add your voices to the global call to action for accelerating universal access to WASH.

Most of my operations are based in high-income countries where access to safe WASH at the workplace is not an issue, so I don't see the benefit. Why should I sign?

Signing the Pledge will lend your company's voice to the business movement around access to safe WASH. It will also ensure your company actively participates in the implementation of the upcoming *Sustainable Development Goals* and the *Human Right to Water and Sanitation*. Contrary to common belief, some case studies show that access to safe WASH – especially sanitation and hygiene – can still be an issue in high-income countries: Issues identified from company gap assessments in a high-income context include insufficient provision of toilet facilities either for employees, for disabled people, or both. There can also be limited awareness on hygiene.

Are the Self-Assessment Tool and the Guiding Principles for Implementation mandatory when my company starts implementing the Pledge?

No – both documents provide guidance on how the Pledge can be implemented, but the implementation procedure remains an internal choice for your company. The Self-Assessment tool or any other tool that your company decides to use internally must be applied at each site level. This is to verify that all necessary measures are taken to ensure access to safe WASH for all employees at an appropriate level. These include points of reference on what represents leading practice for providing an appropriate standard for safe WASH in different workplaces – including specific examples of action items.

How have other companies generally implemented the Pledge?

Different companies approach implementation from different angles, but most often they do so through existing internal Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) guidelines and auditing. We realize that assessing each operation site is an ambitious undertaking (though online survey tools such as SurveyMonkey© are ideal for reaching out to many sites in parallel), and therefore allow companies to run one or several pilots. For example, companies could examine one country's operations or several key sites before rolling out the Pledge to their entire operations. This helps them maximize efficiency and build on first findings/lessons learned.

My company is willing to sign; what is the signature process?

The signature process of the Pledge is straightforward. Please have someone who is in the position to commit your company to the Pledge send an official email to patil@wbcasd.org. The email must state that he/she confirms that he/she signed the Pledge in the name of your company, and he/she understands this means the company commits to providing appropriate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene to all employees in all locations under direct company control within three years of signature. In addition, we request that you cc: Xylem on your commitment email to the WBCSD at our sustainability email address xylem.sustainability@xylem.com so we can track completion.

What if my company has not reached compliance within three years?

In principle, the commitment should be achieved within three years of signature. However, depending on your findings, it is acceptable to extend this timeframe if the full assessments have been run and action plans are put in place.

Who is currently committed to the WASH Pledge?

You can view the logos of the WASH Pledge signatories on the [WBCSD website](#).

Note: in addition to these companies, a number of small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) have committed to the WASH Pledge.