

Lidl GB

Policy on the Sustainable Sourcing of Tea

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Our Position

Globally, tea is the most widely consumed drink apart from water. Unlike coffee and cocoa, tea is typically grown on large plantations and rather than small farms. Usually grown in huge volumes as monocultures, tea cultivation imposes a range of associated impacts such as intensive energy and water use, soil erosion, lack of biodiversity and poor working conditions.

At Lidl GB, we are dedicated to offering the highest quality at the best price. This means that not only do our products taste great and are available at low prices but importantly they are sourced responsibly and sustainably. This starts with our key ingredients.

Our Scope

This policy is applicable to all tea sold by Lidl GB, including black, green and rooibos varieties.

Our Actions

Recognised accreditation

We have commitments to ensure all our tea products are from certified sustainable sources which set minimum environmental and social standards. For us, responsibly sourced tea is defined as accredited under either UTZ, Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance.



Our commitment

We continue to source 100% of our own brand tea from either UTZ, Fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance accredited schemes.

Across our entire product range we aim to continually increase the number of own brand items produced with ingredients sourced from certified farms and other sponsored projects that improve sustainable production practices and working conditions.

Sustainable production

Tea cultivation often encroaches upon species-rich tropical forests and replaces them with a monoculture suited to a single plant species. Soil erosion, competition for water, the adverse effects of fertilisers and demand for firewood to fuel drying equipment, are only some of the threats to the environment.

Tea is harvested throughout the year and thus provides employment to many people. These are primarily pickers who carefully pluck the top three leaves from each individual branch. As the primary employer, a tea farmer faces many challenges pertaining to wages and labour rights like freedom of assembly, housing, health care and other rights and benefits.

Internationally recognised labelling organisations address precisely these issues. To become certified, farms must prove to independent auditors their successful implementation of targeted measures.

Origin, transparency and traceability

We know our customers expect greater transparency and traceability of products to their origin. To support the buying decisions our customers make, we aim to provide clear information of the origin of our products on the packaging.

The accreditations we have committed to, employ traceability mechanisms making transparency in the supply chain possible. We wish to make the transparency of the origin and production of our products more accessible to consumers by widely promoting information about certified tea cultivation in our stores, leaflets and external channels whilst supporting our partners through initiatives such as Fairtrade Fortnight.

We continually add information about product sourcing and further transparency to our website, visit the following link for further information: www.lidl.co.uk/transparency.

Collaboration

At a national level we have been working closely with internationally recognised standard holders, such as Fairtrade, UTZ and Rainforest Alliance. By focusing on certified cultivation of tea, we are sending a clear message of support for more sustainable and future-oriented tea cultivation.

Social requirements

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](#).