

Guideline for Sustainable Purchasing

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I. General principles

Raw materials are the earth's natural resources and form the basis of almost all products. They are used in their natural form or further processed after harvesting or extraction. For the economy, raw materials are the basic prerequisite for value creation. Their cultivation or extraction takes place at the beginning of global supply chains in countries that have the corresponding raw material deposits or favorable cultivation conditions.

Depending on their origin, type of extraction and further processing, raw materials can have a negative impact on people and the environment.

The aim of sustainable purchasing is therefore to buy products and services that are produced or provided along the entire supply chain, from production to disposal, considering social, ecological and economic aspects and thus minimizing the negative impact on people and the environment.

This means:

- Conservation of natural resources, especially through a suitable process in the manufacture of materials and products,
- Saving energy during production, use and disposal,
- Minimization of transport routes,
- Avoiding waste during production, use and disposal,
- Protecting the health of all employees and customers,
- Avoidance of pollutants during production, use and disposal,
- Maintaining a balance between economic development, social justice, and nature conservation.

II. Scope of guideline

The **Guideline for Sustainable Purchasing (GfSP)** is implemented by the management of Betz Holding. These guidelines are the prerequisite for the actions of Betz Holding and its subsidiaries at the Buchholz i.d. Nordheide site. A program of targets and necessary measures is drawn up annually for the operational implementation of these guidelines. The aim is to achieve continuous improvement in sustainable purchasing.

III. Involvement of employees

Through further training and qualification, all employees should be able to keep pace with the development and growth of our company.

Sustainable purchasing of materials, products and services is the basis for strengthening environmental awareness at Betz Holding and is also a prerequisite for involving all employees in the process.

IV. Responsibility

Betz Holding undertakes to select and manage its suppliers in accordance with the requirements of the **Betz Holding CSR Code of Conduct for Suppliers and Service Providers** and its own sustainability objectives (in accordance with this policy). This guideline summarizes the obligations of Betz Holding about sustainable purchasing and thus also defines the requirements for suppliers of Betz Holding with regard to compliance with environmental regulations, social responsibility, sustainable development and corporate governance.

This guideline applies to all suppliers, service providers and their subcontractors of Betz Holding.

Accordingly, Betz Holding works exclusively with suppliers who share our values as defined in the Betz Holding CSR Code of Conduct. These include, in particular, compliance with legal regulations, the provision of a healthy and safe working environment, respect for human rights, the prohibition of child and forced labor, freedom of association and fair pay for employees.

To ensure continuity in the purchasing process, Betz Holding works primarily with a long-standing supplier base. For both existing and new suppliers, a review of the company philosophy is carried out, particularly with regard to sustainable business practices in accordance with all the principles of this guideline. And this is done along the entire supply chain.

If it turns out that suppliers and service providers do not meet these criteria or if it turns out that unfair business practices are involved, further cooperation with these suppliers and service providers will be discontinued. We reserve the right to check the supplier's and/or service provider's compliance with the requirements on an ad hoc basis in the event of suspicious circumstances or random checks.

These criteria for sustainable purchasing are also considered in our supplier evaluation.

This **Guideline for Sustainable Purchasing** is an integral part of our **General Terms and Conditions of Purchase** and our **Order Confirmations**. Our suppliers and service providers undertake to comply with them when they sign a contract.

V. Risk assessment of agricultural commodities

In the following, we look at agricultural raw materials that we have categorized as relevant in our supply chain and that could pose a potential risk to the environment and/or social issues.

1. Oil palm/palm oil

The cultivation of the oil palm, which is used to produce palm oil among other things, often leads to large-scale deforestation/fire clearance of rainforests. Human rights are also frequently violated.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Destruction/clearing/fire clearing of rainforests, species extinction due to habitat destruction, release of greenhouse gas emissions, water scarcity.

Identified social risks (among others): Displacement, child labor, forced labor, health hazards, discrimination, exploitation, land grabbing.

