Louis Vuitton UK

UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Year 2019 Statement

Introduction

Consistent with the various actions implemented as well as anticipated on its Anti Modern Slavery Act statement in June 2019 (for Year 2018), Louis Vuitton UK Limited ("LVUK") has been pushing on continuously improving and reinforcing its actions and internal rules aimed at preventing and combatting slavery and human trafficking from taking place in its supply or operation chains, in particular through its Employees ethical commitment program and training as well as its suppliers and client's due diligence enhancement and reinforcement.

Business

LVUK is a subsidiary of Louis Vuitton Malletier SAS ("LVM"), which is closely linked to the LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis-Vuitton SE ("LVMH") Group.

LVUK sells luxury and high quality products under the Louis Vuitton trademark as luggage, leather goods, bags, ready-to wear, shoes, watches and jewellery, accessories, perfumes and cosmetics, stationery, home decoration, electronic device, accessories, etc. (the “Products”), to clients in the United Kingdom.

LVUK purchases from LVM the Products which are mainly manufactured through LV industrial subsidiaries (hereinafter LVM and its industrial subsidiaries together designated as the “LV Group”) and purchases directly to local suppliers products and services necessary to run its business.

Policies and Practices

LVUK’s commitment is to act with integrity in all its business dealings and to promote ethical conduct, to enhance compliance with applicable laws and to provide guidance with respect to business conduct. It has a number of policies that are relevant to this commitment, which set out what LVUK expects from its employees, internal business and its external suppliers.
Key Policies are:

1. LV Group Suppliers’ Code of Conduct (the “LV Suppliers’ Code of Conduct”), available upon request.

For several years now, LV Group requires its suppliers, their suppliers and contractors to share its commitments and act in full compliance with the relevant laws, including all national, local and international laws relating to the management of their businesses.

After the LV Suppliers’ Code of Conduct was updated in December 2017, the procurement process was further strengthened during years 2018/2019 with the mandatory approval by all new suppliers of LV’s key policies (and in particular LV Suppliers’ Code of Conduct) as a prerequisite to any business relationship. In addition, regular campaign continued to be run towards pre-existing suppliers for immediate subscription to LV Suppliers’ Code of Conduct, failing which LVUK would take remedial action which, in the most severe circumstances, includes terminating the relationship with that supplier.

Besides, LV UK continues that LV Group requires its suppliers to obtain prior approval before subcontracting any part of their supply chain process and LV Group’s approval is subject to acceptance by the subcontractor of the LV Suppliers’ Code of Conduct and all other applicable conditions that LV Group determines.

Last, LV UK has continued refining and implementing its approach with some other third parties it works with (in particular, landlords) through the customization of LV’s Code of Conduct to uphold ethical standards within all of its activities.

2. Louis Vuitton Ethical Charter (the “LV Ethical Charter”), available upon request.

Our Anti-modern slavery Policy reflects our commitment to acting ethically and with integrity in all our business relationships and to implementing and enforcing effective systems and controls to ensure Modern Slavery including human trafficking is not taking place anywhere in our business or supply chains.

LVUK requires its employees, suppliers, their suppliers and contractors to engage in and promote honest and ethical conduct, comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in their own area and act responsibly, with due care, competence and diligence when dealing with colleagues, customers, suppliers, agents and intermediaries.

The LV Ethical Charter reiterates the LVMH Code of Conduct and commitment to act to the highest standards of integrity, respect and engagement in their behaviours and in the way that they conduct business every day, everywhere.

The LV Ethical Charter further states that the group companies will inform all of its commercial partners of its ethical principles and expectations and will require its suppliers, their suppliers and contractors to comply with the principles set out in the LV Suppliers’ Code of Conduct. In particular, this code specifies compliance with social issues to abide, respect and adhere to the company moral and ethical values in the management of the company concerning Human Rights, working conditions, forced labour and environmental issues.
Supplier and Contractor Due Diligence

LVUK ensures that LV Group new suppliers are carefully chosen and that, prior to entering into any new contractual relationship with a supplier or contractor, suppliers and contractors are complying with the LV Suppliers' Code of Conduct.

LVUK reserves the right to check adherence of LV Group and its suppliers and contractors to the principles set out in the LV Suppliers' Code of Conduct and to conduct compliance audits at any time. Upon reasonable request, LVUK makes sure that LV Group, and its suppliers and contractors shall supply the necessary information and grant access to LVUK representatives to verify compliance with the requirements of the LV Suppliers' Code of Conduct. Suppliers and contractors shall further keep proper records to prove compliance with the LV Suppliers' Code of Conduct and provide access to complete, original, and accurate files to LVUK representatives.

LV Group suppliers and contractors may be required to improve and correct any deficiency discovered during any such audits.

LVUK shall use its reasonable endeavours to ensure that all LV Group supplier and contractor template contracts contain clauses requiring LV Group suppliers and contractors to adopt similar anti-modern slavery standards and practices.

Staff / Employees

1. Training and Awareness

LVUK conducts regular training for its employees to ensure compliance with legal requirements across LVUK. The training enables LVUK to reduce business risk of non-compliance through efficient processes and reliable data and reporting. All documentation, policies and updates are provided for easy access via the employee portal for all employees.

It is mandatory for all LVUK employees to familiarise themselves with this statement. It forms part of the induction training process for new employees and is available in English. LVUK’s aim is to eliminate any risk of Modern Slavery in its business operations and in its supply chains.

In 2019, compliance training has been completed across the UK region including ethics and compliance LVMH training for managers (stores and headquarters), and regular reminders of ethical program and principles are performed during retail training.

2. Employees' Code of Conduct - Whistleblowing Policy/Internal Alert System

LV Group’s Employees Code of Conduct demonstrates LV Group’s ambition for its staff to act with, and commit to, integrity in the conduct of its business in an environment that is free from all form of unethical behaviour including forced or compulsory labour, child labour, discrimination, corruption and harassment and therefore provides a common framework of values and principles to provide guidelines to its staff.
In the course of year 2019, LVUK has also reinforced and finalized the implementation of a whistleblowing policy and confidential helpline/internal alert system, as to encourage staff to identify and report concerns through the appropriate channels.

Since then, Employees Code of Conduct and whistleblowing policy are included in the onboarding process and package to sign.

This statement is made pursuant to Section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes LV UK’s slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31 December 2019.

The Board of Directors of LVUK has approved this statement and it has been duly signed by the following director:

Amandine ROHMER
Director - Louis Vuitton UK Limited

Date: 30 December 2020