



## Policy: Raw Cotton Sourcing

**Applicable: Textiles**

**Applicable to: All categories**

**Country: All**

**Date issued: September 2017**

### **Policy**

**ASOS does not support the use of cotton from Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan in our textile products.**

From October 2017 onwards ASOS will require suppliers to identify the source of raw cotton used in ASOS textiles products and document this.

Where it is not possible for suppliers to identify the source of raw cotton ASOS requires suppliers to advise the Sustainable Sourcing team of this and the reasons that this could not be done ahead of starting production.

ASOS reserves the right to audit records to monitor the source of raw cotton at any time.

### **Background**

ASOS's Ethical Trade Programme aims to ensure the rights of workers in our supply chain are respected and protected. Prohibition of child labour is an important element of our Standards. We have seen reports of the widespread use of child labour to harvest the cotton fields in Uzbekistan and at this time, we are joining other brands, retailers, trade organizations and non- governmental organisations, to voice our concern with a goal to eliminate this practice.

We realise that child labour is a complex issue with many causes which we acknowledge are hard to affect individually. However the use of organised and forced child labour is completely unacceptable and leads us to conclude that whilst these practices persist in Uzbekistan we cannot support the use of cotton from Uzbekistan in our textiles.

It is our expectation that our suppliers will not knowingly source cotton from Uzbekistan and they make an effort to communicate our concern for this issue down the supply chain. We will continue this ban until we have seen evidence that progress has been made to end the use of child labour in the Uzbek cotton industry.

Turkmenistan has been identified with having issues relating to Decent Work that are similar issues to Uzbekistan.

We understand that cotton is an internationally traded commodity and that raw cotton sources are not always easily identifiable.

For more information on Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan cotton industry please refer to <http://www.cottoncampaign.org/>.

### **Support**

If you have particular questions on cotton sourcing, please contact [sue.williamson@asos.com](mailto:sue.williamson@asos.com) who can provide advice and training to those suppliers who require additional help in meeting obligations required by ASOS. Thank you for your continued partnership.