

The background of the image is a close-up, soft-focus photograph of a feather. The feather's barbs are a warm, golden-brown color and fan out across the frame. A solid maroon rectangular box is positioned on the left side, containing the text.

Sainsbury's

Our Policy on Feather and Down

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Our Scope

At Sainsbury's, our customers trust us to uphold high animal welfare standards for any animal derived ingredients used in our products. They also expect us to source from ethical and sustainable sources, in line with our core business value of Sourcing with Integrity, to ensure our supply chains are helping to address global sustainability challenges.

This policy outlines our minimum requirements for the sourcing of feather and down for use in our Own Brand products.

This policy is applicable to all Own Brand Non-Food products containing feather or down, including:

- All Argos Own Brand products
- All Habitat Own Brand products
- All TU Own Brand products
- All Sainsbury's Group Owned Brand and licensed products.



Our position

Feather and down is used in several Sainsbury's Group Non-Food products, both as a major material (e.g., feather and down bedding) and as a minor material (e.g., decorative trim), and is classified as one of our Key Non-Food Raw Materials.

Where feather and down is used in Sainsbury's Own Brand products, Sainsbury's and its' suppliers will ensure they are sourced from independently certified sources which are free from harmful practices.

All suppliers will ensure the health and welfare of animals are met in line with the five freedom principles as outlined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This includes:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress



Our commitment

In addition to the requirements outlined in this code of practice, Sainsbury's has made the following animal health and welfare commitment as part of our Plan for Better sustainability strategy.

“We will source animal derived ingredients for our own brand products from suppliers that demonstrate continuous improvement of animal health and welfare, and practice responsible antibiotic stewardship”

This commitment covers all our Food and Non-Food own brand products, and in relation to the sourcing of feather and down means:

- Sainsbury's will source 100% of our feather and down from independently certified sources (Responsible Down Standard or Downpass)
- Sainsbury's will report annually on % of feather and down used across our business which comes from certified sources
- Suppliers will ensure they fully comply with this code of practice to ensure high standards of animal welfare are met



Supplier requirements

Clauses

1. All feather or down used in Sainsbury's Own Brand Non-Food products:
 - Must be a by-product of the meat industry
 - Must be sourced from farms which DO NOT perform force-feeding practices or gavage methods of feeding. This includes any by-product of foie gras production
 - Must have been farmed to good animal husbandry standards
 - Must have been slaughtered under humane conditions
 - Must have been stunned prior to slaughter
 - Must not have been plucked from live animals
 - Must not be from exotic or endangered species
2. All suppliers producing products containing feather or down must provide Sainsbury's with:
 - Details of the full supply chain from farm to finished product, including the slaughterhouses used
 - Details of the species of the birds that the feather or down has come from
 - Independent 3rd party verification that the feather or down used has been sourced in line with the above requirements and meets Sainsbury's animal welfare standards. The 2 main schemes accepted are the Responsible Down Standard (RDS) and the Downpass Standard
 - Supplier Transaction Certificates for each batch or shipment to show full chain of custody of product supplied to Sainsburys
3. In addition to the above Sainsbury's may decide to perform their own visits to the farms and slaughterhouses used to verify that the relevant standards are being met.





Our Policy on Feather and Down

The information in this document may be supported by other Sainsbury's Documents.
The information outlined in this document is in addition to all applicable UK and EU legislation.

Sainsbury's suppliers must ensure they meet all legal and regulatory requirements. Whilst this document is intended to help you supply products and services to Sainsbury's, they do not absolve you of your responsibility to understand and comply with all the quality, legal and safety requirements for the products or services you supply.

For the purpose of this document Sainsbury's means Sainsbury's Supermarkets Limited and Argos Limited only. Sainsbury's Argos is the trading name of both:

- 1) Argos Limited, Registered office: 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA, UK. Registered number: 01081551
- 2) Sainsbury's Supermarket Limited, Registered office : 33 Charterhouse Street, London, EC1M 6HA, UK Registered number: 03261722

Document Reference	Document Owner	Amendment History	Date
PL005 V1	Technical Manager	Updated into new format document replacing 'P003-V3 Feather and Down Policy Statement v3 02062016'	Apr 2023
PL013-V1	Technical Manager	Changed document reference as PL005 is Policy on Cocoa; amended Argos registered office address	Nov 2024
PL013-V2	Plan for Better & Improvement Manager	Updated to reflect change in head office location	June 2025