INTRODUCTION:
Chronicle Books has a zero tolerance policy towards modern slavery. We are committed to fully understanding the risks of modern slavery and work to ensure that forced labor does not occur within our supply chain. To do so, we continuously monitor our supply chain for modern slavery risks and work with our suppliers through industry groups such as PRELIMS, to make certain they also have a clear understanding of what modern slavery entails, how to assess risks and do due diligence within their own supply chains.

WHO WE ARE:
Chronicle Books, LLC. is an independently owned, internationally distributed, award-winning illustrated book and gift publisher located in San Francisco, CA USA. Our business includes our SF headquarters, a joint venture sales office in London (Abrams & Chronicle Books UK), as well as two San Francisco retail spaces, and one retail space in Tokyo, Japan. To find out more about our mission, please visit:

OUR SUPPLY CHAIN:
The vast majority of our products – books, and both paper and non-paper based gifts – are manufactured overseas primarily in Asia, most prominently in China, with a handful of products produced in India, Taiwan, South Korea, as well as Italy and the US. We use the PRELIMS Country Assessment Tool to assess risk in the countries where we manufacture, and work to build long-term relationships with our suppliers. As such have a relatively small pool of vendors that produce the majority of our work, many of which we have worked with for decades. However, when the occasion arises for a product that falls outside of our regular vendors, we may seek alternative vendors in industries and markets new to Chronicle Books.

OUR POLICIES AND DUE DILIGENCE:
We expect all our vendors and any third-party subcontractors they may use to adhere to Chronicle’s Supplier Code of Conduct, including those provisions stating that we will not tolerate forced or child labor. We require written acknowledgement of their receipt and vendor understanding of our policies, and require our vendors to recommit to this policy annually as part of our due diligence.

Chronicle Books regularly sends representatives to various manufacturing sites for quality control, factory inspection and relationship building purposes. We recognize that we cannot be all places at all times, and as such require our vendors to complete social compliance audits at a minimum of every two years. Chronicle Books is a member of the Publishers Resolution for Ethical International Manufacturing Standards (PRELIMS). We require our vendors to be audited against these labor standards as well as accepting
comparable audits such as ICTI, SMETA, and BSCI. We expect our vendors to apply to be re-audited prior to any audit expiration, and that Chronicle Books will receive copies of audit reports as requested in order to ensure compliance with international standards. Any subvendors used by primary manufacturers must adhere to the same standards and audit requirements.

Documentation of vendor adherence to these policies is tracked both internally through a vendor database showing current audit status, as well as through the PRELIMS database for participating vendors. This database is continually checked and updated to monitor compliance on an ongoing basis.

TRAINING:

A Chronicle Books Production Director participates in PRELIMS quarterly meetings in order to keep abreast of overall Corporate Social Responsibility issues in publishing and with the Asian manufacturing sector at large. We feel our active participation is crucial to understanding both country of manufacture and industry risks, as well as building a coalition of international publishers committed to ethical, global labor standards, and the eradication of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Within the Chronicle Books production department, we provide annual training and/or updates as needed for staff so that all members of our team charged with developing new books and products are well versed in Chronicle’s Code of Conduct, and the International Labor Standards and auditing schemes from which it is built. We believe educating our employees is one of the best ways to eliminate the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chain. Should an employee suspect a risk of slavery within our supply chain, they are required to immediately report it to production directors, at which point we will cease all operations with the vendor until an investigation of the issue, including an immediate third party audit, can be conducted. Should instances of modern slavery be evident, Chronicle Books will withdraw all work from the vendor in question effective immediately.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

We recognize that understanding and preventing modern slavery is a complex and ongoing effort that requires time, research, education, and both internal and external collaboration. In order to assess our effectiveness in this crucial endeavor, we will measure and report on our internal staff training opportunities, participation in PRELIMS, and the number of vendors with current Chronicle Books Code of Conduct acknowledgment letters and social compliance audits annually.

Tyrell Mahoney
President, Chronicle Books