

Response to: SOMO & Arisa report on Tamil Nadu spinning mill industry

At IKEA we take working conditions very seriously, and therefore we welcome SOMO's report and input in this matter. Improving working conditions and securing worker's rights is an important part of IKEA's ongoing focus. IKEA always strives for long-term cooperation and partnership with suppliers to secure continuous development, with outmost respect for working conditions. The foundation for our supplier partnerships is our values and IWAY, our IKEA supplier code of conduct.

The mill SOMO claims has a connection to IKEA in the report (mill no 19, according to SOMO a company called [REDACTED]), is in fact not one of our suppliers nor sub-suppliers. Mill no 19, is connected to [REDACTED]; a parent company to one of our suppliers, [REDACTED]. IKEA has no business relationship with [REDACTED]. Mill no 19 is not part of the IKEA supplier programs and IWAY, the IKEA supplier code of conduct. Thereby we do not have the legal right to enforce IWAY, conduct audits at Mill no 19 or refer to Mill no 19 as an IKEA supplier.

As a supplier to IKEA you have to comply with IWAY. IWAY specifies the requirements that we put on suppliers concerning environmental, social and working conditions. We expect all suppliers to meet our IWAY requirements at all times. If non-compliances are found, we take immediate action. We trust that our IWAY process is effective and robust. However, no process is so good that it can't be improved, or that mistakes can't happen. We appreciate the work SOMO is conducting in order to make the textiles industry more safe and secure. Reports like these often help highlight vulnerabilities in systems and industries, which is key in order to improve.