



## Ethical Trading Policy

### Summary Statement

At Little's Ltd. we believe strongly in ethical trading systems which develop transparent National and International trading relationships, uphold the integrity and quality of the products, as well as respecting fair remuneration and work conditions for all colleagues in a supply chain. We are therefore proud to guarantee that we trade according to the following Ethical Trading Criteria:

1. All employment is freely chosen
2. Working conditions are safe and hygienic.
3. Child labour is not used.
4. Wages are fair and comparable to industry standard and will always exceed the minimum wage.
5. Deductions from wages as a disciplinary measure shall not be permitted.
6. Working hours are not excessive.
7. No discrimination is practiced.
8. Regular employment is provided for those who are employed on a permanent contract.
9. No harsh, cruel or degrading treatment or practices are allowed.
10. No bribery, corruption, blackmailing or bullying is permitted.
11. Third Party Suppliers and buyers are both free to sell and buy from any number of other businesses. No restrictions, as a way of guaranteeing business, are allowed.

We also ask all our suppliers to affirm in writing to us that their businesses are also built on these ethical criteria. We have developed a full policy statement outlining how we expect our practice to develop in order to be able to offer strong guarantees to our customers that the products they receive from us have been ethically designed, managed and implemented.

### Our Full Ethical Trade Policy Statement

#### 1. Policy Statement

Little's Ltd. recognises that our commercial activities have potential to impact on our suppliers and our locality.

As a socially responsible small business, our suppliers, local community and customers have a right to expect:

- Products manufactured by Little's Ltd. are produced under working conditions that are hygienic and safe.
- All workers involved in the delivery of products and services provided by Little's Ltd. are treated with full consideration to their basic human rights.
- Little's Ltd. acts in an ethical manner above and beyond basic legal requirements.
- Little's Ltd. is therefore committed to implementing the principles of the Ethical Trading Initiative Base Code (although we are not members of the ETI).
- This policy sets out Little's Ltd's commitment to its suppliers and customer's; setting out the measures we are taking to ensure that we are acting in an ethical manner.

#### 2. Little's Ltd. Commitment to its suppliers and customers:

Little's Ltd. recognises that our ethical and social performance and reputation is a key part of our overall commercial success.

##### Employees

Little's Ltd. is committed to ensuring that our employment practices and the enforcement of corporate regulations ensure the protection of the rights of all those who work for us. In many areas we aim to operate above the minimum standards required by law to ensure our employees are safe, rewarded and valued. As we expand and become larger we will be able to

offer more opportunities for our staff.

## **Customers**

Little's Ltd. is committed to demonstrating its ethical and social responsibility credentials to enable customers to make informed choices about whose products they purchase.

## **Suppliers**

Little's Ltd. is committed to monitoring social standards in our supply chain, and we demand our suppliers operate to the same ethical standards we employ ourselves.

## **3. Little's Ltd. Ethical Trading Code of Practice**

### **3.1 This Code of Practice applies to:**

- Staff directly employed by Little's Ltd. on temporary or permanent contracts.
- Staff employed or provided by contractors or employment agencies to work on Little's Ltd's premises or to undertake work for or on behalf of Little's Ltd.

### **3.2 No forced, bonded or involuntary labour shall be used.**

- All employment with Little's Ltd. is freely chosen.
- Staff are not required to lodge deposits or identity papers with us.
- Staff are free to leave Little's Ltd. after reasonable notice.

### **3.3 No child labour shall be used.**

- There shall be no recruitment of child labour.
- Children or persons under 16 are not employed at any time, day or night.
- Children or persons under 18 are not employed full-time.

## **4. Working conditions are safe and hygienic.**

- Little's Ltd. takes adequate measures to prevent accidents and minimize potential hazards.
- Staff receive regular health & safety training.
- Staff have unrestricted access to toilet facilities and drinking water.

## **5. Working hours and remuneration are reasonable and comparable to other companies in our sector and regular employment is provided.**

- Staff pay rates are above the national legal minimum standards.
- Staff are not forced to work in excess of 48 hours per week, a voluntary opt out agreement is available for those wishing to work in excess of 48 hours per week.
- Staff are provided 2 days off per week
- Staff are given written terms and conditions of employment that details the employment relationship between and the respective obligations of the employee and employer, rates of pay, working hours, grievance and disciplinary procedures, holiday entitlement, absence and sick pay rules and notice periods for termination of employment.
- No deductions are made from wages as a disciplinary measure, and pay slips detailing lawful deductions are provided for each pay period.
- Labour only contracting, sub contracting and fixed term contracts are not used as a means to avoid obligations under labour or social security laws.

## **6. No discrimination is practiced:**

- There is no discrimination in pay, hiring, compensation, access to training, promotion, and termination of employment or retirement on the grounds of race, nationality, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, union membership or political affiliation.
- Opportunities for personal and career development are equally available to all employees.

## **7. No harassment, threats, abuse or intimidation shall be practiced. Physical, verbal and sexual threats, abuse, harassment or intimidation is expressly prohibited and grounds for summary dismissal, if proved.**

## **8. Employment Agencies**

Employment agencies contracted to supply temporary staff shall demonstrate commitment to and application of the requirements of this code.

Employment agencies contracted to supply temporary staff shall ensure that all staff supplied to Little's Ltd. are eligible to work in the UK by:

- Following Immigration and Nationality Directorate Guidelines on Amendments to Section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996.
- Ensuring that the requirements of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 Section 22 Code of Practice are met.
- Retaining copies of identity papers, work permits or passport stamps as detailed in the Home Office List of Specified Documents and UK Passport Stamps.

Employment agencies contracted to supply temporary staff shall ensure that all staff supplied to Little's Ltd. have sufficient command of English to understand:

- The agency's responsibilities under this code of practice.
- Little's Ltd. Health & Safety requirements.
- Written statements of employment particulars. Or have other measures in place to ensure that all these requirements are communicated in the employee's native language.

## **9. Organisation**

Little's Directors have overall responsibility for all aspects of ethical trading at work within the business.

## **10. Looking towards further improvement**

Little's are keen to learn from others and would ask if anyone has any ideas or feedback regarding our policy or practice to contact us.