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## **VICS Announces Major Sustainability Initiative On Hangers**

*Change from clear to black hangers will save industry millions of dollars annually*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, -** The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions Association (VICs) today released new standards created to lower the cost and reduce the environmental impact of hangers throughout the retail value chain. The new guidelines, which change the standard color of “department store” hangers (with metal hooks) from clear to matte black, were developed collaboratively by VICs members, including retailers, apparel companies and hanger suppliers.

The move to the new hanger, which does not impact infant’s wear, toddler’s or intimate apparel, is expected to be completed by January 2012. The same VICs clear performance standards will apply to black hangers and the style numbers for black hangers will be the same as they were for clear.

This standards change is a major step for the U.S. apparel industry in the direction of a more sustainable and lower cost hanger. Major retailers and suppliers have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in improving the environment, and will do so by using resources more efficiently, providing an 'eco-friendlier' product that meets all business and shopper requirements.

“We appreciate and value involvement and support all stakeholders in this effort as we move into a new era of greater hanger sustainability in the USA. The VICs Hangers Subcommittee Committee’s goal was to find methods of reducing expense and implementing sound business practices that are environmentally friendly. It is to be complemented for their steadfastness and total commitment to excellence,” said Joe Andraski, President and CEO of VICs.

**About VICs**

The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards (VICS) Association has enabled companies in the retail and consumer-focused industries to eliminate billions of dollars of waste and delay. By creating voluntary guidelines, often referred to as “standards,” VICS has created new best practices that ultimately lead to lower costs and better availability of products for consumers. VICS’ volunteer members improve the flow of products and information throughout retailing and the consumer-focused industries that supply retail. The Association provides leadership and an environment in which executives can make a difference in their industry, their company performance—and their personal commitment to make the world work a little bit better. VICS’ members help define the next best practices in the industries and thus anticipate and optimize business processes and costs. Additional information can be found at [www.vics.org](http://www.vics.org).

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