



Marshalls

Creating Better Spaces

Marshalls Achieves BRE Global Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard Verification for the Second Year Running

Marshalls plc is pleased to announce that having been the first organisation to achieve verification against BRE Global's newly launched Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard (BES 6002) in 2017, it has again achieved verification for the second year running.

Chris Harrop, Marshalls Marketing Director, responsible for sustainability, says "It is becoming commercially critical to have independent third party verification regarding ethical labour in business operations and supply chains. Marshalls is ahead-of-the-wave and achieving verification for the second year running and it's extremely satisfying, especially as the Ethical Labour Sourcing Standard process allows us to chart our progress from one year to the next; we can clearly see what we've achieved, set our course in terms of future actions and bind this into our wider human rights programme."

He added, "This independent, third-party verification distinguishes our products and services from those of our 'competitors', some of whom still continue to make spurious and unsubstantiated claims about the ethics of their global supply chains. Our valued customers, suppliers, shareholders, employees and partners can continue to be rightly confident about our ongoing commitment to ethical labour sourcing standards and our day-to-day actions on the ground dealing with the complexities."

Dr Shamir Ghumra, BRE's Director of Sustainable Products, presented the ELS verification certificate to Chris Harrop, and commented, "It is gratifying to see Marshalls achieving verification for the second year and to knowing that the ELS is added great value to the organisations overall programme regarding ethical sourcing. The requirements of the Modern Slavery Act puts the onus

on businesses to demonstrate exactly how they are taking positive action to eliminate modern slavery within their operations and global supply chains; none more so than within the construction sector. ELS verification provides organisations with a framework to verify their systems and processes in relation to the Modern Slavery Act and continuously improve their ethical labour sourcing practices. Marshalls continues to leading the field in terms of ethical labour standards.”

The ELS standard was developed throughout 2016 with a wide stakeholder group including clients, manufacturers, NGOs and contractors. The 150 strong stakeholder group helped to shape and scope the ELS standard to ensure that it would be relevant and drive positive change within industry. The verification approach will allow organisations to develop their ethical labour sourcing practices in a manner which is risk based and relevant to them. The ELS will support those who wish to demonstrate continual improvement.

Editors Notes:

Marshalls Business & Human Rights Lead, Elaine Mitchel-Hill, added, “This independent verification regarding ethical labour standards is an extremely important aspect in terms of delivering against our Modern Slavery Statement commitments. I look forward to reporting on the progress that Marshalls has made in our third Modern Slavery Statement at the end of May.”

Marshalls became a UNGC signatory in 2009 and a member of the UNGC UK Network later the same year. The organisation is required to report on its progress each year in Marshalls UNGC Communication on Progress Report (COP). You can view the most recent COP here:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/reference/ungccopreport2017.pdf>

Marshalls second Modern Slavery Statement:

<https://www.marshalls.co.uk/documents/policies/modern-slavery-and-anti-human-trafficking-policy.pdf>

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