



# RESPONSIBLE LEATHER SOURCING POLICY

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## BACKGROUND

Animal derived materials are used across the fashion and homeware industry and it is important that these materials are sourced in a responsible way. We are committed to using responsibly sourced raw materials including the use of products derived from animals. This policy forms as part of our commitments to uphold the M&S animal welfare principles for all Leather products that we source. 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.

## SCOPE

This policy covers products sold in all Clothing, Home and Beauty areas that contain any Leather. The scope includes all main materials, linings, and trims.

This policy is intended to complement the M&S Animal Welfare Policy.

## RATONALE AND OBJECTIVES

- To ensure Marks & Spencer meets its long-standing commitment to improve animal welfare in its leather supply chains and ensure all leather materials are sourced from farms with good animal welfare practices
- Marks & Spencer are committed to improving animal welfare across our global supply chains and we are working to source all animal-derived materials from farms with good animal welfare practices
- To layout a set of uniform principles and guidelines around the sourcing of leather
- To ensure that appropriate due diligence is undertaken with regards to the sourcing of leather products in relation to animal welfare
- To ensure Marks & Spencer can substantiate any marketing claims for products that make any claims around the sourcing of animal derived raw materials

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## M&S MANDATORY PRINCIPLES FOR SOURCING

Marks and Spencer are committed to protecting any endangered or vulnerable species and to the prevention of cruelty. Through our supply chains we seek to promote, encourage, and foster higher animal welfare standards using codes, recommendations, and audited supply chains. We will continuously review our supply chains and where there are practices that are of concern, we will take a considered course of action.

### PROHIBITED SOURCES

1. Any material from any endangered species, defined as those which appear on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (see [www.cites.org/](http://www.cites.org/) for list of species) or the IUCN red list as Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable ([www.redlist.org/](http://www.redlist.org/))
2. No animal must be slaughtered specifically to produce any non-food M&S products
3. Any cow hides sourced from India
4. Any material obtained from live skinning (e.g reptiles) or live boiling
5. It is our intention that all leather used in M&S products originates from sources that meet our minimum requirements for animal welfare
6. All Leather must meet our minimum requirements for chemical compliance
7. All Leather must be procured from routes that do not contribute to deforestation

## 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	Brazil
Bolivia	Peru
Columbia	Paraguay
Ecuador	Suriname
French Guiana	Venezuela

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If leather is being sourced<sup>1</sup> 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. Participate 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

Leather used for all M&S products must be compliant with the M&S Clothing & Home Animal Welfare Policy. This policy requires the species of the animal AND the country of origin of slaughter to be confirmed. A key objective of the C&H 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.

## 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.

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## LEATHER WORKING GROUP (LWG)

We are committed to sourcing 100% of leather from M&S products from LWG rated tanneries from 2025. An LWG rated tannery is defined as an audit ranking of Bronze, Silver or Gold.

Leather Working Group is a not-for-profit organisation responsible for the world's leading environmental certification for the leather manufacturing industry. The LWG aims to improve the environmental impact of the leather industry by assessing and certifying leather manufacturers.

The cornerstone of the group is the LWG Leather Manufacturer Audit Protocol – first launched in 2006 to assess the environmental performance and practical capabilities of leather manufacturing facilities.

## DEFINITIONS

**Animal derived material:** Materials including ingredients that have an animal (see above definition), origin, regardless of whether they have been harvest from live or dead animals.

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