

Responsible Leather Sourcing Policy

INTRODUCTION

As part of our Plan A commitment, we aim to only use the most sustainable raw materials available to us. Leather is a very important material for M&S and it is vital that when sourcing leather we do not contribute to deforestation and we are compliant with our standards for animal welfare and chemical usage.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

It is our intention that all leather used in M&S products originates from sources that meet our minimum requirements for animal welfare and chemical compliance and are procured from routes that do not contribute to deforestation.

Building on the substantial progress we've already made, and in recognition of forest protection as part of climate change mitigation, we're aiming to ensure zero deforestation from the use of palm oil, soy, cattle, wood and wood derived materials in the production of M&S products by 2020.

DEFORESTATION

M&S has committed to avoiding leather and beef from regions where land is converted to agriculture at the expense of valuable tropical forest. Cattle are commonly part of a cycle of land use change associated with agricultural expansion.

The region of greatest deforestation associated with cattle rearing is the Amazon biome. Therefore, regions that border this are classed as 'leather deforestation risk countries'. M&S does not exclude leather from such regions but requires suppliers to demonstrate how they exclude cattle reared in the Amazon biome from their supply chains.

The following countries are linked to deforestation:

Brazil	Guyana
Bolivia	Peru
Columbia	Paraguay
Ecuador	Suriname
French Guiana	Venezuela

If leather is being sourced¹ from any of these countries, then the supplier must either:

1. Demonstrate the route for supply has avoided the use of cattle reared in the Amazon biome through one of the following options:

- A public commitment to ban the use of cattle reared in the Amazon biome by the slaughterhouse. Reducing the dependency on pesticides and synthetic fertilisers
- GPS mapping of supplying farms to demonstrate avoidance of cattle reared in the Amazon biome.
- Policies to remove suppliers who do not meet these standards.

OR

2. Participation in multi-stakeholder, industry or regional schemes that help companies to avoid the purchase of cattle from the Amazon biome if the data from such schemes is made publicly available or audited by an independent third party.

Orders cannot be placed if the source of the leather contributes to deforestation in the Amazon biome

ANIMAL WELFARE

Leather used for all M&S products must be compliant with the M&S Animal Welfare policy for Non-Food Products. This policy requires the species of the animal AND the country of origin of slaughter to be confirmed. A key objective of the Animal Welfare policy is to ensure all non-food animal derived products are by-products of the food industry. A copy of the policy can be found on the M&S Supplier Exchange.

<https://supplierexchange.marksandspencer.com/home>

Beyond the Animal Welfare policy, to take into account broader animal welfare issues, Appendix 1 contains risk ratings for countries that are common sources of leather. This risk rating is for information only and is a guide to which countries have better welfare conditions. Generally better welfare conditions result in a better quality of leather.

Orders cannot be placed unless compliance to the Animal Welfare policy has been confirmed via the Leather Specification

¹ The country of sourced is defined as country in which the animal was reared. This is often the country of slaughter but is not always the case.

CHEMICAL COMPLIANCE

All tanneries completing the final stage of processing for the hide must be compliant to the M&S Environmental and Chemical Policy (ECP) Tannery Module. The tannery must complete the ECP audit and have a valid ECP Reference Number.

ECP Module 3a for Best Practice in tanneries and ECP Modules 5a Tannery Audit can be found on the M&S Supplier Exchange.

<https://supplierexchange.marksandspencer.com/home>

Orders cannot be placed unless compliance the final stage tannery holds a valid ECP reference number

TRACEABILITY

A key aspiration of the M&S policy for sourcing leather is there is a robust chain of custody throughout the supply chain to the slaughterhouse. It is our intention that in the future we will have full supply chain traceability for all our products including leather-based products. As such suppliers must ensure they have visibility of original source of any leather they are supplying to M&S.

To facilitate this each product must have a completed M&S Leather Specification provided during the development process.

Orders will not be placed unless the Leather Specification has been fully completed and approved by the Departmental Technologist

PLAN A PRODUCT ATTRIBUTION

Products can only be attributed as Plan A if they fulfil both of the following criteria:

1. The Product is fully compliant with all aspects of the leather sourcing policy.
2. The tannery completing the final stage(s) of leather/hide processing must achieve a BRONZE rating and have a Traceability score via the LWG auditing protocol.

For guidance and support on the implementation of this policy please contact your BU technologist or one of the following contacts:

Phil Townsend- Sustainable Raw Materials Specialist

Stephen Lawson- Technical Manager

APPENDIX 1: COUNTRY RISK RATING

The table below shows the animal welfare risk ratings for the countries which are common sources of leather. The table is used to indicate the risk associated with each country, where the country is the origin of the skin or hide; i.e. where the animal was reared.

The risk rating is for information only.

Green Low Risk	Amber Medium Risk	Red High Risk
France	Argentina	Bangladesh
Germany	Brazil	China
Greece	Chile	Egypt
Italy	Columbia	Ethiopia
Ireland	Mexico	India
Netherlands	Peru	Indonesia
Poland	S/Arabia	Kenya
Portugal	Turkey	Nigeria
Spain	UAE	Pakistan
UK	Ukraine	Paraguay
American Samoa		South Africa
Australia		Taiwan
Canada		Thailand
Japan		Vietnam
New Zealand		
Norway		
USA		