

MANUFACTURING ETHICS & SELECTION OF SUPPLIERS

Selection of Suppliers

Our supply chains are constructed to meet certain key requirements. These considerations are chosen to ensure that we have a reliable supply of goods with ample capacity and resource flexibility to meet any challenges placed upon us.

These are also foundations upon which we build a sustainable relationship with our suppliers that is intended to last for many years. Our supplier roster is relative small and each supplier represents a turn key network which can demonstrate its stability (over a sustained period of time) and control (of process, product quality and our intellectual property). All of our suppliers are aware of each others existence, they each bring there own set of capabilities to our resource pool and we expect them to work together to enhance CBS's performance.

We also prefer to partner with suppliers whose core competencies and capabilities match those that CBS require, but which are not actively engaged in manufacturing for other organisations active in our markets.

Design and Tendering Process

As part of our design philosophy we work closely with our suppliers to develop an appropriate fit between them and the product. Tendering is done during the development process and the selection of the final supplier is done on the basis of price, quality, core competencies and their record of delivery on similar projects. We do not move products between different suppliers unless they fail significantly or become fundamentally uneconomic to work with.

Whilst price is a major factor in these deliberations we do not believe that the lowest available price will produce the best value for our customers. Quality, reliability and longevity of the final delivered product are paramount in allowing us to provide a high quality solution with low maintenance and on cost to our clients. We understand that working with high quality suppliers who understand our aims, philosophy and markets, as well as the product, is the first step towards achieving this.

Sustainability

At the root of our manufacturing model the idea that through mutual respect and collaboration we can all learn and perform better. CBS as a business cannot grow and prosper if it is to the detriment of our supply chain partners. We are opposed to the ideal that it is acceptable for any organisation to prosper as a result of the subjugation, abuse or exploitation of workers elsewhere in the world. We conduct routine audits of our suppliers to ensure that works

enjoy a safe working environment where their activities on behalf of CBS will not be detrimental to their long term wellbeing. We are clear that at no stage should anyone below the age of 16 or the local secondary school leaving age be employed in the production of our goods and that all workers employed with be paid a fair wage in return for reasonable working hours. All factories dormitories are of a high standard with acceptable levels of privacy and sanitation. Many of our also suppliers offer childcare and education programmes to help their workers enhance their career opportunities.

All of our suppliers have high levels of staff retention, worker motivation and ultimately we believe this produces a better product made with more care and attention to detail.

Environmental Ethics

The care of custody of our planet is not something that can be successful achieved through paper accreditation and a liberal application of "greenwash" to a company's activity. It demands a carefully considered level of direct action which makes commercial sense.

Our environmental goal in this is to reduce waste at all levels. This vision encompasses our product, others industrial activity and our distribution chains. We work with our logistics providers to find more efficient methods of moving our products and our suppliers to find way of making and transporting our products with fewer rejects and less damage in transit.

All of our suppliers comply or exceed the local requirements for the control of effluents and vapours and we are jointly are committed to finding more energy efficient processes which are less environmentally damaging.

Our aim is not only to reduce our footprint, but also reduce how many times we need to put our feet on the floor! We are currently extending the scope of our environmental policy and are aim to achieve ISO 14001 in the near future.

We believe it is a fallacy to make weak or fragile products that are easy to dispose of, it is a more appropriate solution is to produce high quality items which gives long service and which can be recycled without a significant degradation in the materials.

Our design team increasingly adopt a cradle to cradle approach to designing new products and consider the logistical implications of the products they create from the outset of their thinking. At the crux of our approach to the environmental sustainability is the idea to do more with less for longer.