

Modern Slavery Act

What you need to know...

In April 2018, the Modern Slavery Act becomes practice under Corporate Law.

Hardscape, a corporate partner of the Landscape Institute, supplies materials from all over the world. Hardscape has been ethical trade pioneers for over a decade, and has provided the following resource to inform LI members about the Modern Slavery Act, helping us commit as an industry to eradicating labour and human rights abuse in the supply chain.

Get the key facts below.



What is the Modern Slavery Act?



The Modern Slavery Act was introduced in October 2015 to make UK businesses take responsibility for eradicating human rights abuses and forced labour in its supply chain. Modern slavery includes child labour, bonded labour, forced prison labour and human trafficking.

Within section 54 of the act, any business that has a turnover of more than £36 million per annum must produce an initial Modern Slavery Statement to show how it is mapping its supply chain and eradicating human or labour rights abuses. This statement must meet UK Government requirements and be updated annually.

What is happening in April 2018?



In April 2018, the Modern Slavery Act will become practice under UK law and therefore enforceable.

All eligible businesses must be able to demonstrate their due diligence to all forms of modern slavery within their own business and their supply chain.

Why is this relevant to me?



The Modern Slavery Act is not a CSR tick box exercise. It is about corporate companies understanding their supply chains, demonstrating they are trading ethically and taking responsibility for their workforce.

Even if your company doesn't meet the £36 million turnover threshold (as Hardscape does not), it is likely that your clients and contractors will do and as part of their supply chain map, you must be seeking to trade ethically.

How do I ensure the products I specify have been sourced ethically?



Always seek suppliers that are publicly recognised for their Human Rights diligence.

Step one: Check the Modern Slavery Act Register to ensure that the company you are specifying from is registered with the Business & Human Rights Resources Centre, who assess Modern Slavery Act evidence.

Step two: Check if they are full members of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and have graduated to Achiever ranking or above. The ETI is a leading alliance of companies, trade unions and NGOs that promotes respect for workers' rights around the globe. Its processes are recognised by the UK Government and United Nations.

View the ETI member listing here.