2. Soy

Soy plays an important role in the production of meat, milk, and eggs. The reason for this is the legume's high protein content. More than 80 percent of global soy production is used as feed for poultry, pigs, cattle, and fish. At the same time, soy is still the biggest driver of agricultural deforestation.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Destruction/clearance/fire clearing of forests, species extinction due to habitat destruction, release of greenhouse gas emissions, water scarcity, soil erosion, genetic manipulation.

Identified social risks (among others): Displacement, child labor, forced labor, health hazards, discrimination, exploitation.

3. Cocoa

90 percent of cocoa is grown on smallholder farms with an average farm size of 3.5 hectares. Low productivity and poor-quality lead to farming families expanding their areas. Valuable rainforests are often cleared for this purpose. In addition, many farmers do not yet belong to a cooperative and are therefore in a weak position when it comes to marketing.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Destruction/clearance of rainforests, species extinction due to habitat destruction, pollution, destruction of land areas.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, exploitation, health hazards.

4. Fish and seafood

Alongside global warming, overfishing has become one of the biggest threats to our oceans. The high demand for fish and seafood not only endangers marine ecosystems, but also the livelihoods of local

fishermen and their families, particularly in countries of the Global South. Fish is one of the most important sources of income and food for 800 million people worldwide and is therefore of crucial importance.

Farmed fish from aquacultures are often not an environmentally friendly alternative to wild-caught fish. In the worst cases, the construction of fish farms leads to the destruction of valuable habitats such as mangrove forests, while intensive fish farming pollutes water bodies through the use of chemicals, antibiotics and excrement.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Destruction of marine ecosystems, species extinction, pollution, destruction of forests/land areas; farmed fish genetic manipulation.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, exploitation, deprivation of livelihoods, hunger.

5. Natural fibers such as cotton/wool

Natural fibers such as cotton and wool play an important role in the global economy.

Cotton is cultivated worldwide and secures the income of millions of people. Due to the high demand, the plant is now grown in over 80 countries - many of which do not necessarily have the climatic conditions that cotton needs.

In addition, cotton is often grown by smallholder farmers who often work below a living wage. The consequences are poverty, child labor and hunger.

Furthermore, the excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides threatens the soil and water. Climate change, environmental pollution and the loss of arable land pose additional dangers that jeopardize the dignified lives of millions of families on smallholder farms.

Wool is often chemically treated in industrial production to keep up with the properties of synthetic materials. In addition, mothproofing agents are sometimes used, and the fibers are coated with synthetic resins to make them easier to care for.

The biggest problem associated with the production of wool is animal welfare.

Methods such as mulesing, in which pieces of skin are removed from the anus and genital area of lambs, are criticized, as are other practices to combat parasites, such as "sheep dipping".

In addition, mistreatment, and injuries during shearing, not only of sheep, are unfortunately not uncommon.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil and water degradation, deforestation, species extinction, release of greenhouse gas emissions.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, exploitation, deprivation of livelihoods, hunger, damage to health, animal suffering.

6. Natural rubber

Natural rubber is obtained from the sap of the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) and requires specific ecological conditions, which is why it can only be cultivated in the so-called rubber belt on both sides of the equator.

More than 80 percent of the world's labor-intensive rubber production takes place on smallholder farms, often in remote regions. The environmental and social risks of rubber cultivation are similar to those of palm oil cultivation.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil degradation, deforestation, species extinction, release of greenhouse gas emissions.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, exploitation, land grabbing, hunger, damage to health.

7. Pulp/cellulose/wood/cellulose fibers

The virgin pulp for paper production is largely obtained worldwide through industrial forestry.

Monocultures and clear-cutting destroy forest biodiversity and promote soil erosion, drought, pest infestation and storm damage, for example. These protective functions and the ability of healthy forests to store carbon above and below ground are severely damaged by monocultures and clear-cutting. There is massive industrial and sometimes illegal logging for the manufacture of wood and paper products.

