

Pets

Raw Material Sourcing Policy - Soya

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1 Introduction

Pets at Home is the UK's leading pet care business, providing pet owners with everything they need to look after their pet – from food, toys and bedding, and grooming services, right the way through to first opinion veterinary care. Our purpose is to create a better world for pets and the people who love them.

We recognise that we have an impact on nature and people through our sourcing of products and services. As a leading pet care business, Pets at Home is committed to responsible and sustainable business standards and practices including responsible sourcing. We uphold such standards and practices throughout our own business and joint venture partners and work with our suppliers to promote our approach to be a sustainable and responsible business.

Soya is an important source of protein used as both an ingredient directly in pet food, and indirectly within animal feed. Globally, soya production is a significant driver of deforestation and biodiversity loss particularly in South America. It is seen to be one of the leading causes of deforestation in the Amazon which has a significant impact on animal and plant species as well as local communities and the Earth's climate. Additionally, unsustainable soya production also contributes to soil erosion, pollution from chemical use, puts pressure on aquifers and violates human rights through exploitation of farm workers and challenges of land rights. As a result, we consider it one of our priority raw materials and have put in place a sourcing framework to address the impact of its use.

This policy outlines Pets at Home's commitment to the responsible sourcing of soya and its derivatives, and our expectations of our suppliers. It should be read and observed in conjunction with Pets at Home's Environmental Policy and Supplier Code of Conduct. The policy will be reviewed annually to reflect changes in industry and legislation.

2 Purpose and Scope

This policy applies to all own-brand and supplier brand products sold and used within the Pets at Home Group.

Our due diligence focus will be applied to own brand products. We expect our branded suppliers to apply the same level of due diligence to their supply chains and we will require these suppliers to confirm their progress in achieving sustainable raw materials in their products.

3 Policy Application

3.1 Our Commitments

This policy is aligned to the delivery of our raw material responsible sourcing targets. 100% of soya and soya derivatives shall be sustainably sourced by 2028. This means

that from this date all soya shall be deforestation and conversion free (cut-off date of January 2020 at the latest).

To meet these objectives, we will:

- Innovate to provide customers with sustainable product choices.
- Partner with our suppliers to create better, more sustainable products, using raw materials from sustainable sources.
- Where possible support the use of market-based sustainability standards and external certification (e.g. RTRS Roundtable on Responsible Soy Association).
- Provide support and guidance to our buying, technical teams and suppliers.
- Continue to enhance our Responsible Sourcing Handbook for our suppliers, detailing our policies and guidelines relating to environmental and social impacts.
- Monitor, control and review our sourcing impacts through our supplier management processes, reporting progress each year and making improvements towards delivering our ambitions.
- Take measures to ensure compliance with the policy and seek to give preference to those suppliers who can balance commercial requirements with meeting our sustainable sourcing standards.
- If products are found to be contravening our standards, we will engage with the supplier to put in place appropriate measures to improve practices. Pets at Home ultimately reserve the right to discontinue items or delist suppliers which do not meet the requirements. Any action taken would not affect Pets at Home contractual rights.

3.2 Ingredients in Scope

Soya and its derivatives are used directly in some of our small animal products and natural based treats as an ingredient in the following forms:

- Soya flour
- Soya lecithin
- Soy protein (concentrate, hydrolyzed, isolate)
- Soybean hull pellets
- Soya oil
- Soybean meal

Soya used indirectly in our products as animal feed in the primary production of meat, poultry, farmed fish and dairy products is currently excluded from the scope of this policy. We predominantly utilise animal by-products from the human food supply chain so our ability to influence the sourcing of animal feed is currently challenging.

However, we are committed to exploring how we can work with our supplier partners to extend the principles and commitments outlined in this policy to cover indirect soya used as feed in our upstream supply chain.

3.3 Low risk origins

Verified country of origin outside South America is considered low risk and non-certified soya is acceptable. High risk countries are defined as any countries within South America.

