Sourcing and Trade: Countries, Regions & Territories

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1. Scope

This Code of Practice applies to Co-op own label products. Branded suppliers must also comply with this policy.

2. Aim

This Code of Practise sets out the exceptional circumstances under which the Co-op will cease trading with, or sourcing from, specific countries, regions or territories where there is evidence of serious human rights abuses, illegal conflict activity or violations of international law.

The framework is delivered through two linked policies:

- One covering illegal settlements and occupied or undetermined territories
- One covering countries of concern due to conflict and human rights violations

3. Policies

3.1 Policy 1: Trading with Illegal Settlements, Occupied Territories, or Undetermined Territories

See full policy detail at: co-operative.coop/ethics/ethical-policies/illegal-settlements

Scope: Products or produce sourced from or connected to illegal settlements in recognised occupied territories, or areas with unresolved sovereignty under international law.

Co-op will not source Co-op brand products, produce, or ingredients from:

- Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Occupied Territories
- Moroccan settlements in Western Sahara

Supplier Requirements:

- Co-op will not trade with suppliers known to operate in or source from these areas.
- While suppliers previously recording Israel as an origin were required to complete an annual *Israel Supplier Declaration*, this is no longer necessary. As of June 2025, Israel appears on Co-op's Countries of Concern list (see Policy 2), and we are no longer sourcing from Israel at all where possible. As long as Israel remains on that list, this approach will continue — but if the position changes in future, suppliers will be updated accordingly.

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Definitions:

- **Occupied Territories** refers to the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights.
- **Sourcing from settlements** includes any physical presence or indirect sourcing (e.g. packaging, aggregation, distribution) from settlements.

3.2 Policy 2: Sourcing, International Conflict, Human Rights Abuses and Violation of International Law

See full policy detail at: co-operative.coop/ethics/ethical-policies/countries-of-concern

Scope: Countries where independent and credible international bodies (e.g. the UN) have identified consistent, serious breaches of international law or community-wide human rights violations.

Assessment methodology:

We use three criteria in assessing action:

- Agreement across respected assessments (the UN and others) that there is consistent behaviour which would constitute community-wide human rights abuses or violations of international law
- The actions we take would make a difference directly or indirectly to those affected and would alleviate suffering
- The actions we take would not negatively affect our integrity as a commercially successful co-operative business aligned with our co-operative values and principles

Note: We review and update this list at least once a year, so countries may be added or removed. If anything changes, we'll let relevant suppliers know and explain what they need to do.

Countries of Concern (as of 24th June 2026):

Afghanistan, Belarus, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Israel and the OPT (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Libya, Myanmar, Russia and occupied Ukraine, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen.

Implementation Principles:

- Where ingredients can be clearly traced to a country of concern, they will be removed from Co-op branded products.
- In cases where removal is not feasible due to supply chain complexity (e.g. herbs, spices & bulked ingredients), Co-op commits to transparency and ongoing assessment.

Shared Definitions & Application

- **Products**: Includes food and non-food Co-op branded goods.
- **Produce**: Fresh fruit, vegetables, and flowers, whether whole or prepared

Supplier Responsibilities

- Suppliers must remain compliant with both policies and respond promptly to origin tracing requests.
- Where flagged (e.g. via MyCore), suppliers must follow appropriate due diligence and cooperate with Co-op's sourcing integrity checks.

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