

IKEA STATEMENT

COTTON FROM TURKMENISTAN

Recently there have been discussions about the working conditions in the cotton industry in Turkmenistan.

IKEA does not accept forced and bounded labour and works hard to prevent child labour and to support human rights. We are aware of the challenges in the Turkmenistan cotton industry, and want to be part of contributing to improve both working conditions and the cotton industry as a whole. The decision to be present in Turkmenistan has been and is carefully evaluated on an ongoing basis. Extra measures have been taken, as always in challenging areas, to secure compliance to our strict requirements regarding working conditions as well as environmental and social standards, with specific references to human rights.

IKEA has a limited sourcing from Turkmenistan: there is only one supplier producing one product with cotton from two specific regions. 125 farmers have been trained on the principles and criteria for Better Cotton. The supplier has been audited according to IWAY, the strict IKEA supplier code of conduct, by both IKEA and third party auditors. On the ground assessments and audits on farm level is conducted during the cotton season when the workers are present on the fields.

The origin of IKEA products are stated on the product labels. In the case of the current product from Turkmenistan it is today only available in some stores, and since the sourcing is limited it is not imported to e.g. the UK or US at this time.

We will stop sourcing if we identify forced and bounded labour or any other human rights violations during our audits or assessments. However, our current ambition is to continue to be present in Turkmenistan in order to contribute to a positive change on the ground.

