

# Lidl GB

## Policy on the Responsible Sourcing of Plants and Flowers

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## Our Position

Lidl Great Britain is committed to being a responsible retailer and to upholding economic, social and environmental responsibilities in all of our daily activities. In this policy we outline our approach to the responsible sourcing of plants and flowers.

At Lidl we strive to make a positive difference by operating responsibly. Our philosophy is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our employees, to contribute positively to the communities in which we operate and to be good stewards of the environment. This way of working allows us to offer carefully selected goods, in this case plants and flowers, that are produced to the highest quality, with both environmental and social standards, so our consumers can choose responsibly sourced products at affordable prices.

## Acknowledging our responsibility

At Lidl, we are committed to sourcing our plants and flowers from suppliers who uphold high social and environmental standards, and work with suppliers that have internationally recognised schemes to accredit these practices. As a growing UK retailer we acknowledge our responsibility to work with our suppliers to meet our commitment to sustainability.

## Our Scope

This position paper on the responsible sourcing of plants and flowers applies to the entire own-brand range of Lidl's plants and flowers including bulbs and cut flowers sold through our stores in Lidl Great Britain.

## Our Actions

### Championing British

Lidl GB is committed to British sourcing and, when seasonally possible, sources plants and flowers from long-term British suppliers. To support this commitment we have taken the following steps:

- Introduced a spring / autumn programme of weekly British bedding plants
- Worked with British growers to develop 'value' bunches of Tulips, Stocks, Sunflowers, Sweet Williams and British daffodils
- Introduced British sourcing of lilies, spring bouquets and rainbow tulips

### Supply chain transparency

Due to the preferred growing conditions of horticulture, a large portion of horticultural takes place in countries where climactic conditions are more favourable to grow flowers all year around. At Lidl our major sourcing countries outside of the UK are Holland, Kenya, Ethiopia, Columbia and Turkey and we are committed to maintaining full visibility of the origin of the products we sell.

## Supporting sustainable horticulture

At Lidl, our aim is to support sustainable horticulture in the following three areas:

### Social

In line with our commitment to upholding the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we have identified the following salient risks within horticultural supply chains:

- Gender discrimination
- Working conditions
- Living conditions

Through the commitments in this policy we are taking steps to mitigate the risk of the most severe human rights risks occurring in our supply chains, with the aim of promoting decent work and helping communities around the world to prosper.

### Environmental

In the UK, agriculture occupies over 70% of the UK landmass and farming plays a key role in the countryside we all enjoy. Globally, around 40% of the Earth's habitable land is employed for agricultural purposes. Through our policy on the responsible sourcing of plants and flowers we are committed to promoting farming practices that:

- Enhance the landscape
- Encourage wildlife
- Benefit soil and water
- Reduce the impact on the environment

### Economic

Alongside our commitment to social and environmental standards, we are committed to supporting a productive and profitable horticultural sector, one that delivers security for growers as well providing quality products for our consumers at competitive prices. We are committed to:

- Treating all suppliers fairly, at all times and in accordance with the principles of the Grocery Supply Code of Practice
- Building long term relationships with growers that offer certainty and stability

## Human rights and ethical trade

Lidl GB takes a human rights due diligence approach to protecting workers within its supply chains. Lidl is a member of the European Union Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) within the framework of the European Foreign Trade Association. In order to ensure appropriate and universally recognised social standards in our production sites, Lidl has developed a Code of Conduct which is based on the Ethical Trade Initiative Base Code and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards. It defines the social expectations of all global direct and indirect suppliers and forms an integral part of our commercial contracts. The Code specifically prohibits human rights violations in the form of both child labour and forced labour and further addresses issues including working conditions, discrimination and workplace health and safety. It is available online to ensure our expectations are clear to all of our stakeholders.

## Our commitments

**Update:** Through this policy we are committing to source 100% of our flowers and plants from sources certified with both environmental and social standards by the end of 2021.

## Environmental standards

The environmental standards that we recognise are:

- The GLOBALG.A.P:
  - Flowers and Ornamental Standard for Nurseries and Floriculture Farms<sup>1</sup>
  - Chain of Custody Certification Standard for Agents
- The Ornamental Standard of Bord Bia's Horticulture Quality Assurance Scheme
- The British Ornamental Plant Producers' (BOPP) Certification Scheme
- Red Tractor

## Social standards

**Update:** By the end of 2021, all growers must have Global G.A.P. GRASP as a minimum ethical requirement. Growers will not be required to have GRASP if they can demonstrate that they already have one of the following in place:

