



Animal Products Policy

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Policy Owner: Global Product Compliance

Version Control

Version	Author Name	Version Changes	Date	Next Review Due	Sign-off
0.1	Laura Rourke	1 st Approved Version	01/12/2017	December 2018	Laura Rourke
0.2	Laura Rourke	Mohair	01/05/2018	May 2019	Laura Rourke
0.3					

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Policy

We want to make sure we're doing the right thing when it comes to animal welfare, and we know that this is important to our customers and to our colleagues alike. As such, we're committed to high standards of governance and controls over any activities that involve animal by-products.

The purpose of this policy is to set out the rules and framework which ensures our products are from fair and ethical sources. We only use raw materials that are by-products of the food industry. We also accept our responsibility to conform to the global standards agreed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) that are set out in their practices for the protection of animals at the time of slaughter.

Key Principles

This means we are committed to the following conditions when buying product:

Endangered species

We will not use products from endangered species on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species list (CITES) or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- Ivory, turtle, tortoise shell, vicuna

Real fur

We will not use real fur (except for sheepskin, goatskin and cowhide) or pelts on any goods supplied to us, for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- Fox, sable, mink, rabbit, chinchilla, coyote, pony skin, racoon dogs, dogs, cats

Non-food Industry animal skins

We will not use the skin of animals that are not from a recognised food industry, for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- Snake, crocodile, kangaroo, stingray, alligator, pony skin

Feather and down

Must only be purchased from licensed organisations with certification.

- We will not use feathers from birds used in the production of Foie Gras.
- We will not use down or feathers of animals that are not from a recognised food industry (this list is not exhaustive):
 - Peacock, marabou, parrot, ostrich, emu

Angora Rabbit hair

We will not use Angora rabbit hair in any product that we sell

Mohair

We will not use mohair (angora goat hair) in any product we sell

Karakul

We will not use karakul (also known as broadtail and astrakhan), or any skin products from aborted animals in goods supplied to us.

Mulesing

We do not use wool from mulesed sheep in any products (for more details on mulesing please see below).

Leather and skin product

We will not use any leather that was taken while the animal was alive i.e. Live skinning or live boiling. Humane stunning and slaughter guidelines are laid out for different species in the OIE global standards.

Leather product sourced from the “Leather Working Group Audited Tanneries” is preferred.

Live Harvesting

We will not use feathers, down or hair that has been plucked from live animals, for example (this list is not exhaustive)

- Sheep and goat hair, bird down, bird feathers including marabou, wool, cashmere, mohair. (for more details on live harvesting please see below)

Animal Testing

We will not sell product that whose ingredients were tested on animals. The use of animals to test cosmetics products or their ingredients is banned in the UK and all other member states of the European Union. Since March 2013, it has also been illegal to sell cosmetics products within the EU which have been, or which contain ingredients, newly tested on animals.

Manufacturing

We will not manufacture our products in a factory that works with fur, even if they do not use fur on our products.

Compliance

We expect our suppliers to ensure these standards are met, and the following information must be provided as an absolute minimum:

- The name of the animal and species and the country where the animal/product originates from
- All relevant certification or/and DOC (declaration of conformance) showing the source of the product
- Any relevant hygiene test certificates

This information must be submitted to the relevant Buyer or Category Manager and Technologist and kept within the products technical file.

Live Harvesting and Mulesing

Below we've given further detail as to why we do not condone live harvesting and mulesing practises:

Live Harvesting

For example (this list is not exhaustive) hair, down, feathers, wool, cashmere, mohair, must not be obtained from live plucking of animals

According to the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, “animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives”. The OIE guiding principles on animal welfare also mention the universally recognised “Five Freedoms”. According to this concept, an animal's primary welfare needs can be met by providing:

- freedom from fear and distress
- freedom from physical and thermal discomfort
- freedom from pain, injury and disease; and
- freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour

Mulesed Wool

We'll seek to use suppliers who don't practice this, irrespective of the provision of pain relief. If you are buying merino wool make sure you know where your wool is sourced from and that it adheres to our policy.

The easiest way of achieving this is to ask your wool suppliers for their country of origin certification or national wool declaration (NWD) which will state whether the wool is mulesed, non-mulesed or mulesed with pain relief.

Any changes to The Very Group policies, including those triggered by legal, regulatory or technical requirements, should be requested through the policy owner.

The change request should be reviewed by the policy owner and formal sign-off provided before being updated in the central database.

Useful Links

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

<http://www.oie.int/>

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

<https://www.cites.org/eng>

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

<http://iucn.org/>