While attention is mainly focused on palm oil, soy and other agricultural commodities as causes of global forest destruction and degradation, the wood, paper and pulp industry remain largely outside the public focus as a contributor.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil degradation, deforestation, species extinction, water issues (high water consumption), consumption of fossil fuels in the manufacturing process.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, exploitation, land grabbing.

8. Leather

As one of the most toxic industries of all, the global leather industry is the cause of serious ecological problems. In terms of compliance with human rights and social standards along the value chain, the leather industry is one of the high-risk sectors.

Among other things, the leather industry uses "waste" from the meat industry. Animal welfare standards regarding husbandry and slaughter must therefore be taken into consideration.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil degradation, deforestation, species extinction, release of greenhouse gas emissions, high water consumption, pollution of water bodies, groundwater, and soils.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, land grabbing, exploitation, damage to health; animal suffering.

9. Meat/eggs/dairy products

Animal welfare plays a central role in the industrial production of meat, eggs, and dairy products, in addition to the associated climate-damaging aspects such as deforestation for the cultivation of animal feed and the keeping of livestock and the emission of climate-damaging gases.

Factory farming, uncontrolled use of antibiotics, slaughter methods, etc. and other forms of farming that are not appropriate to the species lead to animal suffering.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil degradation, deforestation, species extinction, release of greenhouse gas emissions, high water consumption, pollution of water bodies, groundwater, and soil.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, land grabbing, exploitation, damage to health; animal suffering.

VI. Risk assessment of other raw materials

In the following, we look at other non-agricultural raw materials that we have classified as relevant in our supply chain and that could pose a potential risk to the environment and/or social issues.

1. Mica

The mineral mica is hardly known to anyone, although it is contained in numerous products, including cars, cell phones, computers, household appliances, cosmetics, paints, and varnishes. Mica is in demand due to its versatile properties: it insulates electricity and heat, reinforces materials, and gives a shimmering effect. The largest export countries for mica are India and Madagascar, where more than 32,000 children work in mica mines.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil degradation, deforestation, species extinction, land grabbing.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, exploitation.

2. Other mining products (minerals/stones/semi-precious stones/metals/precious metal/rare-earth elements)

Many of the raw materials for everyday products are extracted by mining.

The extraction and processing of these non-regenerative raw materials is often energy-intensive, involves considerable interference with the natural and water balance and leads to emissions of pollutants into water, soil, and air.

In addition - especially in developing countries - the working conditions for workers can range from poor to life-threatening.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil destruction, deforestation, species extinction, release of greenhouse gas emissions, poisoning of water/groundwater.

Identified social risks (among others): Child labor, forced labor, discrimination, land grabbing, exploitation, damage to health, death.

3. Petroleum-based products (plastics/fibers/fuel and lubricants/raw materials for cosmetics)

Crude oil is used in a wide range of products. Even the extraction process causes irreversible damage to the environment, animals, and people. Forests are cleared, people are displaced. Accidents cause crude oil to enter the soil, waterways, and oceans, causing considerable environmental damage.

Large quantities of greenhouse gases are released during further processing into fuels, plastics, etc. Chemicals can contaminate the environment.

Degradation products from petroleum-based products also pose a risk to the environment. For example, plastics enter waterways and oceans in an uncontrolled manner and turn into microplastics, etc.

In addition, food and cosmetics can be contaminated with mineral oil residues.

Identified environmental risks (among others): Soil degradation, deforestation, species extinction, release of greenhouse gas emissions, poisoning of water/groundwater/seas, formation of microplastics, contamination of food/cosmetics.

Identified social risks (among others): Insecure employment, child labor, forced labor, discrimination, land grabbing, exploitation, health hazards, genetic mutations.

VII. Product requirements

The requirements listed below are an integral part of our **Guideline for Sustainable Purchasing**.

These requirements represent the minimum requirements for raw materials that we classify as risky. If our customers have higher requirements, these are applied.

