

BLÅBÆR Production AS' position statement on XINJIANG UIGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION (XUAR)

Several reports and disclosures have detected extensive abuse and exploitation of minority groups in China. Forced labour and serious human rights violations may be linked to a wide range of supply chains across China, and the textile industry has been particularly highlighted and pointed out in this context.

BLÅBÆR Production AS are deeply concerned about the situation of the Uighur population and other Muslim and Turkish minority communities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and elsewhere in China. As a member of Ethical Trade Norway we have committed to their Declaration of principles. This is based on the UN and ILO conventions for human and labour rights as well as the key frameworks from the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains. This means that we have committed to ensure both human rights and decent working conditions are followed when our products are produced. The first principle in our Code of Conduct and Policy for own business also states our position and commitment regarding forced and compulsory labour:

1. Forced and compulsory labour (ILO Conventions Nos. 29 and 105)

1.1. There shall be no forced, bonded or involuntary prison labour.

1.2. Workers shall not be required to lodge deposits or identity papers with their employer and shall be free to leave their employer after reasonable notice.

We will not accept any forced or compulsory labour, nor unfair treatment in our supply chains.

We will furthermore commit to specific measures to identify, map, reduce & prevent the salient risk of forced labour in China.

Our approach can be summarized in 4 steps below:

1. Map the supply chain to identify whether any of our products contain raw materials or have been through production processes in/related to XUAR.

2. Avoid production, suppliers, and sub-suppliers in XUAR as long as it is not possible to verify whether forced labour is used.

3. Strengthen controls in the rest of China to ensure that forced labour is not used.

4. Collaborate with others in and outside our own industry to gather and share information and best practice in relation to XUAR.