



Lidl Ireland & Northern Ireland

Position Paper on the Sustainable Sourcing of Plants and Flowers



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1. Our Position

1.1 The Purpose of this Policy

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland are committed to being a responsible retailer and upholding economic, social and environmental responsibilities in all of our daily activities. Through this policy we want to support the principles of the responsible sourcing of plants and flowers, guarantee a transparent and traceable supply chain and reinforce our willingness to build long-term partnerships with our suppliers.

At Lidl we strive to make a positive difference by operating responsibly. Our philosophy is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for our employees, to contribute positively to the communities in which we operate and to be good stewards of the environment. Under the 'Sourcing' pillar of our 'A Better Tomorrow' strategy we are committed to ensuring that our buying power drives positive change for producers, communities and the environment, while we build long term partnerships with our suppliers. This way of working allows us to offer carefully selected goods, in this case, plants and flowers that are produced to the highest quality, in accordance with environmental and social standards, so our consumers can choose responsibly sourced products at affordable prices.

1.2 Acknowledging our Responsibility

Ireland's climate provides ideal growing conditions for a large range of garden and landscape plants. However, within Europe most of the plants, bulbs and flowers come from the Netherlands whilst a large portion of global production takes place in countries where climate conditions are more favourable to grow flowers all year around such as Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya and Ethiopia.

We acknowledge that the improper use of pesticides in the plant and flower industry can lead to health issues for employees on plantations and damage the environment and the biodiversity of the area, especially in countries where appropriate protective measures are not common. In addition, we are aware that the flower industry has a largely female workforce who can be more vulnerable to poor working conditions and human rights violations.

At Lidl, we want to ensure that our products are produced in accordance with best practices both ethically and environmentally. Therefore, we commit to only sourcing products that have been produced to internationally recognised standards that accredit these practices.

1.3 Our Approach

Our aim is to improve the production of plants and flowers in the following three areas:

Social

- Guarantee that health and safety procedures for workers are in place
- Guarantee workers' welfare
- Prevent discrimination in the workplace and any human rights breaches

Environmental

- Minimise the use of pesticides and synthetic fertilisers through integrated pest management (IPM) ¹
- Minimize the environmental impact of production
- Guarantee the efficient use of water and other resources
- Promote best practices to protect biodiversity and enhance local habitats
- Prevent the spread of harmful species of plants by only selling plants with a valid 'Plant Passport'²

Economic

- Meet consumers' demands respecting the requirements of a sustainable production
- Build long term relationships with our suppliers

Social Responsibility

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland take a human rights due diligence approach to protecting workers within its supply chains. Lidl is a member of the European Union (EU) Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI) within the framework of the European Foreign Trade Association.

In order to ensure appropriate and universally recognised social standards, at our production sites, Lidl has developed a Code of Conduct which is based on the Ethical Trade Initiative Base Code and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) standards. It defines the social expectations of all global direct and indirect suppliers and forms an integral part of our commercial contracts. The Code specifically prohibits human rights violations in the form of both child labour and forced labour and further addresses issues including working conditions, discrimination and workplace health and safety. It is available [online](#) to ensure our expectations are clear to all of our stakeholders.

We require our suppliers to comply with our Supplier Code of Conduct, which is part of our contracts, to ensure that these core ethical standards are met throughout our supply chain.

¹ IMP is an ecosystem approach to crop production and protection that combines different management strategies and practices to grow healthy crops and minimise the use of pesticides ([FAO](#)).

² In Ireland, The Department of Food Agriculture and Marine requires that for certain plants (see full list in [here](#)), to enter and be sold in Ireland, they need to be accompanied by a label/document called a "Plant Passport ". In Northern Ireland, Plant Passports are regulated by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. For more information see [here](#).

Additional Social Requirements

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland outline the following additional responsibilities to our suppliers through our 'Ethical Sourcing Programme':

- All our direct suppliers must be linked to Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland on the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (Sedex) platform and have completed the Self-Assessment Questionnaire (SAQ) which requires to be updated every 6 months.
- All our direct suppliers' production sites, which are assessed as high risk on the Sedex risk assessment tool, will be asked to complete a Sedex Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA) or share the results of a SMETA ethical audit from within the past 12 months with Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland via the Sedex platform. Non-compliances must be addressed in line with the agreed corrective action plans. Suppliers will be alerted by Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland if they fall into this category and will be provided with further information.