The following applies across all products: if the manufacturer purchases products/ingredients, raw materials, or animal feed that fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (EU Regulation 1115/2023) (cocoa, oil palm, soy, wood, beef, coffee), it must be ensured that this is complied with.

Requirements all product groups

1. Palm oil

Palm oil, palm kernel oil and their derivatives & fractions used in the manufacture of products must come from sustainable sources that are certified according to the **RSPO** (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certification systems:

- Identity preserved (IP), OR
- Segregated (SG), OR
- Mass balance (MB)

The last production site (last treatment) must have a valid **RSPO supply chain certificate**. The supplier must be an **RSPO member**.

All palm oils, palm kernel oils and derivatives and fractions used must be compliant with the physical supply chain options (IP, SG, MB) according to **RSPO**.

Valid only for non-food products: all derivatives and fractions that are not yet available on the market from physical supply chains must be covered by **RSPO credits** from the supplier.

As a rule, the **RSPO label** should not be printed on product packaging unless it is specifically requested by the customer. If the use of the label is desired for certain products, this must be discussed in advance with our responsible CSR team. In the case of product labeling, the supplier is responsible for ensuring that the label is used correctly and that the current requirements for product labeling according to the **RSPO brand standard** are met.

If the products containing palm oil fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation EU 1115/2023), information and documents must always be provided to prove that the product originates from areas on which no deforestation or forest degradation within the meaning of the Regulation has taken place since December 31, 2020.

Requirements food products

2. Soy

Soy from Europe should be preferred for soy-based foods. Preference should be given to goods produced in accordance with the Donau Soja/Europe Soja guidelines.

If this is not possible, it must be ensured that the soy used is certified according to one of the standards we accept.

If soy is used as animal feed for animal products, care should also be taken to ensure that this is certified according to one of the standards we accept.

Accepted standards are:

- **Donau Soja/Europe Soja**
- **RTRS (Round Table on Responsible Soy)**
- **Pro Terra**
- **ISCCPlus**
- **BFA Sustainable Soy**
- **CRS (Certified Responsible Soya)**
- **SFAP (Sustainable Farming Assurance Program) Non-Conversion.**

If the products containing soy fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation EU 1115/2023), information and documents must always be provided to prove that the product originates from land on which no deforestation or forest degradation within the meaning of the Regulation has taken place since December 31, 2020.

3. Fish and seafood

Fish and seafood must meet the following criteria:

Certifications:

Wild caught (fish/seafood) & tuna:

- ***MSC or other GSSI-recognized certification schemes**

Aquaculture (fish/seafood):

- ***ASC,**
- **BAP (at least 2 stars),**
- ***GLOBALG.A.P.,**
- **BIM CQA,**
- **Organic or other GSSI-recognized certification systems**

* Due to market requirements, MSC, GlobalG.A.P., ASC, Organic must be given priority.

Risk assessment:

The Fishsource assessment must be checked for fish/seafood that is included in the range.

Only fish/seafood with a low* or medium** risk rating may be included in the range.

Fishsource - Scoring program of **SFP** (Sustainable Fisheries Partnership) <https://www.fishsource.org/>

Low risk: all fishsource.org scores equal to or greater than 8

Medium risk: all fishsource.org scores equal to or greater than 6

Exceptions must be agreed with the customer.

Improvement processes:

- **FIP** (Fisheries Improvement Project)

Must be registered on www.fisheryprogress.org and have a progress rating of A, B or C.

- **AIP** (Aquaculture Improvement Project)

Information must be provided to the relevant CR department and the use of the relevant **AIP** is subject to prior approval.

The following requirements also apply to all products containing fish and/or seafood:

Exclusion of all fish and seafood species included in the following list:

- **IUCN Red List, which are classified as endangered and above**
- **CITES Appendices I and II**
- **All shark and ray species**
- **Bluefin tuna and bigeye tuna**

4. Milk products

Whenever possible, cattle are at least kept in loose housing and not tethered. The supplier is expected to develop measures to improve animal welfare in existing stables where tethering is practiced.

