The M&S Responsible Sourcing Policy for Man Made Cellulosic Fibres

SUMMARY
This policy sets out M&S’s minimum standards on man-made cellulosic (MMCF) materials and covers the following core requirements; -

- ensuring that these raw materials come from more sustainable sources
- ensuring that the fibres/filaments are manufactured in an environmentally compliant and responsible way

BACKGROUND

There are three major focus points to delivering more responsibly sourced man made cellulosic fibres; -

1. Supply Chain Transparency
2. Sustainably sourced raw materials
3. Environmental compliance in fibre/filament manufacturing

Sustainable raw materials - This sourcing policy has been developed to align with the existing Marks & Spencer Wood Strategy, which aims to address the major environmental effects of wood used in its products including free, prior and informed consent of local communities prior to logging, illegal logging, FSC certification preferences, deforestation from plantations and support for lasting conservation solutions. The Wood Strategy is one of the Plan A commitments: By 2020 all our wood will come from the most sustainable sources - click here to view our M&S Wood Policy.

Environmental compliance in fibre manufacturing – This sourcing policy has been developed to align with the existing Marks & Spencer Environmental and Chemical Policy (ECP) as required for all wet processors – click here to view our ECP Policy.

If suppliers contravene this policy, we will first engage them to change practices and then re-evaluate our relationship with them.

Conservation of ancient and endangered forests and ecosystems

With an increase in the use of forest fibres in fabrics there is a need for business to make sure the impact of fabric sourcing on forests is understood and addressed. M&S supports a future that does not use ancient and endangered forest' to make man-made cellulosic fabrics and fibres. We support the use of alternative fibres that have a reduced environmental footprint such as using recycled textiles and agricultural residues to close the loop on man-made cellulosic fibre sourcing.

In 2020, we will put in place a preference for purchasing man-made cellulosic fibres with a minimum of 50% of these innovative fibre sources and develop a 2025 procurement target for these closed-loop solutions based on viscose fibre producer innovation.
M&S, as a partner in the CanopyStyle initiative, is committed to end the sourcing from ancient and endangered forests, endangered species habitat and controversial sources.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to all Man Made or Regenerated cellulosic fibres, yarns (staple or filament), fabrics and linings, including but not limited to rayon, viscose, lyocell, modal and trademarked versions of these fibres.

**POLICY**

- **Effective June 2018, M&S will cease sourcing any future production from man-made cellulosic fibre producers who are red rated by Canopy’s Hot Button Risk Matrix**

- **Effective June 2018 – M&S will only source from man-made cellulosic fibre producers who are engaged with the CanopyStyle initiative and who are NOT RED-RATED on the Canopy’s Hot Button Risk Matrix**

- **By 2020 - all our Man Made Cellulosic fibres will be sourced by M&S from suppliers that have CanopyStyle Audits indicating low risk of sourcing from ancient and endangered forests and/or have attained a green shirt ranking in the Canopy Hot Button Report.**

- **M&S will not source from any man-made cellulosic fibre suppliers who do not transition to a closed-loop manufacturing system by 2023-2025. This system should aim to recycle the majority of chemicals used during production and prevent the production process from negatively impacting on human health and the environment**

- **All man made cellulosic fibre facilities must undertake an ECP self-audit audit and must be compliant with the minimum standards. If a facility fails to comply with the minimum requirements then they must not be used for M&S production. ECP self audits will be issued to all MMCF producer facilities in June 2018 and will be renewed every 18 months**

  > **It is the responsibility of the Man Made Cellulosic fibre manufacturer to ensure the self audit is completed fully and the appropriate supporting documentary evidence is provided.**

**COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

When sourcing any Man Made Cellulosic fibres, please refer to the M&S Man Made Cellulosic supplier compliance matrix by clicking [here](#) and check the “OVERALL COMPLIANCE STATUS” – column. Only MMCF suppliers who are designated as “approved” may be used for M&S production

This matrix will be maintained and updated by the Technical Services Group Central Plan A team.
Minimum Compliance for MMCF suppliers requires the following;

1. **Transparency**

All Vendors must ensure that the MMCF supplier and facility location(s) must be provided on the Fabric Technical Submission form and upload this form onto PLM. Please click [here](#) to access the Fabric Technical Submission form. Fabric Technical submissions will not be approved by the departmental technologist unless this information is completed.

2. **Sustainable Raw Materials**

The man-made cellulosic fibre (MMCF) supplier must have met the following CanopyStyle minimum requirements. These include:

- Verification that the risk of sourcing from ancient and endangered forests is low by completing the CanopyStyle Audit with an independent third-party auditor;
- Contribution to conservation solutions in the world’s ancient and endangered forests;
- Investments in new, innovative use of alternative fibres, such as recycled fabrics & agricultural residues;
- Advancement of traceability and transparency efforts in the entire supply chain, from the forest floor to the end product;
- Preference to the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) as the leading sustainable forest management certification system.

M&S will not source from any man-made cellulosic fibre suppliers who are have a hot button red shirt on the MMCF supplier compliance matrix – the Canopy Hot Button status of the fibre suppliers will be updated by the M&S technical Service group on the M&S Man Made Cellulosic supplier compliance matrix. Please click [here](#) to view our M&S Man Made Cellulosic supplier compliance matrix.

3. **Environmental Compliance requirements for Man-made cellulosic fibre manufacturing**

The M&S Environmental and Chemical Policy (ECP) is the latest edition of the environmental and chemical standards for our suppliers which incorporates the philosophy and aspirations of Plan A. The information in the ECP policy documents help all suppliers achieve the M&S minimum standards, provide guidance on how they can reduce their environmental impact as well as providing opportunities to improve efficiency and productivity.

