

# WOOLWORTHS

## WOOLWORTHS SUSTAINABLE CLOTHING POSITIONING STATEMENT

### BACKGROUND

Textile industries include fibre production (natural and synthetic), raw weaving, dyeing, finishing and printing and final make-up into garments (carpets, fabrics, etc.). Most of us don't fully understand the environmental impact of our clothes. From the sourcing of raw material inputs to their production, all the way to transportation and washing; clothes can make quite a dent on the environment. Coupled with this, constrained availability of resources across this value chain has had an impact on across the entire textiles industry which has seen issues such as ethics and human rights compromised.

### WOOLWORTHS COMMITMENT

Our focus for a sustainable clothing business looks across the entire supply chain from the sourcing of our raw material to the caretaking and disposal of the end products. **We have committed to have at least one sustainability attribute for all our directly sourced products by 2020** Driving innovation and sustainability in clothing and general merchandise will be key focus in our clothing strategy in achieving this.

A sustainable clothing business to us means that:

- We actively take part in the farming and sourcing of the raw materials that go into our products to ensure sustainability.
- We actively engage with our suppliers to ensure ethical trading principles are adhered to.
- Where possible, we incorporate renewable materials and reduce resource input into the manufacturing of our products.
- We engage with local industry bodies to building scale and capacity on local sourcing.

**We are committed to ethically sourcing from factories that comply with the Woolworths Code of Business Principles** and achieve this through the implementation of the code and with the use of regular third party audits ensure that:

- The quality of supplier workmanship has to be of the highest standard, their workforce has to be treated fairly, their premises must be safe and that any negative impact their operations might have on the environment is minimised.
- Transforming supply chains to enable sustainable sourcing of raw materials through improved traceability and supply chain transparency and from sources that reduce natural resource inputs.
- All contractors and their subcontractors must promote animal welfare by minimising any potential harm, stress or pain to animals. We are bound by clear guidelines and we have an approved Animal Welfare Code of Practice and an animal husbandry code in place. For more on our animal welfare commitments please read [here](#).



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Our sustainability initiatives go beyond the sourcing, manufacturing and retailing of our products. We have committed to contributing positively towards conserving the environment by:

- Identifying and partnering with suppliers that are working towards ensuring that their facilities meet our eco/green factory standards such as: water and energy reduction, cleaner effluent discharge etc.
- **Eliminating 13 priority chemicals by 2020** as part of our chemical detox strategy. This will be benchmarked against the Oeko-Tex® standard to ensure compliance. As part of the detox strategy, we have banned all forms of sandblasting for all our denim production.
- Working with organisations such as the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) **to convert 15% of our cotton to BCI by 2017, with the aim of sourcing all our cotton lint from sustainable production by 2020.**
- Working to gain a better understanding of where commodities linked to deforestation (such as wood products, palm oil, soy and leather) sourced for our products or used in our business come from, and how we can work together with our suppliers and NGO partners (e.g. the World Wide Fund for Nature South Africa (WWF-SA), Canopy, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, etc.) to ensure that they are sustainably sourced. **We are committed to reducing and eventually removing deforestation and forest degradation from our supply chain.** Read our position statement on deforestation [here](#).

Product safety beyond legal requirements is important in ensuring clothing innovation and quality in our products. We implement product safety policies through:

- Using a worldwide network of independent correlated laboratories to ensure product safety by conducting extensive testing on our products (fabric and other components) trims and factory safety.
- Testing toys against international safety standards and communicating age suitability on the packaging.
- **We are also committed to ensuring the highest product safety** through the design and manufacturing of our baby and children's clothing.

Through customer research studies on laundry habits and studies on the life cycles of some of our garments, we are also able to:

- Communicate to our customers on how to care for their garments eco-efficiently using washcare labels.
- Communicate to customers on how dispose of unwanted textiles in a responsible manner

## TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING

Woolworths will remain transparent about the progress we make in contributing towards sustainable clothing supply chains. We will report on our progress on an annual basis in our Good Business Journey Report, available on the [Woolworths Holdings Limited](#) website.

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