

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.

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 will be assessing the footprint of our soya usage globally on an ongoing basis. This has been done for the first time in 2020 and the total volume of our footprint was 4,780 tonnes, for the financial year ending September 2020.

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.

Globally, over 75% of the world's soybean crop is fed to livestock, so the vast majority of it is consumed indirectly via meat.

In 2016 and again in 2020, Compass Group PLC commissioned independent surveys of its UK supply chain and this identified that poultry and pork were the largest contributors to our soya footprint. This allowed us to understand where soya is entering the supply chain both directly (soya-based ingredients) and indirectly (soya used in animal feed in the production of meat, fish eggs and dairy).

Approach

Phase 1

We are engaging with suppliers one category at a time, beginning with Pork and Poultry, to investigate further into our soya footprint and obtain detail on the geography and sources of our soya supply chain. This will help us identify areas that need focus.

By April 2021, we will complete mapping of our entire soya footprint to gauge priority areas by supplier practices and soya origin.

Results will allow us to understand where deforestation may be occurring via suppliers. Where soya is coming from areas at risk of deforestation, we will purchase credits from an established sustainable soya certification scheme. This will benefit farms in targeted countries that are engaged in certified sustainable agriculture and help them to make a positive social and environmental impact.

Phase 2

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 maintain close relationships with suppliers and will report annually on progress within our overarching Sustainability Framework and Annual Sustainability Report.