



Fueling the Future of Food

As of January 1, 2012, California’s Civil Code section 1714.43 (California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010) requires disclosure statements to be made on certain manufacturers and retailers websites concerning their efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking within their direct supply chain. The law identifies five specific areas of required disclosure: verification, audits, certification, internal accountability, and training. This webpage is intended to fulfill those requirements through a description of our process as set forth below:

Verification: As part of SunOpta’s supplier approval process, SunOpta asks new direct ingredient suppliers and food contact packaging suppliers to answer a self-assessment of their compliance with the Supplier Partner Code of Conduct. The self-assessment asks about the social policies adopted by the supplier and the working conditions provided for its employees. SunOpta reviews the answers on the self-assessment and decides whether that supplier is aligned with SunOpta’s standards before SunOpta does business with the supplier. Included in the Supplier Partner Code of Conduct is the expectation that suppliers share in our commitment to the rule of law and to compliance with applicable laws, including those related to slavery and human trafficking. In 2022, SunOpta joined SEDEX. As a member of SEDEX, SunOpta will have greater visibility into the social practices of its suppliers to allow for greater verification.

Audits: SunOpta does not engage in a physical audit of its suppliers related to social compliance matters. However, as part of the self-assessment suppliers complete, SunOpta asks whether the supplier has previously been socially audited and certified according to a social standard. Several of SunOpta’s suppliers have completed a social compliance audit under other circumstances. In addition, as a member of SEDEX, SunOpta will have greater visibility into the social audits completed by our suppliers.

Certification: By signing the Supplier Partner Code of Conduct, SunOpta asks its suppliers to make a certification that they comply with the laws regarding slavery and human trafficking of the country or countries in which they are doing business. In addition, suppliers agree to comply with SunOpta’s Supplier Partner Code of Conduct in the terms and conditions of each Purchase Order.

Internal accountability: Each business function has a relationship with its suppliers and is responsible for determining whether its suppliers within that business function comply with company standards regarding human trafficking and slavery. In addition, SunOpta offers a confidential ethics hotline for its employees to call should a concern arise relating to any ethical matter at the workplace, including concerns related to suppliers. If an ethical violation is reported, then SunOpta will investigate and respond to such claim in a prompt and responsible manner and take appropriate action.

Training: SunOpta is evaluating the implementation of an ethical sourcing training program for SunOpta employees who have the responsibility for purchasing or approving suppliers. SunOpta asks its new direct ingredient and food contact packaging suppliers to read and sign the Supplier Partner Code of Conduct, which outlines the expectations of its suppliers, and all of its suppliers additionally agree to comply with SunOpta's Supplier Partner Code of Conduct in the terms and conditions of each purchase order. Included in the Supplier Partner Code of Conduct is the expectation that suppliers share in our commitment to the rule of law and to compliance with applicable laws, including those related to slavery and human trafficking.