

Overview

On November 6th, Richard Chen conducted an onsite assessment of Fox and Robin's current Chinese supplier, Baoding Tongli Garments. This assessment sought to: verify stages of production completed onsite, identification of any processes outsourced, confirmation of staffing and production levels, review of current quality management system, independently check worker wages, and verify if supplier held social compliance and environmental protection certificates.

In conducting this brief onsite assessment, our firm has concluded that Baoding Tongli Garments is an appropriate supplier for Fox and Robin and that their management and compensation of line workers appears to be humane and in line with expectations. That said, Baoding Tongli Garments did not hold any environmental protection/control certifications such as ISO14001 or any quality certifications such as ISO9001.

Facility

Baoding Tongli Garments Co currently has two buildings in service. The first building houses production, the second building supports office operations. In the building designated for production, the ground floor is used as a warehouse for packaging and raw materials, while the second floor is for manufacturing operations from cutting of raw material through preparing for container loading.





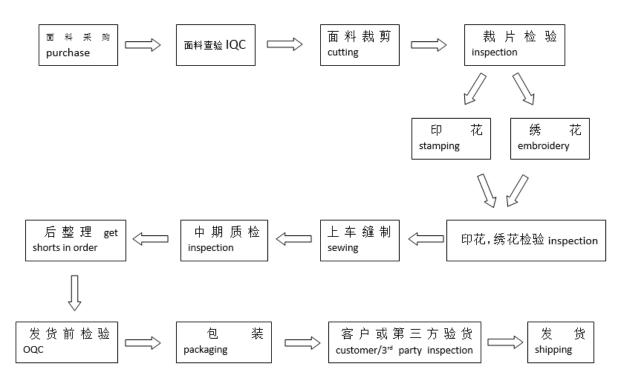
Entrance Gate

Production Facility

Manufacturing Processes

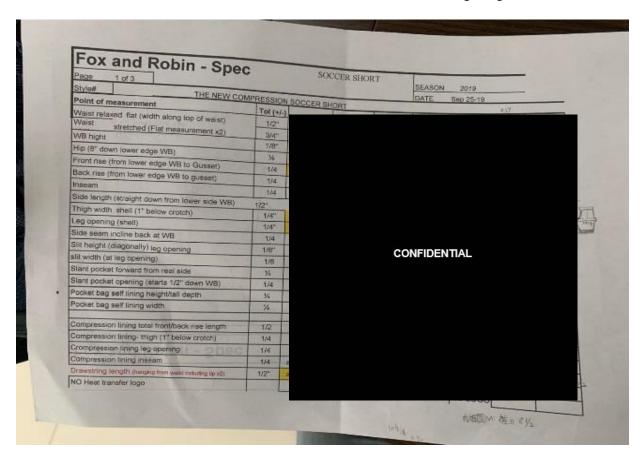
Richard Chen conducted a brief walk through of Boading Tongli Garment's manufacturing process and noted that all stages of production related to Fox and Robin's product were conducted onsite (38°53'29.91"N, 115°32'7.73"E) with the exception of finishing processes such as: trimming of excess thread, attaching brand labels, ironing, and final packaging. These final stages of production take place approximately two hours away from Baoding Tongli Garments plant in Lianchi. Of the entire manufacturing process, this final finishing stage accounts for approximately 15-20% of all the time/labor associated with Fox and Robin's production.

作业流程图 flow chart



Quality Management System

Baoding Tongli Garments does not currently hold ISO or any other international certification to govern quality processes or performance. That said, this supplier does use broken needle detecting equipment and has a record of broken needles, though surprisingly this equipment was not in use during the production of Fox and Robin's order. Looking closer at Boading Tongli Garment's QMS, IQC is rather basic and consists of measuring the weight and shrink rate of the raw material, as well as comparing the color of the raw material to original sample, however there is no standard lighting requirements used during this comparison.



Fox and Robin Specification Sheet





Broken Needle Log

Broken Needle Log

Staffing and Working Hours

Presently Baoding Tongli Garments employs approximately 70-75 line workers and an additional 20-25 office workers. The office staff on average, work five days a week, while line workers work 8.5-9 hours per day, six days a week. These working hours and the use of Saturdays for production is not uncommon in China, and when coupled with BSCI certification, does not raise any immediate concerns around worker rights.

Key Personnel

Business and R&D Manager: Mr. Zhuang

Director of International Business (Beryl's boss): Mr. Liu

Wages

While our firm cannot completely and independently verify worker wages, Richard Chen did inquire directly with line workers as to their compensation. According to these anecdotal conversations, line workers are paid ¥3,000 per month which is above the local minimum wage in Baoding of ¥1,900. This monthly wage would be the lowest of those included in the table below.



Disclaimer

This report does not definitively conclude that Baoding Tongli Garments conforms to BSCI or ISO requirements. Additionally, our firm cannot independently verify worker wages. All information gathered should be used for general informational purposes.