



## Bell Truck and Van

Newcastle, Billingham, Spennymoor, Stockton

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# Statement

The Modern Slavery Act 2015.

## Introduction

This statement sets out Bell Truck and Van's actions to understand all potential modern slavery risks related to its business and to put in place steps that are aimed at ensuring that there is no slavery or human trafficking in its own business and its supply chains. This statement relates to actions and activities during the financial year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

As part of the motor industry, the organisation recognises that it has a responsibility to take a robust approach to slavery and human trafficking.

The organisation is absolutely committed to preventing slavery and human trafficking in its corporate activities, and to ensuring that its supply chains are free from slavery and human trafficking.

## Organisational structure and supply chains

Bell Truck and Van is a commercial vehicle dealer selling, servicing, repairing and supplying trade parts for Mercedes-Benz vans and trucks and Fuso Canter. New and used vehicles are sourced from Mercedes-Benz UK or purchased as trade or parts exchange within the United Kingdom only.

The organisation currently operates in the following countries:

- United Kingdom
- Ireland

## Responsibility

Responsibility for the organisation's anti-slavery initiatives is as follows [select the relevant areas from the list below]:

- Policies: Board of Directors
- Risk assessments: Board of Directors
- Investigations/due diligence: Board of Directors
- Training: As part of every employee induction with Managing Director

## Relevant policies

The organisation operates the following policies that describe its approach to the identification of modern slavery risks and steps to be taken to prevent slavery and human trafficking in its operations:

- Whistleblowing policy The organisation encourages all its workers, customers and other business partners to report any concerns related to the direct activities, or the supply chains of, the organisation. This includes any circumstances that may give rise to an enhanced risk of slavery or human trafficking. The organisation's whistleblowing procedure is designed to make it easy for workers to make disclosures, without fear of retaliation. Employees, customers or others who have concerns can contact Lee Davison, Financial Director [lee.davison@belltruckandvan.co.uk](mailto:lee.davison@belltruckandvan.co.uk).

- Employee code of conduct The organisation's code makes clear to employees the actions and behaviour expected of them when representing the organisation. The organisation strives to maintain the highest standards of employee conduct and ethical behaviour when operating abroad and managing its supply chain.
- Supplier code of conduct The organisation is committed to ensuring that its suppliers adhere to the highest standards of ethics. Suppliers are required to demonstrate that they provide safe working conditions where necessary, treat workers with dignity and respect, and act ethically and within the law in their use of labour. The organisation works with suppliers to ensure that they meet the standards of the code and improve their worker's working conditions. However, serious violations of the organisation's supplier code of conduct will lead to the termination of the business relationship.
- Recruitment policy The organisation uses only specified, reputable employment agencies to source labour and always verifies the practices of any new agency it is using before accepting workers from that agency.

## Due diligence

The organisation undertakes due diligence when considering taking on new suppliers, and regularly reviews its existing suppliers. The organisation's due diligence and reviews include:

- mapping the supply chain broadly to assess particular product or geographical risks of modern slavery and human trafficking;
- evaluating the modern slavery and human trafficking risks of each new supplier;
- reviewing on a regular basis all aspects of the supply chain based on the supply chain mapping;
- conducting supplier audits or assessments through, which have a greater degree of focus on slavery and human trafficking where general risks are identified;
- taking steps to improve substandard suppliers' practices, including providing advice to suppliers and requiring them to implement action plans;
- participating in collaborative initiatives focused on human rights in general, and slavery and human trafficking in particular; and
- invoking sanctions against suppliers that fail to improve their performance in line with an action plan or seriously violate our supplier code of conduct, including the termination of the business relationship.

## Performance indicators

The organisation has reviewed its key performance indicators (KPIs) in light of the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. As a result, the organisation is:

- requiring all staff to have completed training on modern slavery;
- developing a system for supply chain verification, whereby the organisation evaluates potential suppliers before they enter the supply chain; and
- reviewing its existing supply chains, whereby the organisation evaluates all existing suppliers.

## Training

The organisation requires all staff within the organisation to complete training on modern slavery. The organisation's modern slavery training covers:

- our business's purchasing practices, which influence supply chain conditions and which should therefore be designed to prevent purchases at unrealistically low prices, the use of labour engaged on unrealistically low wages or wages below a country's national minimum wage, or the provision of products by an unrealistic deadline;
- how to assess the risk of slavery and human trafficking in relation to various aspects of the business, including resources and support available;
- how to identify the signs of slavery and human trafficking;
- what initial steps should be taken if slavery or human trafficking is suspected;
- how to escalate potential slavery or human trafficking issues to the relevant parties within the organisation;
- what external help is available, for example through the Modern Slavery Helpline, Gangmasters Licensing

Authority and "Stronger together" initiative;

- what messages, business incentives or guidance can be given to suppliers and other business partners and contractors to implement anti-slavery policies; and
- what steps the organisation should take if suppliers or contractors do not implement anti-slavery policies in high-risk scenarios, including their removal from the organisation's supply chains.

### Awareness-raising programme

As well as training staff, the organisation has raised awareness of modern slavery issues by covering on weekly team briefings.

The team briefings explain to staff:

- the basic principles of the Modern Slavery Act 2015;
- how employers can identify and prevent slavery and human trafficking;
- what employees can do to flag up potential slavery or human trafficking issues to the relevant parties within the organisation; and
- what external help is available, for example through the Modern Slavery Helpline.

### Board approval

This statement has been approved by the organisation's board of directors, who will review and update it annually.

Ben Sowersby

Managing Director, Bell Truck and Van

Date: April 2017

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| Stockton   | 01642 606675  |

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