

Ethical Trade Policy

We are fully subscribed to and engaged with all aspect of ethical trade, the contents are listed below:

Employment is freely chosen

Walkers Shortbread Ltd ensures that there is no forced, bonded or involuntary labour and that workers are not required to lodge 'deposits' or their identity papers. All staff are free to leave employment after the stated amount of notice given in the Main Terms of Employment.

Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining are respected

Workers, without distinction, have the right to join or form trade unions of their own choosing and to bargain collectively. Workers representatives have access to carry out their representative functions in the workplace.

Working conditions are safe and hygienic

A Health and Safety Policy has been revised and implemented which details responsibilities at all levels in the Company. We ensure that adequate measures are taken to prevent accidents and protect the health, safety and welfare of all employees and visitors to the site. We ensure that all staff receive the appropriate instruction and training. All employees have access to clean toilet facilities and to potable water.

Child labour

There shall be no recruitment of child labour (only persons of age 16 or over are employed). Young persons under the age of 18 are not employed at night or required to undertake hazardous activities.

Living wages are paid

All employees are paid at rates, which comply with all national legal standards. All employees are issued with a contract stating their Main Terms of Employment, which details all information such as pay, working hours, holiday entitlement, grievance and disciplinary procedures and notice of termination of employment by either party. All employees are issued with a pay statement for each period, which details all lawful deductions (tax and national insurance etc.) and any voluntary deductions (e.g. pensions).

Working hours are not excessive

All employees exercise their rights under the Working Time Regulations 1998 and sign to either limit their hours to maximum of 48 hours in any week or have signed to be exempt from this limit. In keeping with life work balance good practice the Company recognises the standards set by the Ethical Trading Initiative and limits the maximum hours per week to 60 and the maximum working days per week to 6. These limits are to be adhered to at all times of the year and can only be exceeded by approval of a Director to cover short term emergency situations, by voluntary means and may not become regular and routine. All overtime is voluntary and compensated at a premium rate.

No discrimination is practised

We practice an Equal Opportunities Policy and there is no discrimination when hiring, paying, training, promoting or for any other purpose on the grounds of race, nationality, religion, age, disability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. Opportunities for any personal or career development are equally available to all employees.

Regular employment is provided

Employment is provided to all employees in line with all national law and practice.

No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed

Walkers Shortbread Ltd does not tolerate any physical abuse, the threat of physical abuse, sexual or other harassment, verbal abuse or any other forms of intimidation.

Organisation

The Directors of Walkers Shortbread Ltd have overall responsibility for all aspects of ethical trading at work.

The HR team is responsible for producing and communicating procedures, codes and instructions, providing advice and for monitoring through audit.



Nicky Walker
Production Director