



## **Compliance with Article 54 of the Modern Slavery Act - 'Transparency in Supply Chains etc'**

### **Introduction:**

The UK Modern Slavery Act came into force in October 2015 and requires suppliers of goods or services with an annual turnover of £36 million or more to publish a statement detailing their steps to ensure that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its business or supply chains. Panel Supplies Ltd is therefore required to publish such a statement annually. This statement relates to our business activities during our financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. The full text of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 is available [here](#).

### **Our Company Activities and Structure:**

Panel Supplies Ltd is a member of the International Plywood Group, a privately owned Group of Companies primarily engaged in the business of the importation and distribution of timber based panel products such as plywood, OSB, and MDF. Our turnover in the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 was £46 million. Panel Supplies Ltd was acquired by International Plywood in 2007 and is based in Tilbury in the UK. The International Plywood Group import products from many countries; our main sources of supply are China, Malaysia, Brazil, Chile, Russia and also EU countries such as Latvia, Italy and Spain. We recognise that some of these countries have an identified risk of slavery and human trafficking being prevalent and we have therefore appraised our supply chains to ensure that these activities are not being carried out.

### **Our Anti-Slavery Policy:**

Panel Supplies Ltd is committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in any part of our own business activities and those of our supply chain. We have therefore adopted a 'zero-tolerance' approach to all elements of modern slavery in all its forms and we will investigate any alleged breaches immediately. Should any individuals or organisation with whom we carry out business be found to be in breach of our policy, their partnership with us will be suspended until a full investigation has been carried out by our Directors.

### **Our Due-Diligence Process:**

All existing and potential suppliers must comply with our Responsible Purchasing Policy and our Anti-Slavery policy. We regularly appraise all our suppliers to ensure their compliance and we operate a due-diligence system with assistance from organisations such as the UK Timber Trade Federation (TTF) and Track Record Global Ltd. As a TTF member we are required to comply with their Responsible Purchasing Policy (RPP); to achieve this we work with Track Record Global Ltd, acknowledged experts in the field of information gathering and risk assessment of supply chains.

#### **Panel Supplies Ltd.**

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Telephone: +44 (0) 1375 846222 E-mail: [sales@panelsupplies.co.uk](mailto:sales@panelsupplies.co.uk) Website: [www.panelsupplies.co.uk](http://www.panelsupplies.co.uk)

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We also operate FSC® and PEFC™ Chain of Custody for ‘certified’ products which account for over 70% of our purchases. The FSC® and PEFC™ certification schemes contain strict requirements upon the restriction of forced labour within any accredited Companies. Both standards refer to the International Labour Organisation Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work 1998, full details of which are available [here](#). We are audited annually to ensure our continued compliance with the requirements of the relevant Standards.

**Training:**

All Members of staff will be given a copy of this policy and any changes will be communicated via their Department Manager. The policy will be reviewed annually or as changes to the legislation requires amendments to be made. Training will be given to ensure that all Members of Staff are familiar with the policy and how to identify the signs of slavery and human trafficking within our supply chain. These may include being offered goods or services at unrealistically low cost or by unrealistic deadlines. If slavery or human trafficking is genuinely suspected to be taking place, then all Members of Staff shall be empowered to report their suspicions to Senior Management in accordance with our ‘whistle-blower’ procedures without any fear of reprisal.

We will also publicise what external help and resources are available – these include the ‘Modern Slavery Helpline’ and the ‘Stronger Together’ initiative.

Further information is available using these links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/modern-slavery>

<http://stronger2gether.org/>

**Compliance:**

An annual Statement of Compliance will be posted on our website: [www.panelsupplies.co.uk](http://www.panelsupplies.co.uk)

**This Statement has been approved by the Board of Directors of Panel Supplies Ltd**

**Signed on behalf of Panel Supplies Ltd**



**Ian Attwood  
Managing Director**

**Panel Supplies Ltd.**

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