

S.OLIVER GROUP

Animal Welfare Policy

S.OLIVER GROUP is committed to the protection of animal rights and animal welfare and strives to procure products containing animal fibres or substances in the most responsible and ethical way. Any kind of mistreatment, violence, neglect or unnecessary suffering of animals is not tolerated. Therefore, S.OLIVER GROUP expects its suppliers to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and conventions as well as with the principles laid out in the internationally recognized “[Five Freedoms](#)” of animal welfare, codified by the Farm Animal Welfare Council. Animals shall be free of hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury or disease, fear and distress, and should be able to express normal, innate, not-harmful behaviour. To adhere to this commitment, S.OLIVER GROUP aims at increasing transparency and effective controls throughout its supply chain. This shall be achieved by actively creating awareness among suppliers from final product to farm as well as by increasing global leverage, based on collaboration with relevant stakeholders related to the procurement of animal-derived Goods, e.g. standard organisations, industry associations, animal welfare experts, and competitors.

Down and feathers

S.OLIVER GROUP only allows feathers, down or feather parts which were plucked from dead birds and are thus a bi-product of the meat industry. Furthermore, the usage of down and feathers which are coming from grey geese or foie gras production is prohibited, due to systematic animal welfare violations related to this production, e.g. by force feeding.

Fur

S.OLIVER GROUP has banned the use of fur from all its collections since 2006, lambskin excluded. In reference to this procurement decision, S.OLIVER GROUP joined the international “Fur Free Retailer Program” of the Animal Welfare Foundation “Vier Pfoten” (Four Paws) in 2013.

Angora

Against the background of serious animal welfare violations on Chinese Angora farms made public in 2013, S.OLIVER GROUP has banned the use of Angora fibres in any of its products since 2014.

Wool

Sheep and goats that provide wool for S.OLIVER GROUP products shall be treated according to the Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare and be raised on farms that preserve land health. S.OLIVER GROUP has particularly critical concerns regarding the practice of “mulesing”. Mulesing means the removal of strips of wool-bearing skin from around the breech of a sheep to prevent

the parasitic infection flystrike. The practice is considered highly controversial with regards to animal welfare, especially when used without pain release. It is therefore to avoid.

Mohair

In 2018, due to concerns about animal welfare violations on Mohair goat farms in South Africa, S.OLIVER GROUP has decided to no longer use Mohair fibres for its products, effective from its 2020 collections. The decision was taken against the background of a current lack of transparency throughout the Mohair supply chain as well as the fact of only minimal usage of Mohair in previous years. The ban will remain in place until better transparency and effective controls can be assured for the production of this fibre and subsequent yarns and products.

Leather

S.OLIVER GROUP does not accept that animals are killed in order to provide leather or skins for its products. Therefore, all kinds of leather and skin procured for S.OLIVER GROUP products must be a by-product of the meat industry. In addition, leather or skin must not be under any circumstances obtained while an animal is still alive.

Exotic skins and materials

S.OLIVER GROUP does not accept exotic skins or any material from threatened or endangered species as defined by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species ([CITES](#)) or the red list of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature ([IUCN](#)).

Animal-free products

S.OLIVER GROUP offers its customers a broad selection of animal-free products containing natural or man-made fibres or alternative materials and is committed to continuously exploring further commercially viable substitutes to animal-derived materials. S.OLIVER GROUP will continue to further develop this policy based on new developments and insights regarding the protection of animal welfare in the global supply chain and the availability of viable industry standards and certifications.

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