Buffalo milk products:

The minimum requirements of the animal welfare organization "**FOUR PAWS**" and the "**RIS Bufala**" standard - formerly "**Mama Buffalo**" - must be complied with.

5. Eggs

For products containing egg components, the minimum requirement is the use of barn eggs.

If available and possible, certified eggs (**KAT, Agrovet**) should be used.

6. Meat/meat products

Poultry/products with poultry meat

In the case of poultry meat, care must be taken to ensure that only poultry that has not been live-plucked or stuffed is used.

All poultry meat suppliers must also meet the standards of the Animal Welfare Initiative or equivalent animal welfare standards, i.e. poultry must be kept in appropriate conditions that correspond to their natural behavior and needs.

The use of cages or other confined containers that restrict the animals' freedom of movement is not permitted.

Organic certifications and other recognized sustainability standards are also welcomed and preferred.

Rabbit meat/products with rabbit meat

All rabbit meat suppliers must meet the standards of the Animal Welfare Initiative or equivalent animal welfare standards, i.e. rabbits must be kept in appropriate conditions that correspond to their natural behavior and needs. The use of confined or stressful housing conditions that impair the welfare of the animals is not permitted.

Organic certifications and other recognized sustainability standards are also welcomed and preferred.

Beef/products with beef

Care must be taken to ensure that no beef from the Amazon region is used or, if beef from Brazil is used, that the meat comes exclusively from suppliers who have signed Greenpeace's "**Cattle Agreement**" or have a corresponding sustainability certificate (e.g. **Rainforest Alliance**).

All beef suppliers must also meet the standards of the Animal Welfare Initiative or equivalent animal welfare standards, i.e. cattle must be kept in appropriate conditions that correspond to their natural behavior and needs. The use of confined or stressful housing conditions that impair animal welfare is not permitted.

Organic certifications and other recognized sustainability standards are also welcomed and preferred.

If the products containing beef fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation EU 1115/2023), information and documents must always be provided to prove that the animals are kept on land on which no deforestation or forest degradation within the meaning of the Regulation has taken place since December 31, 2020.

Lamb/sheep meat/products with lamb/sheep meat

All lamb/sheep meat suppliers must meet the standards of the Animal Welfare Initiative or equivalent animal welfare standards. Lambs/sheep must be kept in appropriate conditions that correspond to their natural behavior and needs. The use of confined or stressful housing conditions that impair the welfare of the animals is not permitted.

It must also be ensured that only sheep or lambs are used, without the use of the mulesing method for wool and meat production.

Pork/products with pork meat

All pork suppliers must meet the standards of the Animal Welfare Initiative or equivalent animal welfare standards, i.e. pigs must have adequate space, access to clean water and feed, and opportunities for exercise and activity. The use of cages and crates that restrict the pigs' natural movements is not permitted.

Organic certifications and other recognized sustainability standards are also welcomed and preferred.

Game meat/products with game meat

Legally caught game:

All wild birds and mammals whose meat is used in products must have been legally caught during the open season for the species in question. Compliance with all applicable legal requirements and regulations for game capture is mandatory.

Hunters responsible for game capture must be qualified and capable of sustainable shooting. It is important that hunters pay attention to habitat management and ensure that wildlife populations remain healthy and can recover. Disturbance to other people or animals during the hunting process must be avoided.

7. Cacao

The requirement concerns cocoa as an ingredient:

All relevant cocoa must be certified/verified to one or more of the following standards:

- **Rainforest Alliance**
- **Fairtrade**
- **Fairtrade sourced ingredients**
- **Organic (only in combination with one of the other standards)**

All actors in the supply chain (final production facility to farm) that are obliged to comply with the above "standards" must be certified according to one of the above standards (Chain of Custody)."