2. Scope

This transparent, publicly accessible position paper on the sustainable sourcing of plants and flowers applies to the entire range of Lidl's plants and flowers including bulbs and cut flowers sold in Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland.

3. Our Commitments

Through this policy we are committing to source 100% of our flowers and plants certified to environmental and social standards by the end of 2020.

3.1. Environmental Standards:

The environmental standards we recognise are:

- The *GLOBALG.A.P* (Good Agricultural Practices):
 - *Flowers and Ornamentals Certification Standard* for Nurseries and Floriculture Farms³
 - *Chain of Custody Certification Standard* for Agents
- The *Ornamental Standard of Bord Bia's Horticulture Quality Assurance Scheme*
- The *British Ornamental Plant Producers Certification Scheme (BOPP)*

3.2. Social Standards:

The social standards we recognise are:

- The *GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice (GRASP)* module
- The *Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants*
- The *MPS Socially Qualified Certificate (MPS-SQ)*
- The *Social Accountability International Standard - SA 8000*

³ or an equivalent benchmarked certification schemes e.g. MPS-GAP Certificate. See the [List of fully conforming GLOBALG.A.P. benchmarked schemes and checklists](#)

Suppliers will not be required to have the above social certifications if they can demonstrate they already have the Ornamental Standard from Bord Bia or have conducted a SMETA audit within the past year with all non-compliances closed within the auditor's timeframe and shared with Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland through the Sedex platform.

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland are committed to assessing the status of the certificates of our plants and flowers suppliers on an annual basis. We reserve the right to request information at any point, to audit compliance throughout the supply chain and take action in areas of non-compliance.

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland commit to reporting the progress towards our goals and on this policy by publishing the results in our annual Sustainability Report and on our ['A Better Tomorrow'](#) website.

4. Further information

GLOBALG.A.P.



The [GLOBALG.A.P. Flowers & Ornamentals Standard](#) covers all stages of production from pre-harvest activities such as soil management, propagation material, integrated plant management and fertiliser use to responsible water use, environment and conservation, hygiene and security measures during harvest and workers' health, safety and welfare.

The [GLOBALG.A.P. Chain of Custody Certification Standard](#) identifies the status of the product throughout the entire process from farm to retailer. It lays out strict requirements for handling certified products and the proper segregation of certified and non-certified product in processing operation units.



The [GLOBALG.A.P. Risk Assessment on Social Practice \(GRASP\)](#) is a voluntary module developed to assess social practices on the farm, addressing specific aspects of workers' health, safety and welfare. GRASP is designed to extend the social standards of the GLOBALG.A.P. certification and it can be assessed together with the GLOBALG.A.P. audit.

Ornamental Standard of Bord Bia's Horticulture Quality Assurance Scheme



[Bord Bia's Ornamental Standard](#) provides a framework for the production of ornamental crops and attendant activities to comply with current best practice in relation to the safeguarding of the environment and to ensure that procedures are in place to minimise the risk to the health and safety of all staff. The certified products can carry the Bord Bia Quality Mark label on their packaging. This standard is currently under review. The new standard will be included in the Sustainable Horticulture Assurance Scheme ([SHAS](#)) in 2019.

British Ornamental Plant Producers Certification Scheme (BOPP)



The [British Ornamental Plant Producers Certification Scheme \(BOPP\)](#) has been designed for use by growers and packers of ornamental horticultural products and by growing media producers. The Scheme aims to provide retailers with reassurance that their suppliers were meeting legal, environmental and quality requirements. The BOPP certification scheme is recognised as a 'resembling scheme' to the GLOBALG.A.P.

Fairtrade Standard for Flowers and Plants



The Standard aims to protect and benefit workers on flowers' and plants' farms by certifying those farms which ensure safety and good working conditions for their employees. There are also clear procedures for ensuring the local environment is protected. The Fairtrade standard aims to provide higher wages than typically paid to producers as well as helping producers develop knowledge, skills and resources to improve their lives.

MPS Socially Qualified Certificate (MPS-SQ)



The [MPS-SQ](#) sets standards concerning good working conditions. These include requirements on health, safety and terms of employment. MPS-SQ is based on Universal Human Rights, the codes of conduct of local representative organisations and International Labour Organisation (ILO) agreements.

Social Accountability International Standard SA 8000



Is a voluntary workplace [certification](#) for companies seeking to guarantee the basic rights of their workers throughout the supply chain. The system provides social standards that are applicable to all industries and is based on the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child and various International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions.