

# Möbelfakta – Final production outside Europe<sup>1</sup>

## Verification of compliance in manufacturing outside Europe

To ensure compliance with Möbelfakta's requirements, an on-site visit is always carried out during final manufacturing. However, manufacturing outside Europe comes with a number of challenges, including higher risks, climate impact, language and cultural barriers, and significant costs.

For the above reasons, a structured verification process has been developed to ensure that Möbelfakta's social and environmental requirements are met without physical visits by Möbelfakta's auditors. The process includes requirements for third-party audits on site and what applies to audits outside Europe.

Audits of final manufacturing facility(s) outside Europe must always have been carried out. In addition to these, on-site visits are made to final manufacturing facility(s) within Europe during random checks. All audits are paid for by the declaring company.

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## Why on-site visits?

Möbelfakta requires all companies that want to be certified to undergo an on-site visit to the final manufacturing facility for the furniture in question. The purpose is to ensure that the business and its products meet Möbelfakta's requirements.

## Why does Möbelfakta not carry out on-site visits outside Europe?

For final production outside Europe, the requirement for physical visits has been replaced by an alternative third-party audit process, based on the following reasons:

- **More high-risk countries** – Increased risk of environmental and social deficiencies.
- **Climate impact** – International travel entails high carbon dioxide emissions and goes against Möbelfakta's values.

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<sup>1</sup> Europe refers to EU, EEA countries as well as the UK, Switzerland and selected European countries where Möbelfakta has established auditing facilities (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina).

- **Local context and language** – Cultural and language barriers can reduce the effectiveness of site visits.
- **High costs** – Traveling to factories outside of Europe involves significant financial costs, making alternative verification methods more economically viable.

Through this process, Möbelfakta strengthens its credibility as a certification system and contributes to a more sustainable and responsible furniture industry.

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## Verification process for manufacturing outside Europe

For all manufacturing sites outside Europe, the following requirements apply for approval:

### 1. Document review (Conducted by Möbelfakta's auditor)

The company responsible for the final production shall:

- Answer a detailed questionnaire that describes how Möbelfakta's requirements are complied with, both internally and in the supply chain.
- Participate in a document review and a digital follow-up meeting with Möbelfakta's auditor.

### 2. Requirements for third-party on-site audits (Conducted by external third party)

When manufacturing outside Europe, a third-party audit is required to ensure compliance with environmental and social requirements.

#### Scope of third-party auditing

The third-party audit shall include the requirements corresponding to Möbelfakta 3.1 Requirements in the areas of human rights, labour law, the environment and anti-corruption. For approved third-party audits according to any of the following standards<sup>2</sup>:

- SA8000
- Sedex/SMETA
- Amfori BSCI

#### Requirements for audit report and extinguished deviations

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<sup>2</sup> If a manufacturer has another standard that you consider to be equivalent to Amfori BSCI, Sedex/SMETA or SA8000, please contact Möbelfakta

- An audit report in accordance with one of the above standards must be attached and must not be older than **two years**.
- The audit is only approved if the requirements are met according to the standard and **there are no open** deviations that conflict with Möbelfakta's requirements.

## Performing third-party audits

The audit must be carried out by an independent and accredited actor who has documented experience of auditing activities in high-risk countries. This ensures that the review is credible and unbiased.

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## FAQ

### 1. If a company currently has final manufacturing outside Europe, is there a transition period to implement the third-party audit process?

Yes, companies that have declared products with final manufacturing outside Europe have until December 31, 2026, to adapt to Möbelfakta's new verification process for final manufacturing. New products declared after July 1, 2025, must be approved according to the new verification process.

### 2. Why doesn't Möbelfakta make its own on-site visits when manufacturing outside Europe?

Physical visits are being replaced by third-party audits due to increased risks in high-risk countries, high climate emissions from travel, language and cultural barriers, and high costs. This makes verification more sustainable and credible.

### 3. What are the requirements for the third-party audit used for verification?

The audit must include Möbelfakta's social and environmental requirements (human rights, labour law, environment and anti-corruption) and be carried out by an independent, accredited actor with experience of high-risk countries. The report must not be older than two years, and there must be no open deviations.

### 4. Which countries are subject to the requirements for final manufacturing outside Europe?

Europe refers to EU, EEA countries as well as the UK, Switzerland and selected European countries where Möbelfakta has established auditing facilities (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina). Final production that takes place outside these areas is subject to special verification processes.