

Compass Group UK & Ireland

Soya Policy

Introduction

The expansion of soya production has been a significant driver in deforestation and other native vegetation in South America, with consequent impacts on biodiversity, carbon emissions, water systems and local communities. Globally, over 75% of the world's soybean crop is fed to livestock, so the vast majority of it is consumed indirectly via meat.

Compass Group UK & Ireland is committed to sourcing as sustainably as possible, this includes soya. Our aim is to ensure it is legal and cultivated in a way that protects against conversion of forests and valuable native vegetation, whilst supporting fair working conditions. In order to achieve the upmost transparency, we have assessed our annual footprint of soya usage globally since 2020. Our most recent annual footprint was **5172 tonnes** for the financial year ending September 2022.

To demonstrate our commitment to responsible sourcing of soya, our parent company, Compass Group PLC is a member of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS), and Compass Group UK & Ireland is part of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya. We are working closely with both organisations to collectively encourage our industry and suppliers to support sustainable soya production and purchasing practices.

In January 2023, we announced our commitment to **no deforestation for directly sourced deforestation-linked commodities by 2025**. In the case of soya, this relates to tofu, edamame beans, soya oil and sauce. In the first half of our 21/22 financial year 80% of our direct soy footprint was verified as deforestation free.

Approach

Mapping our Footprint and Credit Purchase

We are engaging with suppliers of products containing direct or embedded soya on an annual basis to understand where deforestation may be occurring.

Since October 2021, we are purchasing RTRS sustainable soya credits to match our procurement volumes of any soya coming from areas at risk of deforestation.

The credits benefit farms in targeted countries that are engaged in certified sustainable agriculture and help them to make a positive social and environmental impact.

Supplier Engagement

Whilst the global supply chain is transforming to make physical sources of sustainable soya more accessible, we will continue to engage with both the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya and RTRS to stay informed and help support the way forward.

In the long term we support a mass market move to sustainable soya and our goal is to achieve a physically traceable supply of soya from sustainable deforestation and conversion free sources.

To achieve this, we will continue to support our suppliers through our workshops on sustainable soy and soy performance scorecards. We will also report annually on our progress within our Impact Reports and updates to our Soya Policy.