3.4 Approved certification schemes

Independent third-party verification of sustainability standards is essential for high-risk sourcing countries. We accept all certification standards which have been benchmarked by FEFAC with a 2020 cut-off date and non-conversion criteria. This currently includes:

- ADM Responsible Soybean Standard
- Agricultura Sustentable Certificada + Module on Non-conversion
- Bunge Pro-S Assuring Sustainable Sourcing
- COFCO International Responsible Agriculture Standard
- Caramuru Sustentar Programme
- Cargill Triple S Soya Products
- Cefetra Certified Responsible Soya Standard
- CSQA Sustainable Cereal and Oilseed Standard (DTP 1123)
- Donau Soja
- Europe Soya
- FEMAS Responsible Sourcing Module 2021
- ISCC EU
- ISCC PLUS
- Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC) Program for Sustainable Agriculture
- Origins Field (by Amaggi)
- PROFARM Production Standard
- ProTerra Europe
- ProTerra Foundation
- Round Table on Responsible Soy - RTRS
- Sustainable Farming Assurance Programme – Non-Conversion (SFAP)
- U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol

Pets at Home does not hold any certification trademark licences so certification standard logos should not be used on any own brand products. Supplier brands must ensure they meet any certification trademark rules.

3.5 Certification model

Wherever possible, we require suppliers to source physically certified soya from segregated, mass balance or area mass balance supply chains. Where this is not yet viable, we will accept the use of RTRS credits as this supports responsible soya production.

3.6 Records

Low risk origin - Suppliers must be able to provide full traceability back to country of harvest for all product batches.

Certified material - Suppliers must be able to retain suitable evidence to confirm that they have purchased certified material including: -

- Specification from the ingredient supplier confirming certification status.
- Invoices for each ingredient delivery confirming certification status.

RTRS Credits - Suppliers must evidence sufficient credits against the volume of soya purchased.

The above information will be checked as a minimum during onboarding/first production.

3.7 Reporting

We publish information on our soya footprint used in our own brand products in our [Annual Sustainability report](#).

4 Definitions

Term	Definition
Soya / soy	Soy or soya (used interchangeably) is the protein derived from the beans of an Asian plant and is used as a food source or ingredient for human or animal consumption
Term	Definition
Soya derivative	Soya derivatives are ingredients which derive from soybeans but which are processed using methods such as crushing, drying, or other techniques
Segregation	Segregation is a supply chain model used to guarantee that certified soymeal is segregated from non-certified sources at each stage of the supply chain
Deforestation	Deforestation is the intentional clearing of forested land for agriculture, grazing land, construction or building materials, fuel or other manufacturing needs

Chain of Custody	A Chain of Custody is a legal term that covers a process that tracks the life cycle of physical or electronic information.
Deforestation free	Deforestation-free refers to products that are produced on land that has not been subject to deforestation or forest degradation after a certain date.
Degradation	Forest degradation is generally accepted as a forest's inability to provide ecosystem services (such as habitat provision for wildlife). Since 2020, countries can develop their own definition of forest degradation.
Mass balance	Mass balance is how the mass entering and leaving a system is calculated and accounted for.
Conversion	The conversion of primary forests into planted forests.
FEFAC	FEFAC is the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation, which represents the interests of the compound feed and premix industry in Europe. Their work covers, among other things, sustainable animal feeding strategies and soy sourcing guidelines, as well as providing scientific-based information to facilitate sustainable livestock and aquaculture production.

Term	Definition
RTRS credits	The Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS) is an organisation that promotes responsible production, processing and trading of soya on a global level. One RTRS credit is equivalent to 1 ton of responsibly sourced soya.

5 Responsibilities

This policy is owned by the Pets at Home Responsible Product Committee which meets at least quarterly to review our environmental performance in relation to our products and ensure suitable resource is available for its implementation. The policy is approved by our ESG Committee, which operates with delegated authority of our Board, and receives regular updates on performance against our targets.

5.1 Expectations of Suppliers

In addition to the requirements set out in our Supplier Code of Conduct and our Terms of Service, we expect our suppliers to support us with working towards our sustainability goals. One of the key expectations is that suppliers are required to provide accurate data on the volume of soya and soya derivatives in their product. In addition, we welcome the proposal of new materials and technologies that keep in line with current and upcoming legislation as well as new market developments. It is expected that our suppliers will drive forward innovation regarding sustainable solutions, and work towards their own sustainability commitments in order to find improvements throughout the supply chain.

6 Support & Further Resources

- Further guidance on our approach to sustainability can be found in our Responsible Sourcing Handbook
- FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines 2023
- <https://soytransparency.org/>
- <https://www.uksoymanifesto.uk/>
- <https://www.efeca.com/launch-uk-roundtable-sustainable-soya/>

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