All man made cellulosic fibre supplier facilities must undertake a self-audit assessment and must be compliant with the environmental and chemical minimum standards. If a facility fails to comply with the minimum requirements then they must not be used for M&S production.

It is the responsibility of the Man Made Cellulosic fibre supplier to ensure the self audit is completed fully and the appropriate supporting documentary evidence is provided.
Please click here to view our ECP self audit module

If there are any major non-compliances then the factory will not be allowed to supply fibre into any M&S products.

The Man Made cellulosic fibre supplier must also meet the compliance requirements above on Transparency and Sustainable Raw Materials.

The Environmental self audit is valid for 18 months and will be assessed by the M&S ECP team in the UK with guidance from the relevant M&S Sourcing office.

As part of the environmental compliance requirements, all Man Made cellulosic fibre suppliers must commit to transitioning to a closed loop manufacturing system by 2023-2025.

On approval/rejection from the ECP team. The central SharePoint M&S Man Made Cellulosic Fibre Supplier compliance matrix will be updated along with any corrective action stipulated and date for completion.

Man made cellulosic fibre suppliers will be expected to develop and implement closed loop manufacturing systems for their production by 2023-2025 and to be conducting regular chemical due diligence testing to ensure they are compliant.
Appendix of (SE) links to related documents

Man Made Cellulosic Fibre Supplier Compliance Matrix

ECP self audit for Man Made Cellulosic Fibre supplier facilities

Fabric Technical Submission

How To Complete The Fabric Technical Submission Form

Sustainable Wood Policy

1. Ancient and Endangered Forest Ancient and endangered forests are defined as intact forest landscape mosaics, naturally rare forest types, forest types that have been made rare due to human activity, and/or other forests that are ecologically critical for the protection of biological diversity. Ecological components of endangered forests are: Intact forest landscapes; Remnant forests and restoration cores; Landscape connectivity; Rare forest types; Forests of high species richness; Forests containing high concentrations of rare and endangered species; Forests of high endemism; Core habitat for focal species; Forests exhibiting rare ecological and evolutionary phenomena. As a starting point to geographically locate ancient and endangered forests, maps of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), as defined by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and of intact forest landscapes (IFL), can be used and paired with maps of other key ecological values like the habitat range of key endangered species and forests containing high concentrations of terrestrial carbon and High Carbon Stocks (HCS). (The Wye River Coalition’s Endangered Forests: High Conservation Value Forests Protection — Guidance for Corporate Commitments. This has been reviewed by conservation groups, corporations, and scientists such as Dr. Jim Stritholt, President and Executive Director of the Conservation Biology Institute, and has been adopted by corporations for their forest sourcing policies). Key endangered forests globally are the Canadian and Russian Boreal Forests; Coastal Temperate Rainforests of British Columbia, Alaska and Chile; Tropical forests and peat lands of Indonesia, the Amazon and West Africa. For more information on the definitions of ancient and endangered forests, please go to: http://canopyplanet.org/index.php?page=science-behind-the-brand

2. Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) is an unbroken expanse of natural ecosystems within the zone of current forest extent, showing no signs of significant human activity, and large enough that all native biodiversity, including viable populations of wide-ranging species, could be maintained. (http://www.intactforests.org/world.map.html)

3. Legal forest management is management that complies with all applicable international, national, and local laws, including environmental, forestry, and civil rights laws and treaties.

5. Agricultural residues are residues/by-products left over from food production or other processes and using them maximizes the lifecycle of the fiber. Depending on how they are harvested, fibers may include flax, bagasse, and hemp.

6. Where conservation solutions are finalized we will consider sourcing from the Great Bear Rainforest, located in coastal temperate rainforests that originally covered 0.2% of the planet, and where now less than 25% of the original forests remain. The 2006 Great Bear Rainforest Agreements signed between environmentalists, logging companies, First Nations and the British Colombia Government includes the creation of a new land management regime called Ecosystem-Based Management that includes more than 4.9 million acres (2 million hectares) protected from logging and new lighter touch logging regulations applied outside of protected areas. All stakeholders have now agreed and efforts are underway to have governments fully implement the agreement by September 2015. [Note this footnote is key, otherwise the policy would suggest you would not source from this region, despite the conservation agreements in place, which would be a disincentive for forest companies to make these type of conservation agreements in other ancient and endangered forests].

7. Canada’s Boreal Forest contain the largest source of unfrozen freshwater world wide and are part of the world’s largest terrestrial carbon sink – equivalent to 26 years worth of global fossil fuel use. Canopy is committed to working collaboratively on the establishment of new protected areas, the protection of endangered species and the implementation of sustainable harvesting in Canada’s Boreal Forest. This region is slated for the largest increase in mills for dissolving pulp that goes into cellulose-based fabrics.

8. Indonesia experiences the second highest rate of deforestation among tropical countries, with Sumatra Island standing out due to the intensive forest clearing that has resulted in the conversion of 70% of the island’s forested area (FAO Forest Assessment 2010; Margono, B.A. et al. 2012). Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Ltd. (APRIL) have been identified as the primary cause and are criticized by local and international groups for being implicated in deforesting important carbon rich peat lands, destroying the habitat for critically endangered species and traditional lands of indigenous communities, corruption, and human rights abuses (Eyes on the Forest. 2011. http://www.eyesontheforest.or.id/). APP has recently put in place a promising forest policy, tracking its implementation will be key to understanding if it offers lasting solutions for Indonesia’s Rainforests and also if APRIL (a key producer of dissolving pulp for fabrics) will follow suit.

9. Plantations area areas that have been “established by planting or sowing using either alien or native species, often with few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lack most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests”. Plantations prior to 1994 are often FSC certified. Source FSC: http://www.fsc.org/download.plantations.441.htm