

Eradication of Slavery (UK Company Supply Chains) Bill

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Require retailers and manufacturers in the UK to make annual statements of measures taken by them to eradicate slavery and human trafficking and exploitation from their direct supply chains; to require large retailers and manufacturers to provide customers with information about measures taken by them to eliminate slavery and human trafficking and exploitation; to provide victims of slavery with necessary protections and rights; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Disclosure by companies of measures to eradicate slavery and human trafficking and exploitation

- (1) Every retailer and manufacturer operating in the United Kingdom and having annual worldwide gross receipts exceeding £100,000,000 shall disclose, as set forth in section 2, its efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking and exploitation from its direct supply chains for tangible goods offered for sale. 5
- (2) In this Act—
“manufacturer” means a business entity with manufacturing as its principal business activity;
“retailer” means a business entity with retail trade as its principal business activity. 10

2 Requirements of disclosure

- (1) The disclosure described in section 1 shall be—
(a) set out in the retailer’s or manufacturer’s annual report, and
(b) posted on the retailer’s or manufacturer’s internet website, 15
and a conspicuous and easily understood link to the required information shall be placed on the business homepage.

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- (2) If the retailer or manufacturer does not have an internet website, consumers shall be provided with the written disclosure within 30 days of the retailer or manufacturer receiving a written request for the disclosure from a consumer.
- (3) The disclosure described in section 1 shall disclose to what extent, if any, the retailer or manufacturer does each of the following – 5
- (a) Engages in verification of product supply chains to evaluate and address risks of slavery and human trafficking and exploitation. The disclosure shall specify if the verification was not conducted by a person independent of the organisation being verified. 10
 - (b) Conducts audits of suppliers to evaluate supplier compliance with company standards for slavery and human trafficking and exploitation in supply chains. The disclosure shall specify if the verification was not an independent, unannounced audit. 15
 - (c) Requires direct suppliers to certify that materials incorporated into the product comply with the laws regarding slavery and human trafficking and exploitation of the country or countries in which they are doing business. 20
 - (d) Maintains internal accountability standards and procedures for employees or contractors failing to meet company standards regarding slavery and human trafficking and exploitation. 25
 - (e) Provides company employees and management who have direct responsibility for supply chain management with training on slavery and human trafficking and exploitation, with particular respect to mitigating risks within the supply chains of products. 30
- 3 Protections and rights for victims of slavery and human trafficking and exploitation 25**
- Retailers and manufacturers who uncover slavery and human trafficking and exploitation in their supply chains shall take action necessary and appropriate to assist people who have been victims and shall report on that action in their annual reports. 30
- 4 Short title, commencement and extent**
- (1) This Act may be cited as the Eradication of Slavery (UK Company Supply Chains) Act 2012.
 - (2) This Act comes into force two months after Royal Assent.
 - (3) This Act extends to England and Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. 35

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*Ordered to be brought in by Fiona Mactaggart,
Mr Richard Bacon, Hugh Bayley,
Tom Brake, Michael Connarty,
Mark Durkan, Jane Ellison,
Dr Julian Lewis, Caroline Lucas,
Siobhain McDonagh, Jim Shannon
and Jim Sheridan.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 28 February 2012.*

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Enquiries to The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU;
email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk*

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