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Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement 2024

Introduction

Blackburn Chemicals Ltd supports the elimination of all forms of modern slavery. We will continue to take actions as necessary to safeguard the rights of our employees and contractor personnel, building on our policies and processes.

Our Business and Supply Chain Overview

Established in 1972, Blackburn Chemicals Limited is a leading manufacturer of antifoams and foam control agents, with an annual turnover of £67million. From our base in the North West of England, we supply a wide variety of industries (including pulp, paper, paint, food, and water treatment amongst others) and service the needs of clients in over 60 countries.

We are committed to ensure that all of our domestic & international activities are conducted in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements and the highest standards of ethical business conduct. It is the responsibility of all Blackburn Chemicals employees to ensure that the company does not engage in practices which infringe legal or regulatory requirements or which fall below the highest standards of ethical business conduct.

Blackburn Chemicals supply chain is generally split between the UK and Mainland Europe for raw materials and packaging and includes the US and Asia for traded products. The relationship with the majority of our suppliers has been established over a number of years and new contractors and suppliers go through an approval process. We are introducing a system to re-approve all suppliers every 48-72 months. We develop best-fit strategies to deliver maximum value based on cost, risk management, sustainability, innovation and growth.

Our Policies

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. Our Business Ethics, Labour and Human Rights and Modern Slavery Policy reflect our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and the Policy is reviewed annually.

Managing Modern Slavery Risks

We view our supply chains as an extension of our own operations and require our suppliers, contractors, agents and distributors to adopt the same standards and principles. Sustainable procurement is a strategic priority for us and supply chain transparency is considered essential. We ask all our raw material suppliers to complete a questionnaire which asks about labour standards, health and safety employment law, basic labour rights and the respect of H & S of employees, SEDEX membership and also modern slavery and human trafficking statements or assurance.

We are 'B' Members of SEDEX (ZC1047950).

We have developed a Supplier Code of Conduct, and this also gets sent to each of our suppliers and on an ongoing basis we risk assess each of our raw material suppliers.

In March 2020 we became signatory members of UN Global Compact.

We have completed EcoVadis evidence-based sustainability assessments with supporting documents to verify the data provided and have been awarded 'Gold' for the last three years, with the latest score of 78/100. In 2023 we completed our second 'Together for Sustainability' audit and received a score of 96%.

Building on our sustainability work we also purchase Palm Free products where possible and where not we ensure that we are trying to buy RSPO based raw materials.



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Training

Our aim during 2024 is to further strengthen our employee awareness on Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking, we will give training to our managers and employees working directly in our supply chain areas, this training will give employees more understanding of Modern Slavery awareness.

Looking ahead

- Sustainable procurement will remain a strategic priority for Blackburn Chemicals. Using a risk-based approach we will continue to evaluate our supply chain.
- Expect and require its suppliers to operate in full compliance with all applicable laws.
- Continue improving the understanding and management of modern slavery risks over time.

This Modern Slavery Statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Blackburn Chemical Ltd's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ending 31st May 2025.

John Covill
Managing Director
1st June 2024