

Corporate Responsibility at LOWA

In April 2015, LOWA created an in-house position to oversee its work in the corporate sustainability area. This should allow the oversight of its Corporate Responsibility (CR) measures to be uniformly managed and will allow the development of a CR strategy. The goal is to expand CR engagement and to convey it as transparently as possible.

CR Spheres of Activity

After having identified CR spheres of activity in our business operations, we will now set a series of goals and measures, as well as identify indicators for key aspects of sustainability. The goal is to gradually incorporate CR aspects in all of the company's spheres of activity.



CR Spheres of Activity at LOWA

Current Status

LOWA has built a sustainable supplier management system that guarantees fair, environmentally sound manufacturing conditions as well as products free of or low in hazardous substances.

Leather Selection

The leather LOWA uses comes exclusively from hides from Europe. Our primary supplier is the Heinen company in Wegberg (www.heinen-leather.de). The company's environmental and socially responsible production philosophy aligns perfectly with LOWA.

Zero Hazardous Substances

For all of its products, LOWA has created a "Restricted Substances List" (a list of prohibited materials or those that can only be used in limited quantities) that is in accord with CADS guidelines (more information is available at www.cads-shoes.com). Among other things, LOWA guarantees it does not use any leather tanned using hexavalent chromium [Cr(VI)], and it only uses C8-free impregnations and shoe creams.

Ethical and Risk Aspects

LOWA uses no merino wool for ethical reasons. For the same reason, it also uses no down, no fibres from milk or other foods, no nanotechnology, no deodorants, no biocides and no antifungals.

Vegan Range

There are different definitions of the word "vegan". When it comes to shoes, textile uppers instead of leather uppers are halfway there. All the boots in our All Terrain Sport collection contain neither leather nor wool sourced from animals. Even the adhesive used to make the boots is free of animal substances.

It is rather difficult, however, to prove that no animal products are present in any of the components used. It calls for some real detective work to verify that no animal-derived substances are used in the colours and chemicals or in the substances used for finishing. This is also, and first and foremost, because high-quality, robust footwear of the type made by LOWA consists of very many individual parts and components. There are, for example, 186 parts in our Renegade model! It is virtually impossible to check whether every single one of these meets the above criteria. Nor can we make any statements at present which would stand up to scrutiny with regard to the very strict vegan criteria which include stipulations that

no animal testing of any kind must have been carried out for the materials used in a product or that all the plant fibres must be from certified organic sources.

Durability and Repairs

An essential environmental advantage of products comes from their long-lasting durability. And the footwear from LOWA all boasts high quality and robustness. In this area, LOWA offers a comprehensive repair service (resoling, etc.)

Made in Europe

As an industry leader in the age of globalisation, LOWA emphasises its “Made in Europe” stand. LOWA produces exclusively in Europe, for one, at its company headquarters in Bavaria’s Jetzendorf.

Fair Production

LOWA requires its suppliers and production partners to sign a [Code of Conduct](#) as specified by LOWA. LOWA’s code is based on international guidelines such as the principles of the UN Global Compact and the ILO Conventions. LOWA ensures compliance with the CoC with regular, internal audits. The CoC governs working hours and wages, including overtime and special payments, for example for holidays or public holidays such as Christmas, plus it governs benefits or the assumption of costs for meals and transportation as well as overtime allowances. And of course areas such as protection against unfair dismissal, sick pay, parental leave, freedom to unionise, and the prohibition of child labour are also governed by law and covered too in the CoC.

Energy

Company headquarters in Jetzendorf, including associated production facilities, has just been through the legally required energy audit per DIN 16247. In addition, in August 2015, a roof with a large-scale photovoltaic system was built over most of the company parking area

Your Contact

As CR Manager as of 1st April 2015, Ingmar Anderson oversees LOWA's engagement in the area of sustainability.



Ingmar Anderson

Contact

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