

SNOCKS

Virgin Wool Policy

SNOCKS GmbH

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1 About

Due to its qualitative properties (e.g. thermoregulating, durable), wool is often used in the fashion industry. Unfortunately, critical conditions in the farming of sheep continue to occur. In particular, the surgical procedure of "mulesing" can be a problem. Mulesing is practiced primarily in Australia and refers to removing the folds of skin from the rear end of a merino sheep. This procedure is performed without anesthesia to prevent an infestation of fly larvae.

2 Goal

We believe animals are entitled to humane treatment and satisfy their essential needs. This must be respected through good animal husbandry and the fulfillment of our animal welfare requirements.

3 Scope

We expect all suppliers to conduct their business responsibly and to make every effort to comply with this policy.

4 Content requirements

We know the importance of securing our supply of raw materials from an animal welfare point of view through strict requirements and full traceability.

All animal-derived products must be produced by adhering to our Code of Conduct and the five freedoms of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC)¹.

Five Freedoms

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from Discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

¹ <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20121010012427/http://www.fawc.org.uk/freedoms.htm>

4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

5. Freedom from Fear and Distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Additionally, we explicitly prohibit the surgical mulesing of sheep in our supply chain. We also banned the use of virgin wool from Australia, as mulesing practices are widespread there. This ban will remain in place as long as mulesing is still practiced in Australia and other countries and as long as adequate controls on husbandry conditions on sheep farms have not been implemented. Certified organic sheep wool or wool certified under the Responsible Wool Standard is exempt from the ban, as mulesing is not accepted under these certifications.

To improve traceability, we require all wool suppliers to declare the country of origin of the wool. We welcome further certification and appropriate documentation to prove the mulesing status of the goods, e.g. through the IWTO Combined Certificate.²

² <https://iwto.org/>