

**RIVER ISLAND**

**ETHICAL  
POLICY**

**FOR BUYERS & SUPPLIERS**



# INTRODUCTION

River Island is a family business with a strong fashion heritage and a brand reputation that is growing worldwide.

Our business culture is based on building long-term, meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships, with both employees and suppliers.

We have an underlying and long standing commitment to ethical trading, based upon the firm belief that business can be both profitable and responsible.

It is more important than ever that we communicate our brand values, ways of working, and expectations, clearly and consistently to all our partners.

We must also strive to comply with the most up to date legislation and regulations in every country we trade in.

This document outlines the River Island Ethical Policy which is at the heart of how we do business.

## **BEN LEWIS, CEO**





# ETHICAL POLICY

- Compliance with the River Island Ethical Policy is considered a key requirement of everyone working with our brand, and is included in the end-to-end assessment of both supplier, and buying team performance.
- Employees and suppliers who understand how we work, share our values, and work proactively to achieve and improve standards are an asset to our business.
- We do not want to work with those who are not willing to be open and honest, fail to take responsibility for meeting our Ethical Standards, or fail to make improvements towards meeting these standards.



# THERE ARE 5 SECTIONS TO THIS POLICY

1. ETHICAL STANDARDS

2. RIVER ISLAND RESPONSIBILITY

3. SUPPLIER RESPONSIBILITY

4. SHARED VALUES AND RESPONSIBILITY

5. ETHICAL CHALLENGES, COLLABORATION AND BENEFITS



# 1

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## ETHICAL STANDARDS

We have adopted the ETI Base Code as the *minimum* standards that should apply to workers in our supply chain, as set out below. If local law sets higher standards than the base code then these legislative requirements should be met.

- Employment is freely chosen (not forced or enslaved);
- Freedom of association (freedom of speech; the right of workers to negotiate with employers);
- Working conditions are safe and hygienic;
- Child labour shall not be used;
- Living wages are paid;
- Working hours are not excessive;
- No discrimination is practised;
- Regular employment is provided; and
- No harsh or inhumane treatment is allowed.



# 2

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## RIVER ISLAND RESPONSIBILITY

- Be aware how sourcing, design, buying and trading decisions and actions can influence the supplier's ability to comply with the ETI Base Code.
- Seek the views of our suppliers and encourage feedback.
- Undertake activities (such as visits, audits and reviews) to be aware of the working conditions and labour practices in our supplychain.
- Proactively work with our suppliers to make any improvements required to meet our Ethical Standards.



# 3

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## SUPPLIER RESPONSIBILITY

- Actively manage and monitor working conditions in every factory that they use to manufacture River Island products, so as to achieve our Ethical Standards.
- Ensure that all sub-contractors or other third parties engaged in the supply of River Island products are aware of, and conform to our Ethical Standards.
- Alert us to any issues where they are unable to achieve our Ethical Standards.
- Proactively work with us to make any improvements required to meet our Ethical Standards.
- Use only pre-approved sites for River Island production.
- Manufacture products only at the approved site specified on the purchase order.
- Share ethical information with us openly and honestly, disclosing all details concerning production including: raw materials; place and method of manufacture; use of all sub-contractors or other third parties involved in the process.
- Permit River Island employees, or our appointed agents, access to all production facilities for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the River Island Ethical Policy (by appointment or on an unannounced basis).



# 4

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## SHARED VALUES & RESPONSIBILITY

To follow purchasing practices which are consistent with the delivery of our Ethical Standards:

- Understand production lead-times.
- Negotiate a fair price for the goods that we buy (benchmarking, market rate, open costings, garment engineering).
- Negotiate any changes to orders giving reasonable notice.
- Pay on time, and according to agreed terms.
- Communicate in a clear, accurate and timely way.
- Work together to improve the efficiency in the supply chain relationship.

THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING OUR ETHICAL STANDARDS ARE SHOWN BELOW...

## FOR WORKERS



Fair and safe conditions

Job security

Motivation and skills

Improved standard of living

## FOR SUPPLIER/FACILITY OWNERS



Stable and skilled workforce

Better productivity/ profitability

Increased competitiveness

Enhanced reputation & customer trust

## FOR RIVER ISLAND



Better product and quality

Reliability and security of supply

Protect brand reputation

Meet & exceed customer expectations

# 5

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## ETHICAL CHALLENGES, COLLABORATION & BENEFITS

River Island recognises that many ethical and trading issues cannot be solved overnight. However, we strongly believe that gradual, sustainable and significant change is an achievable goal.

We can influence greater change with a wider collaboration of efforts (across manufacturing partners, other stakeholders, and brands), than through individual initiatives.



BOYS

THE BRONX  
BROOKLYN



# FIND OUT MORE...

If you have any queries about the River Island Ethical Policy – how it applies to you, and how to ensure that you can follow it in your daily role – please contact: **CSR@River-island.com**

# RIVER ISLAND

[RIVERISLAND.COM](http://RIVERISLAND.COM)