If the products containing cocoa fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation EU 1115/2023), information and documents must always be provided to prove that the product originates from land on which no deforestation or forest degradation within the meaning of the Regulation has taken place since December 31, 2020.

Requirements for non-food products

8. Pulp/cellulose/wood products/cellulose fibers

The following requirements apply to all relevant non-food products containing wood or wood fiber-based components, including paper, wood fiber-based cellulose and pulp.

All products must have one of the following certifications:

- **FSC:** Chain of Custody (CoC) FSC 100%, CoC FSC Mixed, CoC FSC Recycled.

For FSC certification, the direct supplier (last legal owner) must be FSC-certified.

- **PEFC:** CoC PEFC Certified, CoC PEFC Recycled.

For PEFC certification, the direct supplier (last legal owner) must be PEFC-certified.

The following additional certifications are also accepted:

- **Blue Angel**

- **SFI**
- **EU Ecolabel**

If the products containing wood, pulp, cellulose/fibers fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation EU 1115/2023), information and documents must always be provided to prove that the product originates from land on which no deforestation or forest degradation within the meaning of the Regulation has taken place since 31.12.2020.

9. Natural rubber

FSC-certified natural rubber is to be preferred. Where this is not possible, the supply chain must ensure that no deforestation takes place and that all relevant social criteria are met.

If the products containing natural rubber fall under the EU Deforestation Regulation (Regulation EU 1115/2023), information and documents must always be provided to prove that the product originates from areas on which no deforestation or forest degradation within the meaning of the Regulation has taken place since December 31, 2020.

10. Natural fibers (cotton/wool)

Natural fibers grown and harvested in accordance with relevant social and environmental standards and initiatives are preferred.

Recognized standards are:

- **Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)**
- **Cotton made in Africa (CmiA)**
- **Global Organic Standard (GOTS)**
- **Green Button**
- **Global Recycled Standard (GRS)**
- **Oeko-Tex Made in Green**
- **Organic Content Standard 100 (OCS 100)**
- **Organic Content Standard Blended (OCS Blended)**
- **Fairtrade - certified cotton**
- **Fairtrade cotton program**
- **Responsible Wool Standard (RWS)**
- **Mulesing Free**

Even in the case of non-certified goods, it must be ensured that social and ecological standards are adhered to and that no human rights/animal welfare violations are committed and that the cultivation and further processing of the natural fibers has no negative impact on the environment.

11. Leather

Preference should be given to leather produced in accordance with relevant social and ecological standards and initiatives. Alternatively, the use of recycled leather and/or leather substitute products can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Recognized standards are:

- **Oeko-Tex leather standard in combination with a social standard**
- **IVN natural leather**
- **Bluesign in combination with a social standard**
- **LWG in combination with a social standard**
- **CADS in combination with a social standard**
- **Blue Angel leather in combination with a social standard**
- **EU Ecolabel in combination with a social standard**

Even in the case of non-certified goods, it must be ensured that social and ecological standards are complied with and that no violation of human rights/animal welfare is committed and that the production and further processing of the leather has no negative impact on the environment.

12. Petroleum-based products

Preference should be given to man-made fiber productions that are manufactured in accordance with relevant social and ecological standards and initiatives. Alternatively, the use of recycled fibers and/or natural fibers can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Recognized standards are:

- **Oeko-Tex 100 standard in combination with a social standard**

Mineral oil-based cosmetic raw materials: The use of mineral oil-based raw materials (including polymers) in cosmetic products is avoided.

13. Mining products (minerals/stones/semi-precious stones/metals /precious metals/rare-earth elements)

Mining products that are produced in accordance with relevant social and environmental standards and initiatives are to be preferred.

Recognized standards are:

- **Aluminum Stewardship certificate**
- **Fair Stone certificate**
- **Responsible Minerals Initiative certificate**

Mica in cosmetic products:

Exclusive use of certified mica - the RMI (Responsible Mica Initiative) standard is required here.