



Prequalification Evidence and Audit Waivers

The acceptance of a new supplier or factory into our purchase order system is entirely at the discretion of the Warehouse Group. In the case of new suppliers or factories aspiring to supply goods bearing one of The Warehouse Group private labels our factory prequalification policies and procedures apply. ([guidance here](#)). Prequalification can be achieved through the desktop presentation of Quality and Labour Management credentials. Alternatively in the absence of these, or where these are deemed to be inadequate, a prequalification inspection can be arranged.

Failure of desktop review:

The Warehouse judges that the findings of an auditor appointed and instructed by us to be more reliable than the view of factory standards visible through an existing third party report. Nonetheless we still accept or recognise most third party report based applications. When we decline or fail to recognise these reports the reasons can be as follows.

- The report itself may indicate the factory would not meet our published quality or labour standards.
- The data in the report may not be comprehensive enough to provide the level of assurance we require
- The report may cite current or historical incidence of conflicting evidence which casts ambiguity over some audit findings and may point to some non-transparent practices on the part of the factory.
- The report may be “too good to be true”. That is the report may indicate a very high level of compliance with certain standards which is significantly at odds with our knowledge of like local norms and practices. This is a particular liability with reports associated with multi-stakeholder initiatives such as WRAP, BSCI, ICTI, and SEDEX /SMETA.
- We do not accept BSCI reports as a sufficient form of evidence in support of an audit waiver application.

In all cases the supplier or factory whose waiver application has been declined will be offered the opportunity to undergo our own prequalification inspection.

Trevor Johnston | Ethical Sourcing and Quality Manager The Warehouse Group 24 04 2015

