

Plan A



The M&S Policy for Cotton Sourcing

Introduction

Cotton is one of the most important raw materials used in textiles, and the most commonly used fibre for Marks & Spencer's products.

The aim of the cotton policy is to describe how Marks & Spencer will reduce impact on the environment and society by sourcing cotton that is more sustainable than conventional one. This policy applies to all areas of Clothing & Home.

Policy objectives

This sourcing policy has been developed from the Marks & Spencer Cotton Strategy, which aims to address the major environmental and social impacts of the cotton used in its products. Marks & Spencer is committed to:

To procure 100% of cotton fibre from more sustainable sources by 2019
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Marks and Spencer has identified sustainable sources of cotton as those which have been cultivated in such a way that meets at least one of the following principles:

- Reducing water use;
- Reducing the dependency on pesticides and synthetic fertilisers;
- Improving social conditions for farmers; and
- Supporting the economic sustainability of farmers

Marks & Spencer is committed to sourcing cotton that is produced through better farming practices which supports the principles described above.

Sourcing More Sustainable Cotton

We have committed to source 100% of the cotton we use in M&S products from more sustainable sources by April 2019. We define more sustainable sources as meeting any of the following standards:

Better Cotton Standard	The Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) aims to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in and better for the sector's future. BCI takes a mass-balance approach and end product ultimately may not physically contain BCI cotton. A minimum of 50% of the product composition is required for Plan A Product Attribute purposes.
Fairtrade Certified	Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Premiums paid go to a communal fund for workers and farmers to use for the benefit of their farms and communities. Suppliers must follow the full chain of custody requirements for Fairtrade certification, including audits where necessary.
Organic Cotton	Organic cotton is grown without the use of pesticides or synthetic fertilisers. Any product claiming organic status must meet our Organic Fibre Policy (e.g. meet legal standards for organic fibres and supported by correct documentation and certificates). A minimum of 50% of the product composition is required for Plan A Product Attribute purposes.
Recycled Cotton	Using reused or recycled cotton in lieu of virgin fibre can improve the sustainability performance of the product. We aspire to use post-consumer waste (e.g. used garments) but post industrial waste (mill waste and noils) are acceptable as an alternative. A minimum of 25% of the product composition which meets our Recycled Textiles Policy (e.g. supported by certification to a recognised recycling standard – namely the Global Recycled Standard (GRS) or SCS Recycled Content Standard) is required for Plan A Product Attribute purposes.

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan Cotton

There have been ongoing concerns regarding the use of government backed forced child labour during the cotton-picking season in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In line with several other retailers, Marks & Spencer have banned the use of both cotton fibre and fabrics from Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in our 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.

Marks & Spencer suppliers MUST NOT knowingly use any cotton fibre or fabric sourced from Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan in our products.

Suppliers must indicate the cotton country of origin (COO) on the Marks & Spencer fabric submission document. If the COO is not declared on the fabric submission document the fabric will not be approved by the Marks & Spencer technologist.

If any product is found to be containing Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan cotton, Marks & Spencer reserve the right to cancel that order or issue a RTM for the product.

The country of origin of the fibre MUST be declared on the fabric submission documentation. Without this declaration, the fabric submission will not be approved by Marks & Spencer.