

Rowlinson Knitwear Limited Modern Slavery Statement 2017/18

Based in Stockport, Cheshire, UK, Rowlinson Knitwear Limited was established in 1935, has been an employee-owned business since 2015 and is a member of the Employee Ownership Association.



We supply schoolwear and uniform clothing to our customer base choosing not to supply directly to the public, or in the case of our school uniform garments, to schools or shops within schools. In those cases, we support the specialist independent retailers who have loyally supported our business for many years.

We believe that it is important to adopt a transparent and ethical approach to business. We only use factories which are fully compliant with all health, safety and child labour regulations, and we choose partners who are morally sound and share our ethical values. Our policy in relation to ethical trading is aligned with the principles of the Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) Base Code and these are used to drive our activity in the area of supply. Rowlinson Knitwear is a Foundation Member of this organisation.



We supply our customer base from three major locations worldwide namely Egypt, Bangladesh and the Philippines. All our suppliers are long-term serving organisations to our supply chain, and in many cases, we have partnered with suppliers for over ten years. We build strong supplier relations and directly employ our own permanent full-time staff in the supplier operations to monitor, maintain and improve our ethical and quality standards. We do not own an overseas operations ourselves. However, all overseas suppliers are managed by our full-time Offshore Director, based in Asia.



In addition, we employ 47 permanent employed people in our UK operation mainly warehousing, office administration, sales and embroidery production.

We work hard with our supply base to maintain transparency and compliance with modern slavery and human trafficking. All our suppliers are aware of Rowlinson's affiliation with the ETI and understand the requirements of its base code, particularly the first principle relating to employment being freely chosen, including no forced labour, bonded or involuntary prison labour; as well as ensuring employees have the right to leave an employer after reasonable notice.



We conduct annual health and safety audits which also check randomly employee's age and employment records. In addition, we work closely with suppliers to encourage working towards, and final registration within the WRAP accreditation programme to further enhance this position.

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In addition to these measures, we recognise that much more can be done. We are proactive and committed to, and work with, the ETI to develop more understanding in our supply chain, enabling us to identify areas for improvement.

In 2017 and 2018, our aspirations are to widen our knowledge of ethical trading, resulting from our new association with the ETI. In particular, we have identified the need to map our raw materials process and deepen our understanding of our entire supply chain to mitigate any potential issues relating to modern slavery. It is our future intention to identify areas of training required in our staff to better equip ourselves in this regard, as well as begin a programme of heightened awareness with our suppliers through dialogue. With our longstanding supplier relations and on-site Rowlinson employed staff, we are confident of achieving this. We also intend to roll-out a “whistle-blower” policy with all our suppliers’ workforces to try and further enhance our position.



Donald Moore
Managing Director
Rowlinson Knitwear Limited