

Cotton & Textile Policy

LIBERTY.

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Background

Liberty's Ethical Trade Programme aims to ensure that the rights of workers in our supply chain are respected and protected. We recognise our corporate responsibility to respect human rights, as set out in the second pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and through our membership of the Ethical Trading Initiative, we are committed to implementing the principles of the ETI Base Code in our supply chains. We have a zero tolerance approach to the use of forced labour or child labour anywhere in our value chain.

Liberty works with an external third party auditing partner to verify conditions in our supply chains, using the information gained in an audit as an initial indicator of risk. The independence of the auditors we work with is critical in giving us an impartial view of manufacturing sites.

Liberty position

Liberty's Cotton & Textiles Policy restricts trade with countries or regions where:

a) Liberty would be contravening the principles set out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights;

and/or

b) Independent third-party verification of working conditions is compromised or not permitted

Therefore, for all of Liberty's own-brand products, **Liberty requires that no cotton or textiles be knowingly sourced from Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan. Additionally, Liberty is suspending the sourcing of any cotton or textiles from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), China until independent third-party verification in the region can be restored.**

This policy and the countries or regions prohibited within it will remain under review.

Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan

Liberty is aware of reports relating to government backed forced labour and child labour during the cotton-picking season in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In line with several other retailers, Liberty has banned the use of any cotton fibre or textiles from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in any of its own-brand products.

This will remain our position until such time that there is clear evidence of a change in the cotton industry in either of those countries. **Liberty suppliers MUST NOT knowingly use any cotton fibre or textiles sourced from Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan in any of our products.**

Additional countries or regions where human rights due diligence is restricted

Current constraints on the ability of auditors to independently assess working conditions in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) present significant challenges to the ability of businesses to conduct meaningful human rights due diligence.

While Liberty's suppliers do not currently source cotton fibre or textiles originating from XUAR in the manufacturing of any of our own-brand product, as a precautionary move Liberty is suspending any future use of cotton and/or textiles from this area until the challenges around transparency and access are resolved. Until told otherwise, **Liberty suppliers should therefore not knowingly use any raw materials, goods or services linked to the XUAR, in any of our products.**

Supplier & partner disclosure

Any own-brand Liberty supplier or partner that is providing or sourcing cotton or textile-based products is required to make all reasonable efforts to fully understand their chain of supply, to the point of origin, for all cotton and textile products. They must also take steps to identify any forced labour risks in their supply chain.

Suppliers and partners will be asked to disclose the country of origin for all raw materials used in own-brand products made of cotton or textiles. All suppliers, partners and factories will be expected to maintain records to prove raw material country of origin. We reserve the right to request copies of such records to verify sources.