

Modern Slavery and Anti Human Trafficking Policy and Disclosure Statement

Modern slavery statement for financial year 2017

This statement is made pursuant to s.54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and sets out the steps that Scientific Laboratory Supplies Ltd (SLS) has taken and is continuing to take to ensure that modern slavery or human trafficking is not taking place within our business or supply chain.

Modern slavery encompasses slavery, servitude, human trafficking and forced labour. Scientific Laboratory Supplies Ltd has a zero tolerance approach to any form of modern slavery. We are committed to acting ethically and with integrity and transparency in all business dealings and to putting effective systems and controls in place to safeguard against any form of modern slavery taking place within the business or our supply chain.

Our business

SLS provide scientific equipment and chemicals to a wide range of institutions and organisations throughout the UK and abroad. SLS first began trading in 1991 and have since grown to become the UK's largest independent supplier of laboratory equipment, chemicals and consumables.

Our high risk areas

SLS have conducted a risk assessment for suppliers which considers the annual spend per supplier and the declared manufacturing countries. We consider any supplier manufacturing in India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan as high risk (based on the on nationally representative Gallup survey data - <http://www.globallslaveryindex.org/download/>)

Our policies

SLS operate a number of internal policies to ensure that we are conducting business in an ethical and transparent manner. These include:

- Supply Chain Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy - This policy sets out the organisation's stance on modern slavery and explains how employees can identify any instances of this and where they can go for help.
- Anti - Bribery Policy – This policy is to establish controls to ensure compliance with all applicable anti-bribery and corruption regulations, and to ensure that SLS business is conducted in a socially responsible manner.
- Corporate Social Responsibility Policy – This policy describes the company's governance of our secondary policies, which include: Environment; Health and Safety; Ethical Trade; and Equal opportunities in employment
- Ethical Trading Policy Statement – This policy explains the commitment to managing our corporate social responsibility and aim to encourage "sustainable development".
- Equal Opportunity Policy – This policy explains how we promote equality of opportunity within the organisation.

Our suppliers

SLS have zero tolerance to slavery and human trafficking. We expect all those in our supply chain and contractors comply with our values. We operate a preferred supplier list and we conduct due diligence on all suppliers before allowing them to become a preferred supplier. This due diligence includes a Supplier Questionnaire to establish that the supplier has appropriate safe guards in place and identify suppliers that manufacture in countries deemed high risk.

Training

To ensure a high level of understanding of the risks of modern slavery and human trafficking in our supply chains and our business, we provide training to relevant members of staff. All Directors have been briefed on the subject.