

## **Carpetright Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2019**

Carpetright plc operates retail stores across the UK, Republic of Ireland, Belgium and The Netherlands selling flooring and beds. The products we sell are sourced from a wide range of suppliers and agents who are based in the UK, Europe, Turkey and the Far East.

We are committed to bringing our customers an unrivalled range of products at affordable prices. It is important to us and to our customers that the products they buy from Carpetright are produced ethically, in good working conditions and with due care for the environment.

As reported previously we carried out a desktop risk assessment to identify the level of risk in our supply chain relating to Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. This risk assessment highlighted the following:

1. The majority of our merchandise manufacturers are based in Europe and the production processes for all flooring types are highly mechanised and are therefore lower risk than highly manual processes
2. Our bed manufacturers are predominantly UK based members of the National Bed Federation which are currently based on “safe, clean and honest” principles, and is introducing a Fast Forward programme which will audit all members by the end of 2020 for ethical issues, including forced labour, payments below the national minimum wage, paid holidays, benefit fraud collusion and illegal workers
3. All our merchandise suppliers sign and undertake to comply with our ethical code of conduct
4. In relation to beds and rugs, the non-European suppliers are contracted through a UK agent who inspect the overseas factories, and provide us with a copy of the inspection report
5. Our deliveries in the UK are through highly reputable logistics companies.

We have an Ethical and Environmental Code of Conduct in place which sets out our policies on legal requirements, wages, working hours, child labour, conditions of employment, working conditions and the environment. Our customers trust us to work to high standards and to actively look for ways to improve.

- The Code applies to suppliers of our products.
- The Code sets out our policy on slavery and human trafficking and makes it clear that suppliers must not use or in any way benefit from forced labour and provides examples of practices that are unacceptable.
- The Code includes a supplier declaration, setting out supplier commitments and the right for Carpetright and its agents to undertake visits and to ensure commitments are upheld.

At Carpetright we only work with suppliers of goods and services who share our values and uphold the standards set out in the Code. Where any instances of non-compliance are found, we will work with our suppliers to take appropriate remedial action.

We are a member of Sedex, thereby having the ability to review audits carried out in respect of those of our suppliers who are also a member of Sedex.

We have connected with and reviewed suppliers that account for over 70% of our product purchases and continue to encourage the balance of our merchandise suppliers to join the Sedex platform. The companies that we use in China for manufacturing some of our retail equipment also agree to comply with our Ethical and Environmental Code of Conduct and are also registered with Sedex.

The “**Stronger Together**”– Anti-human trafficking/forced labour resources video continues to be available to all staff in the UK, enabling it to be viewed at their convenience. The video raises awareness and providing an opportunity for anyone who may be subject to modern slavery to raise the issue appropriately. Significantly, in the year we have extended our training to colleagues in Europe. This raises the profile of modern slavery and provides a route for anyone who may be subject to modern slavery to contact the relevant authorities.

We will review and update this statement on an annual basis.

*Approved by the Board on 20 June 2019*

Signed



*Wilf Walsh, Chief Executive*