- Bioland
- Biopark
- SA 8000
- SIZA
- SMETA:
  - Must be shared with Lidl GB via Sedex
  - All non-compliances closed within auditor's timeframe
  - Conducted within the past 365 days for high risk countries
  - Conducted within the past 3 years for all other countries
- BSCI Primary Production
- Fair for life
- Fair production standards version 19 and higher for mushroom growers
- Fairtrade
- Gää
- MPS SQ
- Naturland
- QA FIAS
- Rainforest Alliance
- Swiss GAP (as soon as the GRASP requirements have been integrated)
- IP Sigill Arbetsvillkor / IP Standard for Working Conditions

**Update:** From December 31st 2021, the result of the Global G.A.P. GRASP audits must be 'fully compliant'.

<sup>1</sup> or an equivalent benchmarked certification scheme e.g. MPS-GAP Certificate.  
See the *List of fully conforming GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarked schemes and check lists*

## Additional social requirements

We take a range of additional measures to complement our commitment to social standards. These are outlined below:

### All Tier 1 Sites

All Tier 1 sites to Lidl GB must meet the Lidl GB ethical compliance KPIs outlined in the *Lidl GB Supplier Social Compliance Guidance*, namely:

- a) **Visible, complete Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) shared on Sedex for all tier 1 sites and updated every 6 months**
- b) **Accountable person identified for ethical sourcing (communicated via Sedex)**
- c) **Visible, in-date ethical audit shared with Lidl on Sedex for designated high risk sites**
- d) **Post-audit compliance at audited sites**

*Definition:* A Tier 1 site is a production site where goods are finished, ready for supply to, or sale by, the end company.

Agents/traders etc. who purchase finished goods from Tier 1 sites assume responsibility for their compliance against this policy.

### Tier 1 UK Sites

#### Modern slavery

- A senior manager must attend a Stronger Together training workshop
- Suppliers with a turnover greater than £36 million must share the link to their latest modern slavery statement with Lidl on an annual basis

#### Worker accommodation

- All UK sites that provide caravan accommodation for temporary workers must complete the online training modules hosted on the Sedex website. Exemptions may be provided if suppliers can demonstrate that they already provide industry leading standards of caravan accommodation.

#### Responsible recruitment

- All suppliers who engage labour providers **to source and/or supply workers must meet the conditions outlined in the Lidl GB Responsible Recruitment in Supply Chains Policy**. This can be found [here](#).

## Exemptions

Lidl GB is committed to assessing the status of the certificates of our plants and flowers suppliers on an annual basis. We reserve the right to request information at any point, to audit compliance throughout the supply chain and take action on areas of non-compliance.

## Progress

Through our sustainability report (published every two years), we are committed to reporting on progress against our commitments, as well as reviewing opportunities to develop our commitments further.

## Additional information

### Environmental standards

#### GLOBALG.A.P.



The **GLOBALG.A.P. Flowers & Ornamentals Standard** covers all stages of production from pre-harvest activities such as soil management, propagation material, integrated plant management, and fertilizer use to responsible water use, environment and conservation, hygiene and security measures during harvest, and worker's health, safety and welfare.

The **GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody Certification Standard** identifies the status of your product throughout the entire process, from farm to retailer. It lays out strict requirements for handling certified products and the proper segregation of certified and non-certified produce in the processing operation units.

#### Red Tractor Assured



The **Red Tractor** logo confirms that independent assessors have checked that the product being sold meets the comprehensive standards of the Red Tractor assurance scheme. This ensures that every stage of the product's journey is checked and that environmental protection measures, such as reducing pesticide use and promoting biodiversity are implemented.

#### Ornamental Standard of Bord Bia's Horticulture Quality Assurance Scheme



Provides a framework for the production of ornamental crops and attendant activities, to comply with current best practice in relation to the safeguarding of the environment and to ensure that procedures are in place to minimise the risk to the health and safety of all staff. The certified products have the Bord Bia Quality Mark Label in their packaging. This standard is currently under review. The new standard will be included in the Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme (*SHAS*) in 2019.

### Social standards

#### GLOBALG.A.P. (GRASP)



The **GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP)** is a voluntary module developed to assess social practices on the farm, addressing specific aspects of workers' health, safety and welfare. GRASP measures can be assessed together with the GLOBALG.A.P. audit.

#### Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants



The Standard aims to protect and benefit workers on flowers and plants farms by certifying those farms which ensure safety and good working conditions for their employees. There are also clear procedures for ensuring the local environment is protected. The Fairtrade standard aims to provide higher wages than typically paid to producers as well as helping producers develop knowledge, skills and resources to improve their lives.

#### MPS Socially Qualified certificate (MPS-SQ)



Sets standards concerning good working conditions. These include requirements on health, safety and terms of employment. MPS-SQ is based on Universal Human Rights, the codes of conduct of local representative organisations, and International Labour Organisation (ILO) agreements.

#### Social Accountability International Standard SA 8000®

Is a voluntary workplace certification for companies seeking to guarantee the basic rights of their workers throughout the supply chain. The system provides social standards that are applicable to all industries and is based on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child and various International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.